

ANTWERP EXCHANGE BANK TO OPEN FULL-SERVICE BRANCH IN PAULDING



Antwerp Exchange Bank will soon expand its footprint in Paulding County with the opening of a new full-service branch in Paulding, marking the bank's fourth location and its first office in the county seat.

The new branch will be located in the Solid Ground building, just south of Dairy Queen, where Antwerp Exchange Bank will occupy most of the building while Solid Ground continues operating from a portion of the building during its own expansion project. Upon completion of that project, Antwerp Exchange Bank will then occupy the entire facility. The branch is expected to open in August, pending completion of final preparations. While the bank is targeting an August opening, officials have not announced a specific opening

date.

Antwerp Exchange Bank President Jeff Mumma said the project began as a solution to the bank's growing need for additional office space. Initially, bank leaders planned to use the building primarily as an operations center, but as discussions progressed, they recognized a growing demand for a locally owned community bank in Paulding.

"We kept hearing how much there was a need for a local bank in Paulding," Mumma said. "The more we looked at it, the more evident it became that we needed to open as a full-service branch from day one."

Mumma said Antwerp Exchange Bank is proud to be the only locally owned bank serving Paulding County, and the expansion reflects the bank's

(Continued on Page 2)

GORRELL BROS. AUCTIONEERS & REAL ESTATE LLC ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION



Gorrell Bros. Auctioneers & Real Estate LLC proudly announces a historic leadership transition as the company enters its next generation of leadership while honoring more than a century of family tradition.

After nearly 50 years of dedicated leadership, Larry D. Gorrell has announced his decision to step down as Principal Broker, effective immediately, and transition into the role of Associate Broker.

For decades, Larry has been a trusted leader in

Northwest Ohio's real estate and auction industry. His unwavering integrity, professionalism, and commitment to serving clients have helped establish Gorrell Bros. as one of the region's most respected real estate, auction, and appraisal firms. Although he is stepping away from his role as Principal Broker, Larry will continue serving clients and mentoring the next generation of real estate professionals as an Associate Broker.

Gorrell Bros. is proud to announce the appointment of Zachary B. Gorrell as Presi-

dent, Chief Executive Officer, Principal Broker, and Owner, effective immediately.

Under Larry's mentorship, Zach has rapidly emerged as one of Northwest Ohio's leading real estate professionals. In 2025, Zach successfully closed more than 70 real estate transactions, making him the top-producing individual real estate agent in Paulding County by a significant margin and one of the leading agents throughout the surrounding multi-county re-

(Continued on Page 3)

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WOODBURN TO HOST 5K & 10K RUN/WALK DURING SHINE-N-SHOW CELEBRATION

Runners and walkers of all ages are invited to take part in the second annual Woodburn 5K & 10K Run/Walk on Saturday, August 22, in downtown Woodburn, Indiana.

The event, presented by

the City of Woodburn and Woodburn Main Street, will kick off at 9:00 a.m. and serve as one of the featured attractions during the community's annual Shine-N-Show Car Show and family festival. Participants may choose either the 5K or 10K course, with registration available online through RunSignUp using the QR code on event promotional materials.

Following the race, the Shine-N-Show Car Show begins at 10:00 a.m., with family-friendly activities continuing throughout the day. Attractions will include balloon art, face painting, children's games, the Indiana National Guard, the Woodburn Library, live dulcimer music by the Down the Road Dulcimer Club, and more.

A variety of local food vendors will be on hand throughout the day, and live music by Coyotes in the Thicket will provide entertainment for festival-goers.

The event offers a full day of fitness, classic cars, food, music, and family fun in downtown Woodburn. Organizers encourage runners, walkers, spectators, and car enthusiasts to come out and enjoy the community celebration.

Sign up to participate by scanning this QR code to-day!:



BILL GLADWELL TO PRESENT INTERACTIVE MIND READING PROGRAM AT ANTWERP BRANCH LIBRARY

The Antwerp Branch Library will host an evening of interactive entertainment when professional thought reader Bill Gladwell presents a live mind reading program on Sunday, July 27, from 5:00

p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Known for his engaging performances that blend psychology, intuition, and audience participation, Gladwell invites attendees to experience what appears to be the impossible as he demonstrates feats of thought reading in a fun, family-friendly setting.

The event will be held at

(Continued on Page 4)

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Support local Organizations & Businesses making this issue of the West Bend News

Community Calendar

TUE & WED

- Antwerp Comm. Food Pantry @ Antwerp GMC, 9a-12p

July 13

- Criminals, Convicts, & Outlaws @ Defiance Library, 5:30p

July 14

- PC Democrat Party Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p
- PC Retired Teachers Assoc. Meeting @ Paulding Pancake House, 11:30a

July 15

- Grief Support Group @ Christ Continental UMC, 6:30p
- Digital Navigation @ PATH Ctr., Defiance, 10:30-11:30a
- PCHF Golf Outing @ Auglaize GC, 10a
- GriefShare @ First UMC, Van Wert, 6-8p
- VW Chamber Golf Outing @ Willow Bend GC, 8a & 1p
- Let's Ride @ Hicksville Library, 12p

July 16-17

- Ark of Safety VBS @ Bethel Church, Cecil, 6-8p

July 16

- Digital Navigation @ Paulding Co. Senior Center, 9a-3p
- Church Fundraiser @ St. Louis Catholic Church, 6-8p
- True Crime on the Great Lakes @ Defiance Library, 5:30p
- Family Game Night @ Antwerp Library, 5:30p
- Family Trivia Night @ Pin-A-Rama, 6p



Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

RE-OPENING

JULY 9, 2026

Hours:
Thursday & Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-2

**8641 County Road 144,
Paulding, OH 45879**

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Good News doesn't just happen. It's made!

Send us your good news and let everyone know of the great things happening in your community.

OBITUARIES



DUNDEE, MI:

Janis I. White, age 97, of Dundee, MI, formerly of Paulding, OH and Bradenton, Florida, passed away on Thursday, July 2, 2026 at Flower Hospital, Sylvania, OH.

Janis was born in Payne, OH on October 20, 1928, to her late parents, Clyde and Edna (Martin) Amspaugh.

She graduated from Elyria High School and the Cleveland Academy of Cosmetology in 1947. She later began a 30-year career with Avon as a representative rising to district-regional manager. She received many Circle of Excellence Awards for outstanding leadership and earnings. In earlier years, she was an active member of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Paulding, OH where she oversaw the church nursery for 20 years. Janis was a busy mother raising four children and was a Music Mother for the Paulding High School marching band. She enjoyed playing Bridge, baking award-winning pies, supporting the Bradenton Seeing Eye Dog program, caring for elderly family and entertaining and fishing at Marble Lake.

Janis will be lovingly missed by her children: Greg (Nancy) White, Paulding, OH; Mike (Fran) White, Dundee, MI; Denny (Brenda) White, Dundee, MI; Jane (James) Kagy, Cincinnati, OH; sisters: Emma Knowlton, Elyria, OH; Helen (Stephanick, Grafton, OH; 8 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; 1 great-great child on the way.

She is also preceded in death by brothers: John Amspaugh and James Amspaugh; sisters: Beatrice Plas and Patricia Jackson.

Private services will be held at the convenience of the family. Inurnment will take place in Live Oak Cemetery, Paulding, OH.

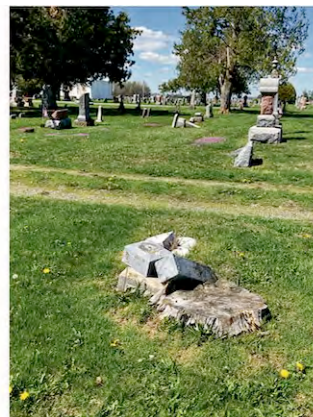
Online condolences may be shared at www.denherderfh.com.

MIDDLE CREEK CEMETERY RESTORATION CAMPAIGN SEEKS COMMUNITY SUPPORT



A community fundraising campaign has been launched to help restore historic headstones at Middle Creek Cemetery in Grover Hill after organizers reported widespread deterioration throughout the cemetery.

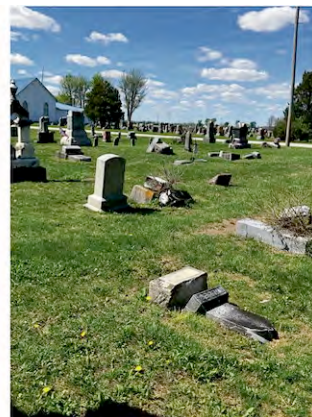
According to organizers, more than 100 headstones have fallen and another 100 are leaning, placing generations of the community's historic burial markers at risk. The restoration effort is being coordinated by Mark Dean



Miller through a GoFundMe campaign.

Funds raised will be used to purchase materials and equipment, provide specialized labor, and install new foundations needed to properly reset, stabilize, and preserve the cemetery's headstones. Organizers hope the project will help protect the cemetery's historic monuments and ensure they remain intact for future generations.

Community members wishing to support the



restoration effort may contribute through the GoFundMe campaign established for the Middle Creek Cemetery restoration project.

Scan the QR code to see more information on the GoFundMe page:



tion of Middle Creek UMC, Roselms Christian, and Zion Community Churches.

ST. PAUL UMC TO OFFER FREE KIDS LUNCHES

St. Paul United Methodist Church will once again provide free lunches for children during the summer, offering both a meal and a fun activity each week.

Beginning Wednesday, July 8, children of all ages are invited to attend the free program from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. each Wednesday at St. Paul UMC, located at 312 S. Main St., Payne.

In addition to a free lunch, participants will enjoy an activity designed to provide a fun and welcoming environment for local youth throughout the summer.

The church encourages families throughout the Payne

area to take advantage of this free community program. No cost is required to participate, and all children are welcome.

ST. PAUL UMC TO HOST COMMUNITY FREE COOK-OUT

St. Paul UMC is inviting the community to enjoy a free cook-out on Saturday, July 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The event will be held at the church, located at 312 S. Main St. in Payne, and is open to everyone. Guests will be treated to a free meal featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and other picnic favorites.

Church members encourage families, friends, and neighbors to stop by for good food, fellowship, and an opportunity to connect with the community.

There is no cost to attend, and everyone is welcome.

bank recently completed the required public notification process necessary for regulatory approval.

Initially, the office will be a walk-in location without a drive-thru or ATM. Mumma said those amenities could be added in the future as customer demand is evaluated.

The expansion will help relieve space constraints at the bank's existing offices while bringing banking services closer to customers throughout Paulding County.

"We're growing people faster than we're growing buildings," Mumma said. "This gives our existing staff more room while making it more convenient for our customers in Paulding County."

The bank has already hired

two new employees for the Paulding office and will also shift existing personnel among its locations. Antwerp Exchange Bank currently employs approximately 36 people across its four offices.

Founded in 1893 by A.P. Murphy, Antwerp Exchange Bank has served northwest Ohio for more than 130 years. The institution was incorporated five years after its founding and operated from its original downtown Antwerp building until several expansions were completed over the years. The bank underwent its first major remodeling in 1955 before expanding into the former W.C. Pate Drug Store in 1962. On March 6, 1978, during the historic Blizzard of 1978, Antwerp Exchange Bank opened its current headquarters in Antwerp. In addition to its Antwerp headquarters, the bank operates branches in Payne and Harlan, Indiana. The Paulding office will become the bank's fourth location.

The new branch will provide the same services customers receive at the bank's other locations. Customers may conduct business at any Antwerp Exchange Bank office regardless of where they originally opened their accounts. Each branch offers agricultural, business, commercial, real estate and consumer lending services, with

Scripture of the Week

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

— Philippians 1:6

THE MESSAGE TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES



The message to the seven churches is found in the Book of Revelation, specifically in chapters 2 and 3. These messages were addressed to seven different churches in Asia Minor and are often interpreted as a mixture of encouragement, admonition, and prophecy. Each message includes key themes relevant to the specific community it addresses, as well as broader lessons applicable to Christians today.

1. ****Ephesus****: Jesus commends the church for its hard work and perseverance but criticizes it for losing its first love. The call to action is to remember, repent, and return to their early passion for Christ.

2. ****Smyrna****: This church faces persecution and suffering. Jesus encourages them to remain faithful even in the face of trials, promising the crown of life to those who endure.

3. ****Pergamum****: Here, Jesus acknowledges their steadfastness but warns against compromising their faith with false teachings. The message urges them to repent from these practices

to avoid punishment.

4. ****Thyatira****: This church is praised for its love and service, but it is condemned for tolerating a false prophetess who leads many into immorality. The call is to hold fast to true teachings and to correct the errant practices within the community.

5. ****Sardis****: The church is described as spiritually dead, despite having a reputation for being alive. Jesus calls them to wake up, strengthen what remains, and repent.

6. ****Philadelphia****: Known for its faithfulness, this church receives no criticism. Instead, Jesus promises protection and an open door for ministry. They are encouraged to keep holding on to their faith.

7. ****Laodicea****: This church is criticized for being lukewarm—neither hot nor cold. Jesus urges them to recognize their true state and seek spiritual riches, inviting them to a renewed relationship with Him.

Overall, these messages serve as timeless reminders of the importance of faithfulness, repentance, and a personal relationship with Christ. They point to the dangers of complacency, the call to holiness, and the assurance of God's presence and reward for those who persevere. Each church's experience reflects challenges that many believers face today, making these texts relevant across the ages.

Which church are you?
Peace & love,

—Pastor Dwayne



CHILDREN INVITED TO GRACE RANCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Vacation Bible School program Grace Ranch: Forgiven & Free! will be offered July 22-23 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Zion Community Church at 205 Harrison St. in Grover Hill. Children from ages PK-6 are welcome! The VBS program is a collabora-

(Continued from Page 1)

continued commitment to investing in the communities it serves.

Unlike a loan production office, the Paulding location will open as a full-service branch capable of accepting deposits immediately. The

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WHEN: JULY 26TH @ 10:30 AM

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IN MY ERA PART 2

Penny For Your Thoughts

By: Nancy Whitaker

(Last week I shared a writing called "In The Land that Made Me Me")

"And pumping iron got wrinkles out,

"And 'gay' meant fancy-free,

"And dorms were never coed

"In the Land That Made Me, Me

"We hadn't seen enough of jets

"To talk about the lag,

"And microchips were what was left at

"The bottom of the bag.

"And Hardware was a box of nails,

"And bytes came from a flea,

"And rocket ships were fiction

"In the Land That Made Me, me

"Buicks came with port-holes,

"And side shows came with freaks,

"And bathing suits came big enough

"To cover both your cheeks.

"And Coke came just in bottles,

"And skirts came to the knee,

"And Castro came to power

"In the Land That Made Me, me

"We had no Crest with Fluoride,

"We had no Hill Street Blues,

"We all wore superstructure bras

"Designed by Howard Hughes.

"In the Land That Made Me, me

"There were no golden arches,

"No Perrier's to chill,

"And fish were not called Wanda,

"And cats were not called Bill.

"And middle-aged was



thirty-five

"And old was forty-three,

"And ancient was our parents

"In the Land That Made Me me

"But all things have a season,

"Or so we've heard them say,

"And now instead of Maybelline

"We swear by Retin A."

Do you recall this era? Is it in your memories? Isn't this true? Let me know and I will give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

licensed real estate appraiser, providing valuation services for residential, agricultural, commercial, estate, and investment properties.

As a fifth-generation member of the Gorrell family business, Zach is committed to preserving the values and reputation that have defined Gorrell Bros. Since 1920, while continuing to grow the company's real estate, auction, and appraisal divisions through innovation, technology, and exceptional client service.

Recognized for his results-driven approach, Zach combines strategic marketing, professional photography, drone videography, digital advertising, and targeted social media campaigns to maximize property exposure and deliver outstanding results for buyers and sellers alike. His areas of expertise include residential, agricultural, and commercial real estate, land

HAVEN OF HOPE LAUNCHES \$150,000 BUILDING CAMPAIGN FOR NEW VAN WERT COMMUNITY CENTER



The Haven of Hope Board of Directors is thrilled to announce the official launch of a \$150,000 capital building campaign to renovate and open a brand-new community center. Located next to the current shelter at 227 N. Market Street, this multi-purpose facility aims to provide critical resources, warmth, and support to local residents.

The journey began in October 2025, when Haven of Hope purchased the building for \$25,000, fully funded by a generous grant from Flagstar Bank. Since then, careful planning has been underway to design a space that meets the diverse needs of the Van Wert community.

"The possibilities for this space are truly endless," said the Haven of Hope Board in a joint statement. "We are eager to get renovations started and turn this building into a beacon of support, safety, and dignity for our neighbors."

A Space Designed for Connection and Care

Once completed, the modern community center will feature:

- A Spacious Open Area: Equipped with comfortable tables and couches, alongside a dedicated food line area to host community meals. There is also a functional kitchen area to support the meals. This area can double as an educational classroom to empower and support community members.

- Comprehensive Resources: Dedicated office space and private areas where caseworkers can meet confidentially with clients.

- Adverse Weather Refuge: Serving as a fully equipped warming and cooling station to protect vulnerable residents during extreme seasonal weather.

- 24/7 Accessible Amenities: A completely separate entrance will lead to secure, private bathrooms equipped

with showers and laundry facilities.

Community Partners Step Up, But Help is Still Needed

Early momentum for the project has been strong. Haven of Hope has already secured a \$12,500 Go Grant from the First United Methodist Church and a \$5,000 grant from First Financial Bank.

While these initial partnerships have provided a fantastic foundation, the organization is now turning to the wider community for support. To ensure the building is renovated, fully functional, and ready to serve as a vital warming station before the arrival of this winter's harsh weather, Haven of Hope needs to raise the remaining funds of its \$150,000 goal.

How to Support the Campaign

Members of the community, local businesses, and organizations can contribute to the building campaign in the following ways:

- Online Donations: Visit Havenofhopevw.org to make a secure donation.

- By Mail: Checks can be made out to Haven of Hope and sent to PO Box 732 Van Wert, OH 45891.

- In-Person/Inquiries: For corporate sponsorship opportunities or to learn more about the project, please contact Jamie Ramos 419-605-6717, Teresa Shaffer 419-203-1538 or any board member.

Every dollar raised brings the community one step closer to a safer, more supportive community.

About Haven of Hope

The Haven of Hope Shelter of Van Wert County is a community of Christians who have come together to help displaced men in Van Wert County by providing a place to stay and ongoing guidance to obtain the resources necessary to embrace the next chapter of their lives.

tate LLC. While embracing innovation and continued growth, the company remains committed to the values of honesty, professionalism, and exceptional service that have guided the firm for more than 100 years.

About Gorrell Bros. Auctioneers & Real Estate LLC

Founded in 1920, Gorrell Bros. Auctioneers & Real Estate LLC is a fifth-generation, family-owned company serving Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana. The firm specializes in residential, agricultural, commercial, and investment real estate, live and online auctions, personal property auctions, estate services, and professional appraisal solutions. For more than a century, Gorrell Bros. has remained committed to delivering trusted expertise, innovative marketing, and exceptional client service.

The deadline for the West Bend News is **THURSDAYS** at 5pm for the following issue.

Send your news, ads, and classifieds to info@westbendnews.net

Call 419-258-2000 for information or printing quotes.

MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



By: Mark Holtsberry

Joseph Victor Turner

This fella was born May 30, 1895, in Briceton, Ohio. The son of John Henry Turner, born December 24, 1837, in Ohio, and Alcy Victoria (Dungan) Turner, born November 15, 1851, in Darke County, Ohio. John was a Civil War veteran, serving with the 110th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

This couple was married October 21, 1870, in Darke County, Ohio. By 1880, this couple was living in Paulding. John was working as a laborer.

They were the parents of Clara Belle, born 1871; Ebon Haul, 1873; Melvin Albert, 1875; and Isaac, 1877. By 1890, the Turner family was still living in Paulding. John was working as a day laborer. The family had grown with the birth of Ollie Damaris, 1881; William Adison, 1885; Goldie May, 1887; Grace Eleanor, 1889; and John Jr., 1890. By 1900, still living in Paulding, the Turner family had grown again. James Russell in 1893, Joseph Victor in 1895, and Jessie Irene in 1897. Joseph quit school after the eighth grade. By 1910, the Turner family was still living in Paulding. John was working odd jobs. Four of the children were still living at home. The children all were working jobs to have an income of their own. On February 2, 1915, Joseph joined the National Guard out of Paulding. He served in Company B, 2nd Ohio National Guard. This unit was assigned to Company B, 145th Infantry, National Army. On August 23, 1916, while serving in the National Guard, Joseph was promoted

to Principal Musician. He served in the National Guard until consolidation into the 145th, 37th Division, on October 27, 1917. He was promoted to Private 1st Class November 5, 1917, then to Corporal May 12, 1918. Joseph was shipped to France in 1918. After arrival he was promoted to Sergeant October 25, 1918. He served in the Ypres-Lys, Meuse-Argonne Defensive Sector. On March 30, 1919, Joseph departed from Brest, France, on the ship "Aquitania" and set for home.

He arrived in New York on March 30, 1919. He was honorably discharged April 22, 1919. After returning home, Joseph worked odd jobs. On August 11, 1919, Joseph's father, John, passed away. He was buried in Live Oak Cemetery. By 1922, Joseph had moved to Ramsey, North Dakota. On December 5, 1922, he married Ruth H. Travnick.

She was born August 22, 1902, in Minnesota. Joseph was working for the Great Northern Railway Company. They lived at 812 School Avenue, Devils Lake, South Dakota. On August 20, 1925, a son, Raymond Joseph, was born. In 1929, this family welcomed a daughter, Helen Lucille. By 1930, this family was living at 2705 North Ninth Street, St. Louis, Missouri. Joseph was running a laundry service company. The family had grown with the births of Albert Norman, 1931; James Dewayne, 1933; and David, 1935. By 1940, this family had moved to 808 West Harrison Street in Paulding. Joseph took up work as a day laborer.

On June 15, 1940, Joseph's mother, Alcy, passed away. She was buried in Live Oak Cemetery. In 1942, Joseph, while working as a painter, registered for the World War Two draft. By 1943, the family had moved to Jackson, Michigan. By 1945, Joseph and family were still living in Jackson, Michigan. On April 1, 1948, in Battle Creek, Michigan, Joseph passed away. He was brought to Paulding and buried in Live Oak Cemetery. Joseph's sons, Albert and James, served in Vietnam in the Air Force.

...Until Then!

The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

The Paulding County Veteran's Service Office is dedicated to aiding Paulding County veterans and their families in time of need.

There are two basic services the agency provides:

1 – EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – Provide short term financial assistance to eligible veterans and their families who demonstrate a need. This includes, but is not limited to, food, gas, mortgage/rent and assistance with utility payments.

2 – CLAIMS ASSISTANCE – Provide services for veterans and other claimants for help with VA claims for any federal, state, or local benefits.

We also provide reimbursement for the cost of transportation to VA medical facilities in our area, or in the case where the veteran cannot drive himself, we will provide a driver.

Our office hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Arrangements can be made for after office hours appointments

Any questions, please call 419-399-8285



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PEACH TUXEDOS

Dotting My Teas By:
Marlene Oxender

I was recently asked if I could name a food that ages you. I chuckled as I learned the answer was a clever one: birthday cake. But even better was the second answer: wedding cake.

I grew up in a small town where wedding anniversaries were often announced in the newspaper along with a photo of the couple. The entire community was invited to attend a reception in honor of the couple who'd been married an awfully long time.

It was a big deal back then. If the couple had been married for 25 years, they were celebrating their silver wedding anniversary. If they'd been married 50 years, it was their golden anniversary.

The reception was often held in a church basement where we'd find a decorated cake at the punch table. Nuts and mints were served in little paper cups. Guests would find a seat and sit and talk for a while. The men wore suits and ties. The women wore dresses.

As a child, I could never understand why older people were in disbelief about how old they were getting to be. After all, they were there through it all. They were the ones who lived each day.

I remember attending my Grandma and Grandpa Imm's 50th wedding anniversary reception. Grandma saved the greeting cards they'd received, and even today I sift through them and read the names of family and friends who'd signed the cards.

In one of the boxes from their estate was a cake topper that's gold in color with the words "50th Anniversary" displayed across the top. Days after I'd placed it in the box of things I'd be giving to the secondhand store, I decided I should flip through their little photo book and see if that cake topper was in their anniversary pictures. And there it was – sitting atop their two-tiered anniversary cake.

That meant I would need to dig the item back out of the box and store it in my box of vintage anniversary cards. Our mother had also saved some silver wrapping paper with a paisley print design. Now that I have a granddaughter by the name of Paisley, I may someday give her a gift wrapped in that silver wrapping paper from 1972.

In a few years, my nieces and nephews will begin celebrating their silver wedding anniversaries. I'm sure they'll be delighted to open a greeting card from me and find a

25th Anniversary paper napkin from my mother's collection of stuff she saved for us.

My siblings and I are in a group text, and if anyone is having a birthday or anniversary, it'll be mentioned early in the morning. It's an interesting conversation with plenty of comments about numbers – how old we are or what anniversary we're celebrating.

As the years tick by, we add numbers to the numbers and begin to understand why all those older people were in disbelief regarding their age. Our photos show how much we've changed. We notice how we styled our hair and what was in fashion back in the day. The shoes. The dresses. The tuxedos.

The last time the subject of peach tuxedos came up in our sibling text thread, it made me wonder if there's a dessert by the same name. After searching online and finding nothing, I came up with my own recipe that I tweaked and named "Peach Tuxedo Parfait."

And since bow ties are often worn by the groom, I searched for a main dish recipe that includes bow tie pasta and decided upon Chicken Marsala – a favorite of mine.

Of course the menu wouldn't be complete without an Anniversary Day Salad – which could be any salad you'd like to serve.

If I could spend time once again with my grandparents, I'd laughingly tell them about my search for anniversary day recipes. I'd ask them if they'd like a Tuxedo Latte, and they'd ask me what a latte is. It'd be fun to take them to a coffee shop and see what flavor they'd decide to order. Mine is coconut.

I'd show them how our cell phones now bring our anniversary wishes to us on a screen rather than in a greeting card delivered to our home mailbox. They'd learn what an emoji is and how it's a new way of communicating.

They'd be happy to know their grandchildren are still in touch with each other, discussing what's happening today as well as memories of times we'd gathered for family weddings.

My grandparents were married in April of 1923, and I have a copy of their wedding day certificate. I wonder what color Grandpa's suit was and if he wore a bow tie or a necktie. I'd tell Grandma I know just one detail about her wedding dress – it was made by her neighbor lady. I'd ask her what it looked like and if there are any photos from that day.

I'd tell them how today's anniversary receptions often take place electronically through shared photos, brief messages, and a string of emojis. We'd likely agree that the way we celebrate has changed, but the intention hasn't. We mark the day and honor the years.

The color of wedding day tuxedos keeps returning to my sibling text thread simply be-

cause it's a fun memory. Even the search for tuxedo recipes gave us something to talk about.

I imagine Grandma and Grandpa would tell us something we already know: Traditions may change, but the time we spend together talking about memories from yesterday and our plans for tomorrow – served with a dressed-up dessert – is part of the joy of living.



Peach Tuxedo Parfait
2 cups peaches, sliced
1 tsp vanilla extract
Pinch of salt

USDA REMINDS OHIO PRODUCERS TO FILE CROP ACREAGE REPORTS

Major Reporting Deadline July 15

Columbus, Ohio July 1, 2026 – Since spring planting is completed, agricultural producers in Ohio should make an appointment with their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office to complete crop acreage reports before the applicable deadline.

"To receive program benefits for USDA programs, producers should file an accurate crop acreage report by the applicable deadline," said Don Jones, State Executive Director in Ohio. "Call your local FSA office to make an appointment after planting is complete to report your acreage and take care of any other FSA-related business as there are several upcoming deadlines."

A crop acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch, its intended use and location. Producers should file an accurate crop acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage before the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable in Ohio:

July 15, 2026 – Report all your Burley Tobacco, Cabbage (Planted 3/19/26-5/31/26), Corn, Grain Sorghum, Hybrid Corn Seed, Spring Oats, Popcorn, Potatoes, Soybeans, Sugar Beets, Tomatoes and all other crops. Report Perennial Forage Crops. Report Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage.

Aug. 15, 2026 – Report Cabbage (Planted 6/1/26-7/20/26).

To file a crop acreage report, producers need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety
- Intended crop use
- Number of crop acres
- Map with approximate crop boundaries
- Planting date(s)

(Continued from Page 1)

the Antwerp Branch Library and is limited to 70 attendees, so those interested are encouraged to reserve their spot early.

For additional information or to inquire about the pro-

gram, contact Bill Gladwell at Bill@HypnosisForHumans.com.

The Antwerp Branch Library looks forward to welcoming the community for an entertaining evening that promises to challenge perceptions and spark conversation.

1½ cups vanilla pudding or yogurt

1 cup granola or chocolate cookie crumbs

Mini chocolate chips and/or mini candy bar bowtie

In a bowl, gently toss the peaches, vanilla, and a pinch of salt. Let sit 10 minutes so the peaches become glossy and saucy. In each parfait glass, repeat layers of peaches, granola, and pudding. Top with chocolate.

Marlene Oxender is a writer, speaker, and author. She writes about growing up in the small town of Edgerton, her ten siblings, the memorabilia in her parents' estate, and her late younger brother, Stevie Kimpel, who was born with Down syndrome. Her three published books, Picket Fences, Stevie and Grandma, You Already Am Old, are available on Amazon. Marlene can be reached at mpoxender@gmail.com

- Planting pattern, when applicable
- Producer share(s)
- Irrigation practice(s)
- Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable
- Failed acres, if applicable
- Other required information

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting deadline, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting deadline, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the acreage reporting date or 15 calendar days before grazing or crop harvesting begins, whichever is earlier. Contact FSA to confirm crop-specific deadlines for NAP-covered crops.

Producers with perennial forage crops should check with their local FSA office to see if their crops are eligible for continuous certification, which rolls the certified acreage forward each year until a change is made.

Producers should also report the crop acreage they intended to plant but were unable to because of a natural disaster, including drought. Prevented planted acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

Producers can continue to access their FSA farm records, maps, and common land units through the farmers.gov customer portal. The portal allows producers to export field

GIVE ME LIBERTY...



...or give me death. We mutually pledge, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor. The 56 men that ratified and later signed the Declaration of Independence knew that their lives would be in danger, and nearly all of them lost everything they had. Nearly all died within a few years after the signing.

One of the surprises when you read about the signers of the declaration of Independence is how young they were. They ranged in age from 26 to 70, the oldest being Ben Franklin. There were six in their 20's, 15 in their 30's, the oldest was Ben Franklin at the age of 70.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." The man who penned these words was 33 year old Thomas Jefferson. He had been chosen by the Continental Congress to prepare a document declaring freedom for the 13 colonies.

"We must hang together, or almost surely we will hang separately." Each signer of the declaration realized it might be his life, or most surely his family and all of his possessions. William Franklin, son of Ben and governor of New Jersey was arrested just prior to the convention in June of 1776, and used as an example by both sides.

Our founding fathers had everything to lose and only freedom to gain. 24 lawyers, nine owners of large plantations, punishment was hanging. Names were kept secret

for 6 months. 56 men knew if they won it would be a struggle if they lost death. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy farmer, sold his entire holdings to give to the nation. Thomas Keys a wealthy plantation owner, fled to France and left everything. Richard Stockton a prominent New Jersey attorney was dragged from his bed and captured by British loyalists in November 1776. Nathan Hale was a soldier who was captured and hanged as a spy in September of 1776. Five signers were captured by the British as traders and tortured. 12 had their homes burned, two lost their sons in the war, 9 died of hardships suffered during the war.

I think this is something that should be prominently taught in our schools. I don't remember it being emphasized. Recently we have heard many complaints about our nation. As one friend said, "If you don't like it here, I'll help you pack." I would like to see students or groups of students write stories of our country, the early wild west, or the first train robbery which took place in Indiana.

Was the document a single sheet of paper? When I was a lad the freedom train stopped in Fort Wayne and we stood in line for hours to walk through it. I probably saw the original copy.

Does Mrs Google remember the Freedom Train? She says I would have been 10 years old. I remember it was a beautiful diesel with the engine and all the cars painted white with red and blue stripes. If anyone remembers seeing it please let me know.

—James Neuhouser

boundaries as shapefiles and import and view other shapefiles, such as precision agriculture boundaries within farm records mapping. Producers can view, print and label their maps for acreage reporting purposes. A Login.gov account that is linked to a USDA customer record is required to use the portal.

Producers can visit farmers.gov/account to create an account. Producers who have the authority to act on behalf of another customer as a grantee via an FSA-211 Power of Attorney form, Business Partner Signature Authority or as a member of a business can access information for the

(Continued on Page 6)

PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages

1st Weekend- Paulding , Fair Grounds

2nd Weekend- Grover Hill , VFW

3rd Weekend- Payne ,

(Paved lot east of Homier's)

4th Weekend- Antwerp ,

(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)

New Schedule For Smaller Villages

3rd Wednesday of each month

Cecil 11:30-12:00 (Fire Station)

Junction 12:30-1:00 (Catholic Church)

Haviland/Scott 1:30-2:00 (SR 114 at Haviland Park)

Latty/Briceton 2:30-3:00 (Latty Park)

For Questions Call : 419-399-3630

or Visit : www.pauldingcountywmea.com

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Responses need to be received by Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. for the following publication. We reserve all rights to edit as needed.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nature Center
A bit disappointed when I go to the nature center. It has nice trails and they keep it nice looking but still has that invasive stuff taking over and cut brush all over.
After the first of the year there was a crew cutting the brush and after talking to them, I understood they were supposed to come back April or May and cut more but haven't seen them. Then I

understood another crew was going to come after them and clean the cut brush and do more clearing around the ponds to make them more visible when you walked around them but haven't seen that happening either.
The middle and southwest ponds can barely be seen while walking around because of the bushes and trees growing up. And the SW pond at that nice deck they built needs those cat tails cleaned out. They have completely blocked the view of the actual pond and are taking over the NE and north side. Even standing up you can barely see it and setting down... forget it.

There are enough cat tails other places in that pond that removing all or some of those blocking the deck wouldn't make a difference. Talking to that crew it sounded like we would have nice views of the ponds and clearer views through the wooded areas but that hasn't come to be. That revitalization meeting we went to sounded good but when is that supposed to kick in. It would be nice to be able to enjoy the center in the summer a little by being able to see better there. Hopefully this hasn't been put aside for something else that might be questionable.

Everyone I talk to out there says it's more fun walking there than the reservoir because so much more to see but with all the brush it's a bit hard now to see as much as we could.

Don't know what else to say other than they have it a nice place to walk but could be better if you could see more of what's out there.

Thanks to the West Bend

News to let us speak out and bring issues to people.
—Gregg Gorman
Paulding, OH

ANTWERP VILLAGE COUNCIL HEARS MAJOR WATER PLANT FUNDING UPDATE, ADVANCES ANTWERP SQUARE DEVELOPMENT

The Antwerp Village Council met Wednesday, July 8, with Village Administrator Brian Davis delivering a detailed report highlighting significant progress on water infrastructure funding and several major improvement projects planned over the next several years.

Davis announced the village has been ranked fourth statewide in the draft rankings for the Ohio EPA Water Supply Revolving Loan Account funding program. If finalized this fall, the village would receive a \$4 million grant toward construction of a new water treatment plant, with the remaining project cost financed over 40 years at zero percent interest.

Since becoming administrator five years ago, Davis said the village has secured \$5,864,817 in grant funding. The village has also applied for an additional \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant for the treatment plant and plans to seek \$500,000 in Ohio Public Works Commission grant funding along with a \$500,000 zero-percent loan for the Canal Street project.

Davis credited Jones & Henry engineers, Maumee Valley Planning representatives Dennis Miller and Estee Blair, Paulding County Economic Development Director Tim Copey, and Fiscal Officer Kevin Hornish for helping secure the funding opportunities.

He noted the village's total grant funding does not include the recently approved \$2.3 million REDD grant for the Antwerp Square development, which will pass through the village.

Davis also reported that tax revenue generated from the new cannabis business is expected to cover approximately half of the annual payment for the new water treatment plant. Based on current estimates, the \$10 million project would require financing of approximately \$6 million after grant funding, resulting in annual payments of about \$125,000.

Looking ahead, Davis outlined several upcoming projects, including storm

sewer and waterline replacements on Wentworth Street and West Canal Street, replacement of the Riverside Park pavilion using state capital budget funding, the Safe Routes to School sidewalk project along Harrmann Street, completion of new waterlines on Mervin Street followed by full-depth roadway reclamation in 2027, and construction of the new water treatment plant.

Council members thanked Davis for the report, with several describing the funding news as encouraging.

Council approved emergency Ordinance 2026-15 accepting the Phase One plat for the Antwerp Square development following recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Planning and Zoning Chairman John Ganger reported the commission reviewed roadway and lot variances requested by the developer. Most were approved, including narrower residential streets and lot dimensions that generally fit village standards.

The commission withheld approval of several approximately 20-foot-wide lots until the developer provides proof-of-concept plans showing their intended use. Developer representatives indicated the lots may ultimately be used for condominium or duplex-style housing and agreed to provide additional information.

Commission members also discussed future connectivity between the subdivision and Water Plant Drive, as well as questions surrounding homeowners association responsibilities for maintenance of shared infrastructure.

Council heard an update from the Utilities Committee regarding its ongoing review of water and sewer utility rates.

Committee Chairman John Ganger said the committee has been evaluating existing utility ordinances and contracts, with the goal of eliminating individual negotiated contracts and applying the village's utility ordinances consistently among customers.

Using financial data from village records, Ganger presented an analysis indicating some large-volume users are not paying rates that ade-

DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE AWARDS \$1,000 GRANT TO DEFIANCE YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Congratulations to Defiance Youth Football Association for receiving a \$1,000 grant from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 for new and re-certified football helmets. The Moose has a fund under the umbrella of the Defiance Area Foundation. Pictured above are (l-r) Marilyn Clay - Defiance Moose Lodge Chaplin and Calvin Tipton - DYFA Treasurer.

quately recover the village's costs. While acknowledging additional work remains, he said the committee hopes to present a revised utility rate ordinance at the August meeting so the required three readings can be completed before year-end.

Council members praised the committee's detailed financial presentation, saying it provided valuable information for future decisions regarding utility rates and outside service contracts.

Council approved the third and final reading of Ordinance 2026-06 authorizing a new five-year emergency medical services contract with Crane Township covering calendar years 2027 through 2031.

Council also approved the third reading of Ordinance 2026-08 accepting the annexation of adjacent property into the village.

A second reading was held for Ordinance 2026-12, which would increase golf cart inspection fees for non-residents.

Council also held the second reading of Ordinance 2026-14 renewing the services of Village Solicitor Bran-

don Grigsby.

Council approved emergency Ordinance 2026-16 changing the official use classification of 303 West River Street from commercial to single-family residential after the county auditor requested formal village action before updating the property's tax classification. Davis explained the building, formerly used for dog grooming, has been converted into a residence by its new owners.

During closing comments, council members encouraged residents to support several recently opened local businesses, including Front Porch Fuel and the Root Beer Stand, while continuing to patronize existing businesses throughout the village.

READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS
Antwerp: Antwerp Library, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Antwerp Manor, Dollar General, Family Dollar, G-Mart, Genesis House, H2O Water Store, Pop-N-Brew, Pit-Stop, Small Town Bliss,
Bryan: 4 Seasons, Bryan Hospital, Chief, CVS, Dollar General, Town & Country, Walmart
Cecil: 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House
Continental: ACE Hardware, Dollar General, Okuley's Pharmacy
Defiance: Newman's Marathon Carryout, Smoke Stop, Chief, Dollar General (Clinton St), Senior Center, Advanced Auto, Marathon Main Stop, Rite Aid, Defiance Public Library ... Junction Dollar General, Cabbage Patch
Edgerton: USPS, H&W Napa, Kaiser Supermarket, Utilities Dept, Marathon Main Stop, Marathon (East)
Grover Hill: N&N Quick Stop, GH Branch Library, Dollar General
Hicksville: Sailers, Vancrest, Shell Station, Citgo, Marathon, Dollar General, Senior Center, Village offices, Johnson Memorial Library, Red Angel Pizza, McDonalds
Ney: Marathon
Oakwood: Oakwood Market, The Oakleaf, Dollar General, Cooper Library, Landing Strip
Paulding: Ace Hardware, Bargain Bin, Board of Elections, Chief, Corner Market, Courthouse, Dairy Queen, Dollar General, Gardens of Paulding, Gorrell Bros, Holly, Wood & Vine, Integrity Ford, Kwik Mart, Maramart, Napa Do It Best, PC Sheriff's Office, PCH, PC

Carnegie Library, Stykemain, VFW Post 587
Payne: Antwerp Exchange Bank, Dollar General, Lichty's Barber Shop, Maramart, Panchos, Payne Library, Puckerbrush Pizza, Village offices, Vancrest of Payne
Sherwood: Post Office, Sherwood Bank, Sherwood Library, Village Food Emporium
Scott: Scott Post Office
Van Wert: CVS, Ace Hardware, Chief, Walmart, Orchard Tree

INDIANA LOCATIONS
Fort Wayne: Golden Years Nursing Home, Golden Years Assisted Living, Hahn Systems, Walmart
Grabill: Grabill Hardware, Farm Building Supply, Save-A-Lot/Grabill Country Sales
Harlan: Marathon, Harlan Donuts, Dollar General, Harlan Cafe, Antwerp Exchange Bank
Hoagland: Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market
Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain
Monroeville: All American Marathon, Adams Heritage Assisted Living, Dollar General, Phillips 66
New Haven: ACPL Library, Clips, Chamber of Commerce, CVS, H&K Chevrolet, Ken's Meat Market, McDonalds, NH Bakery, Paterson Hardware, Richard's
Woodburn: ACPL Library, Chop Shop, Clip-N-Tan, Country Oasis, Dollar General, Financial Partners, Heckley Automotive, Post Office, Phoenix Manor, S&V Liquors, Woodburn Hardware, Woodburn Xpress

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PARKVIEW HEALTH NAMED 'BEST AND BRIGHTEST IN WELLNESS' FOR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR EIGHTH TIME RECOGNIZED SINCE 2017



Dozens of Parkview co-workers took part in a recent pickleball tournament. Parkview hosts multiple intramural sporting events throughout the year to encourage fitness and teambuilding.

Parkview Health has been named among the Best and Brightest in Wellness by the National Association for Business Resources (NABR) for the fourth consecutive year and the eighth time since 2017.

Parkview is one of only 44 companies nationally to be recognized by the NABR in 2026.

Best and Brightest winners demonstrate an exceptional commitment to employee wellbeing, championing innovative programs and initiatives that foster a healthy, work environment. Their comprehensive wellness approaches include physical fitness initiatives, mental health resources, and financial wellness education, all designed to support the holistic well-being of their team members.

Winners are evaluated across multiple categories, including wellness culture, work environment, employee input, financial wellbeing, leadership commitment, and physical and mental health.

“Parkview’s commitment to improve health and well-being applies to both our patients and our 17,500 co-workers across Indiana and northwest Ohio,” said Dena Jacquay, chief administrative officer, Parkview Health. “Parkview’s approach to well-being is driven by our co-workers, whose feedback helps shape the types of programs and benefits we pro-

vide. By connecting directly with our employees, we’re able to create a workplace culture that works for them.”

Parkview’s in-house MyWell-Being department provides a variety of resources to support both their physical and mental health. Offerings include fitness programs and intramural sports; free access to the Calm mental health app; access to counseling programs; financial planning resources; 16 hours of Volunteer Time Off; in-person renewal workshops focused on building a solid foundation of self-care and personal wellbeing, allowing co-workers to find energy, vibrancy and fulfillment in their personal and professional lives; 24/7 access to the VITAL WorkLife app providing mental health and personal counseling support; and visits from Parkview Pups therapy dogs among many others.

Within the past year, Parkview has expanded its support for childcare – one of the most requested items by co-workers – with the launch of Backup Childcare to support parents in unexpected short-term situations and participation in a new “tri-share” cooperative with the Northeast Indiana Early Education Coalition that splits the cost of childcare three ways.

Parkview’s workplace culture has been frequently recognized among the best in Indiana and the nation. Parkview was named No. 5

overall among the Most Loved Workplaces in the U.S.; selected as the top non-profit in North America in both 2025 and 2026 by Inspiring Workplaces Group; named a Forbes Best-in-State Employer for four consecutive years, and selected among Newsweek’s Greatest Workplaces in Healthcare in 2025 and 2026. Parkview’s retention rate remains over 90%, several percentage points better than the national average for healthcare employers.

NEW OHIO STATE RECORD GREEN SUNFISH CERTIFIED



Jaret Stevens’ Green Sunfish

A farm pond in Ohio’s most northwest county has just produced a new state record. An Ohio record GREEN SUNFISH has been certified by the Outdoor Writers of Ohio State Record Fish Committee. The species was confirmed to be a Green Sunfish by fisheries biologist Brad Agler from the Ohio Division of Wildlife District 2, St. Joseph River Fish Unit.

The new state record Green Sunfish, weighing 1.35 pounds, was caught by Jaret Stevens of Pioneer, Ohio. Mr. Stevens caught his record sunfish May 18, 2026, from a farm pond in Williams County, Ohio. The fish measured 11.45 inches long and 10.82in girth, and was landed with a spinning rod spooled with six pound test monofilament and baited with a red worm.

His catch replaces the previous state record Green Sunfish which was caught from a Richland County farm pond by SueAnn Newswanger of Shiloh, Ohio on May 13, 2018, weighing 1.2 pounds and measuring 11.0 inches long. Ohio’s record fish are determined on the basis of weight only and are certified by the Outdoor Writers of Ohio State Record Fish Committee with assistance from fishery biologists with the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

For more information on Ohio’s state record fish program contact Fred Snyder, Chairman, OWO State Record Fish Committee, 754 Co. Rd. 126, Fremont, OH 43420, phone (419) 307-1515, email fnsnyder@gmail.com, www.outdoorwritersofohio.org

(Continued from Page 4)

business in the farmers.gov portal.

Acreage reports using precision agriculture planting boundaries can be filed electronically with an approved insurance provider or an authorized third-party provider, who will then share the file with FSA staff. Producers should notify their local FSA office if they submitted an electronic geospatial acreage report containing precision planting boundaries that they want to use as part of their FSA acreage report.

Producers should contact their local USDA Service Center for questions about acreage reporting.

OHIO’S EASY BUSINESS FILING PROCESS HELPS DRIVE STATE TO NUMBER ONE

Secretary of State Frank LaRose credited his office’s easy, efficient business filing process for helping Ohio earn the top spot today in CNBC’s 2026 America’s Top States for Business rankings.

“Job creators are running to Ohio to escape the unsustainable tax burdens they’re facing in other states that are hellbent on embracing socialist policies,” said Secretary LaRose. “We’ve also seen an incredible surge in small business innovation, where young talent is willing to stay here and new talent is coming in to pursue their dreams of a startup. Our office is the front door to these new ventures, so this top ranking is a great recognition of the momentum that’s been building for several years.”

Ohio’s strong business climate continues to drive entrepreneurship across the state. Through the first half of 2026, 107,871 new businesses have filed with the Ohio Secretary of State’s office, putting the state on pace for a historic year of business creation. A new business can be formed for as little as \$99 in Ohio, and most filings are processed within one business day, reinforcing the state’s reputation as one of the most accessible and cost-effective places in America to do business.

According to CNBC’s new annual ranking of states, Ohio now ranks No. 1 in the nation for its overall pro-business strengths, marking the first time the Buckeye State has held the top spot since CNBC launched the study in 2007 and the first time a Midwestern state has led the rankings since Minnesota in 2015. Ohio climbed from No. 5 in 2025 to No. 1 in 2026, as Secretary LaRose continues to work to simplify the process of starting a business here.

“Ohio’s rise to the top did not happen by accident,” LaRose added. “It reflects years of work to cut red tape, strengthen our infrastructure, keep costs low, and support the small businesses and entrepreneurs who power our communities.”

HOW CHEAP CLEAN ENERGY CAN SPARK A FAIRER ENERGY SECTOR

Electric grid expansion may boost community employment, study findsCOLUMBUS, Ohio – Policies aimed at expanding energy infrastructure are more effective, and can remain cost-neutral, when they take community and environmen-

NATIONALLY KNOWN QUILTER ROB APPELL WILL SPEAK AT APPLESEED QUILTERS GUILD MEETING ON AUGUST 4

“Quilts from the Sea and Beyond,” a popular trunk show and lecture by nationally acclaimed quilter and textile designer Rob Appell, will be presented at the August 4 meeting of the Applesseed Quilters Guild.

Known for his high-energy tutorials and fusible appliqué techniques, Appell uses this program to showcase his unique seascape quilts inspired by the coastal beauty of Morro Bay, California.

Appell’s presentation will be open to non-members as well as regular members of the Applesseed Quilters Guild. The guild meets at the Mizpah Shrine Center, 1015 Memorial Way, Fort Wayne.

Based in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Applesseed Quilters Guild (AQG) began in 1993 as a



small quilting group, and has grown to more than 175 members from northeast Indiana. AQG strives to create, maintain and document an interest in all matters pertaining to the making, collecting and preserving of quilts. AQG also seeks to establish and promote educational and philanthropic endeavors through quilts and quilting.

tal impacts into account, a new analysis suggests.

A scenario-based framework researchers developed to model how counties across the Midwest might respond to several grid expansion strategies revealed that even the most expensive policies that take community health concerns and employment needs into account are only 0.7% more costly than typical, cost-minimizing approaches.

Researchers determined this by examining five different policies that could guide the evolution of the energy grid, comparing factors like resulting costs, job creation and fossil fuel emissions.

While each policy had important trade-offs, the analysis widely showed that supporting the development of renewable energy technologies, like wind and solar, can make it easier to address future socioeconomic impacts for little to no cost.

This discovery adds to a growing body of work debunking the idea that improving communities through clean energy projects is a task too expensive for taxpayers to support, said Daniel Gingerich, co-author of the study and an assistant professor in civil, environmental, and geodetic engineering and integrated systems engineering at The Ohio State University.

“We can create a power sector that addresses the goals that we have as a society, while keeping the cost to us as ratepayers negligible,” said Gingerich. “In actuality, it’s less than a 1% increase in the

overall cost of the system.”

The study was recently published in the journal Energy Policy.

As the U.S. experiences record-breaking electricity demand, which is projected to rise dramatically over the next few decades, many scientists have urged policymakers to modernize and decarbonize our current energy systems by shifting away from fossil fuel infrastructure. The issue is, according to the study, doing so could make some regions more vulnerable to economic shocks because even minimizing costs doesn’t always incentivize new infrastructure to move into those communities.

Ohio, specifically its Appalachian regions, would benefit from minimizing power sources that release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, said Gingerich.

“We need a transitional electricity grid to better meet not just the amount of power that we will require in the future, but also the needs of the people that rely on energy as the lifeblood of their community,” he said. Without those considerations, many communities may be left behind or become much more resistant to next-generation grid changes, especially if people can’t envision how those advances will help create a better future for themselves and their families.

Still, depending on the chosen policy, there are significant trade-offs communities must navigate, given that deci-

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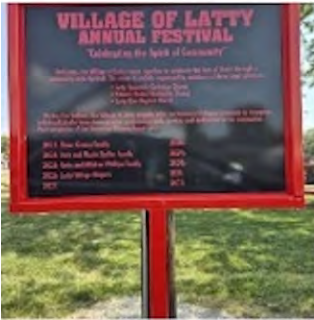
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I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

John 10:9

LATTY COMMUNITY FESTIVAL THIS SATURDAY!



Happy Birthday America! This small, but active community is joining in the exciting celebration of the 250th anniversary of America! You will find Latty nestled near the intersection of State Route 613 and US 127. Come and see what's happening on Saturday, July 18, 2026 from 10:45 am until 2:00 pm.

Promising a day of fun and community spirit for all ages, the focus is, "Bringing the community together by showing the Love of Christ." The festival is organized by members of the local area churches.

The 5th Annual Community Festival will kick off with the opening ceremony at the Latty Town Hall. After a flag-raising ceremony, there will be a special "Citizens of the Year" recognition acknowledging the Village's Heritage. From the original incorporation of the village, we'll be honoring all of the mayors' contributions to the community over the years and celebrating their dedication.

Two trees are being planted to commemorate the 250 USA Celebration and an investment in the future of Latty Village. The trees were funded by local citizens and a grant from Paulding County Soil and Water.

Activities then transition over to the park shelter house. Local pastors will share a devotional moment and the Apostolic Choir will lead the singing.

Attendees are asked to register so that special prizes can be awarded later. At this time families can obtain waiver forms and bracelets so youngsters can enjoy the Bounce House.

For everyone's enjoyment a FREE picnic lunch including homemade cookies will be available at the concession stand. Water and coffee will also be available throughout the day.

Starting at noon, everyone can head down Education Road. Youth participants will receive passports for their

journey when they register. East stop will have its own set of information and activities with a prize available when they reach their travel destination!

A variety of "mix" music in the shelter house will offer listening enjoyment and time to fellowship. While throughout the afternoon, there will be a variety of additional activities including the bounce house, corn hole, the Big Slide, a balloon artist, crafting, and new this year, Archery!

Guests are asked to bring their lawn chairs. Handicap parking will be available.

The festivities will conclude at the end of the afternoon with a Special Finale to honor our 250th Anniversary!

Organizers hope the community comes out to enjoy the festivities, reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. There's also going to be an opportunity to donate to the Latty Youth Foundation so they can keep upgrading and maintaining of the Latty Park!

sions that prioritize economic benefits may not be the best option to protect the environment, or vice versa. Although this can make it difficult to create a more just energy sector, policymakers can overcome these challenges by designing transition strategies that target a region's past struggles, said Gingerich.

For instance, one proposed energy transition pathway to expanding the electricity grid from 2022 to 2050 assumes that only counties with historic negative health effects would be prioritized for clean electricity-generating infrastructure.

Alternatively, the most expensive of these options — only 0.6% costlier than it would be to expand the grid

using the cheapest method possible — suggests that wind and solar only be added in counties with a large percentage of lost energy industry jobs. Over time, this would likely lead to about 233,500 more jobs in the clean energy sector, said Gingerich.

Gingerich also notes that it isn't only hotter temperatures that are driving changes in how we generate power. As large-scale electricity users like data centers and EV chargers come online, the grid will also need to evolve to accommodate their increased needs. Alternative renewable energy sources like wind and solar power could be the solution to that.

More sophisticated iterations of the team's model

could also be useful in evaluating both the economic burden and environmental impacts of these additions to the grid and eventually help promote policies that champion a more equitable future for the energy sector.

"While we don't know what the future looks like or how costs for certain technologies may change over the years, we can plan for how communities should start thinking about new sources of economic activity," said Gingerich.

The study was supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is based on work developed under a U.S. National Science Foundation Traineeship program. Other Ohio State co-authors include Diego Hincapié-Ossa, Aashma Upreti, Jeffrey Bielicki and Kelsea Best.

SEED CHILLING

Seed imbibition is the process by which dry seeds absorb water, swell, and start germinating. A corn seed will absorb 30% of its weight in water while a soybean seed absorbs 50% water by weight to start germinating. Water moves into the seed coat, to the em-

bryo, and the endosperm which greatly expands the seed and softens the seed coat. Soon radical roots start growing which are the first seed roots.

For corn and soybeans, the soil temperature needs to be above 50F but 60F to 70F is much better. Seeds can take 18-20 days to germinate at 50F, but only 8-10 days at 60F and 1-5 days at 70F. This measurement is taken 2 inches deep in the soil. Generally, the soil temperature and moisture are a little more uniform when seeds are planted at least 2 inches deep or deeper. Corn can be planted 3 inches deep to get a more uniform emergence or at least down to moisture. Most areas have received adequate moisture this spring, but there are still areas with much less moisture due to this past years drought. Conditions can vary greatly from field to field.

A big concern now is something called seed chilling. If the soil temperature is below 40-45F during this first 6-24 hours of water absorption by the seed, it can cause imbibitional seed chilling injury. Water becomes dense the closer it gets to 39F and cold water can over stretch or damage seed cell membranes. Cold imbibition can rupture cell walls and disrupt enzyme production within the seed. This often causes corn plants to "cork screw". For corn seed, the critical period is for up to 24-48 hours which can reduce germination by up to 30%.

For soybean seeds, this phase is closer to 24 hours and the critical temperature is below 45F which can cause dead cotyledons tissue (first leaves from the seed), twisted hypocotyls, swollen seeds without roots, and even seed death. Seed cold imbibition generally results in reduced stand establishment, uneven seed emergence, lower seedling vigor, and usually results in the need for replanting.

Ideally, try to plant when soil temperatures are above 500F and the trend is for warming weather. Avoid planting if cold rain is expected within 24 hours. Plant a little deeper to buffer soil temperature swings. Use high quality seed with intact seed coats and avoid seed with cracks or wrinkles which increase cold chilling and reduce seed germination. If possible, plant in the early afternoon to allow soils to warm up.

Soybeans are more sensitive than corn to seed chilling

BAKER SHINDLER COMPANY RETURNS AS GOLD SPONSOR FOR 2026 DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GALA



Pictured above are Chris Yoder - DAF Executive Director and Drew Shindler - Baker Shindler Vice-President.

The Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) is pleased to announce that Baker Shindler Company has returned as a Gold Sponsor of the Foundation's 2026 Gala, Bow Ties & Boas, with a generous \$5,000 sponsorship.

Baker Shindler has been a dedicated supporter of the Foundation and its mission to strengthen Defiance County through charitable giving and community investment. Their continued sponsorship helps make the annual Gala possible while supporting the DAF Community Fund, which provides grants and resources to

address local needs throughout the community.

"We are grateful for Baker Shindler Company's ongoing partnership and commitment to making a positive impact in Defiance County," said Chris Yoder, Executive Director of the Defiance Area Foundation.

The 2026 Gala will be held on October 3 at the Knights of Columbus and will bring together community members, businesses, and supporters for an evening of celebration and philanthropy benefiting the Defiance County Community Fund.

for several reasons. Soybeans have thinner seed coats and are often planted shallower. Soybeans can also freeze off once they emerge. Corn has a thicker seed coat, is usually planted deeper, and the growing point stays below ground until V6 (six true leaves) so the corn plant is more insulated from the cold unless it freezes deep.

Cold wet soils also limit nutrient availability, especially phosphorus (P), Zinc (Zn) and iron (Fe). P deficiency is common in corn and causes purple to bluish tints to the base of shoots. Zinc deficiency looks like yellowing between the new leaves on corn and is called interveinal chlorosis. Often corn with Zn deficiency has broad white midribs down the middle of the corn leaf on both sides of the leaf. All plants tend to be stunted, shorter, and bushier due to slow growth. Zinc deficiency is common on Ohio soils. High pH soils and high soil P tend to make Zn less plant available. Cool wet soils also slow root growth and Zn uptake. Cold compacted soils are also more susceptible.

On Fe deficiency, similar to

zinc; interveinal chlorosis is noted on newly formed leaves while the veins stay green and plants remain stunted. Iron deficiency often occurs in patches. It is often mistaken for nitrogen (N) deficiency. Some plants get severely yellow, pale, even white and in severe cases the leaves turn brown and die. With Fe deficiency, Fe is needed for N metabolism and Fe is usually applied as a foliar spray using iron sulfate plus fulvic acid.

Use tissue testing to confirm early nutrient deficiencies. Applying starter P and Zn can help on cold wet or compacted soils. Foliar applications of Zn and Fe can be helpful if conditions are severe. Nutrient deficiencies are generally the worst the longer, colder, and wetter the soil remains and persists. Once the weather warms up and the soil dries out, the bacteria grow better and release plant nutrients. Unfortunately, if the seed, shoot, and root damage is severe causing short stunted crops; then replanting may be necessary.

—James J. Hoorman
Hoorman Soil Health Services

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THE LEFT TURN



Vintage American Race Cars at Oakshade Raceway Photo credit Charlie Orns

By: Ron Burt

Unfortunately, weather prevented most tri-state race-tracks from hosting their 4th of July weekend events. Most speedways offer big payouts and sometimes double the track points and fireworks on the 4th of July. Now tracks are looking at their schedules to make up these races.

Do you want to relive the days of Bryan Motor Speedway? The History Mystery Man on youtube visits Bryan and takes a trip out to the former racetrack and shows everyone what it looks like now. He also talks to former racers, shows old pictures, hears stories, visits a barn nearby that has 2 former cars in it, and takes a trip to Cecil and visits Harts Machine Service and finds out what a huge roll that shop had in racing locally and nationally. When you search youtube, type in "Ghost Track In Small Town American Gem Bryan, OH".

Oakshade Raceway, Wauseon OH, July 4th. The normal 4 classes, plus the Vintage American Race Cars. To the delight of many fans about 20 vintage racecars were on display behind the grandstand for spectators to see the cars up close and ask owners questions and take pictures. Most of the cars on display ran weekly at Bryan Motor Speedway, Avilla, Bearfield, Angola, Butler and other tri-state speedways. On display, a collection of Modified Coups, Super Modifieds Sprint Cars and Roadsters. The American Vintage Race Cars raced 2 heat races and a feature. They are set to return August 15th for the final time at Oakshade Raceway this season. Nightly Program: Top 3 Feature Finishers: DIRTcar UMP Late Models: 1st Colin Shipley, 2nd Kyle Moore, and 3rd Carter Murday. Late Model Sportsmen: 1st Jarett Rendel, 2nd Chris Williams, and 3rd Sam Estes. Dominator Stocks: 1st Brad

Eitniear, 2nd Josh McNicol, and 3rd Scott Hammer. Sport Compacts: 1st Ryan Okuley, 2nd Jason Deshler, and 3rd Geoff Wesnick.

Fremont Speedway, Fremont OH, July 4th. Normal Saturday Events 3 Classes. 410 Winged Outlaw Sprints: 1st Kalib Henry, 2nd Cap Henry, and 3rd Bryce Lucius. 305 Winged Sprints: 1st Jamie Miller, 2nd Bryan Sebetto, and 3rd Jimmy McGrath. Fremont Dirt Trucks: 1st Shawn Valenti, 2nd Dave Golembiewski, and 3rd Kent Brewer.

The 2026 DIRTcar Summer Nationals are in our area and will finish up the grueling 34 race schedule this upcoming week. The Annual Series started on June 9th and runs nightly with only two breaks. It's hard on drivers and race teams. Unfortunately, 9 races have been canceled because of weather. Four drivers have run all 15 events, and 142 drivers from 19 states have registered for one or more races. Montpelier Speedway in Indiana hosted the tour, Tuesday, July 7th Frank Heckenast Jr. won Late Model Feature, and Trevor Neville won in the UMP Modifieds. The following night July 8th, the Series went to I-96 Speedway in Lake Odessa, MI and Jackson Michigans, Rusty Schlenk parked his Late Model in Victory Lane winning his 301st feature race in his career and David Stremme won the UMP Modified Feature.

The Summer Nationals will wrap-up the Series Tour at Butler Motor Speedway, July 9th, Crystal Oak Speedway, July 10th, Oakshade Raceway, Wauseon Ohio, July 11th and the final race will be Sunday, July 12th, Wayne County Speedway, Orrville, Ohio. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out! www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz/

PAULDING COUNTY CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC VIOLATION REPORT

Kamoliddin Yakhshiboev, Pittsburgh, PA, pleaded guilty to a brake equipment violation and to a passenger seat belt violation. He was fined \$70 on the brake equipment charge and \$20 on the seat belt violation. Court costs of \$100 were assessed.

Ty A. Sonnenberg, Napoleon, OH, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Amanda L. Winn, Leo, IN, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Lance A. Maenle, Haviland, OH, pleaded guilty to assured clear distance ahead. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Tyne H. Schlegel, Payne, OH, pleaded guilty to a registration violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Richard A. Pardue, Mooresville, IN, pleaded guilty to a marked lanes violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

David L. Steel, Cecil, OH, pleaded guilty to failure to control. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Aaron M. Bockey, Delphos, OH, pleaded guilty to driving while texting. He was ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Vincente G. Mendoza, McAllen, TX, pleaded guilty to violating a no-thru-trucks restriction. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

Logan R. Steele, Middle Point, OH, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Pamela Altic, Antwerp, OH, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. She was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$128 in court costs. She was also ordered to maintain good behavior.

Joaquin S. Velasco, Indianapolis, IN, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle without a valid operator's license. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. A seat belt violation charge was dismissed.

Teri L. Stevens, Delphos, OH, pleaded no contest to assured clear distance ahead. She was fined \$70, with the fine suspended, and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Carlos L. Padilla Amestica, Fort Wayne, IN, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle without a valid operator's license and improper display of license plates. He was fined \$75 on the no operator's license charge and \$70 on the license plate violation. Court costs of \$95 were assessed.

Joshua R. Collins, Springfield, OH, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Dena Fakhouri, Dearborn, MI, pleaded guilty to driving left of center. She was fined \$55. No additional court costs were assessed on that charge.

Kerry D. Cyrulik, The Villages, FL, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Tony E. Curtis, Oakwood, OH, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in

court costs.

Haitham Toma Jrjees, Macomb, MI, pleaded guilty to a highway use tax violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

PAULDING COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Miller announced that the Paulding County Grand Jury indicted four persons on Thursday, July 9, 2026.

Callum Clayton Smith, Paulding, OH, was indicted on two counts of Unlawful Sexual Conduct with a Minor (F4).

Danielle R. Dempsey, Jackson Center, OH, was indicted on one count of Aggravated Vehicular Assault (F2), two counts of Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence of Alcohol, a Drug of Abuse or a Combination of Them (M1), and one count of Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle (M1).

Parker Lee Mapes, Oakwood, OH, was indicted on two counts of Assault (F4).

Robert Alyn Begley, Cecil, OH, was indicted on three counts of Rape (F1), with each count carrying a Repeat Violent Offender Specification.

ANTWERP POLICE REPORTS



On July 5 a motor vehicle report was reported on Buffalo St near Cleveland st. The driver was cited for Improper backing

On July 5 the PD received a report of child neglect. The department of human services was contacted and the case was referred to them with assistance to begin the investigation.

On July 3 a business reported a possible victim of domestic abuse. The individual lived outside the village limits and the case was sent to the Sheriff's Office

On July 3 a resident of the Park Avenue Villas reported vandalism. The officer responded and a report was prepared.

On July 3 the police department was called to the Antwerp Manor for a possible assault. The police responded and a report was prepared.

On July 3 the police department received a call in reference to a dog that had been found. When the officer responded the owner had already been contacted.

On July 2 a resident of the Park Avenue Villas reported a that their neighbor had been cooking out and the fire had gotten away from them. This had taken place the day before but only decided later to call the police.

On July 2 a business turned over three checks paid that were insufficient funds. The person was contacted and paid for the balance.

On July 1 the police department received a call in reference to a man from Missouri while at the gas station on the south side of town. He alleged that several items were stolen from his car while it

JEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES EQUIPMENT GRANT



Congratulations to the Jewell Volunteer Fire Department for receiving a \$4,000 grant from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. This grant will be used to update the fire departments equipment. The Defiance Moose Lodge holds a fund under the Defiance Area Foundation's umbrella. Pictured from (l-r) Jacob Meyer - Firefighter and Lynn Speiser - Moose Lodge Vice President.

was parked there. The cameras were viewed at Sunoco. The cameras revealed the man had locked his car and that nothing was stolen while in Antwerp.

On July 1 the Antwerp Police Department assisted the Antwerp EMS at the Antwerp Manor.

On June 30 an officer found a vehicle parked illegally on Main Street. The driver was located and requested to move the vehicle.

On June 29 a maroon Buick was stopped on Erie St. near Buffalo. The driver was cited for loud exhaust.

On June 29, while on patrol, an officer observed a dog running on Water Plant Drive. The officer was an able to catch the dog and located the owner.

On June 28 a police department received a complaint of a violation of a protection order. Sent to the Prosecutor's office.

On June 28 a child custody complaint was received.

On June 28 the Police Department received a complaint of a man who had been ran over by a vehicle. The incident was investigated and found that allegedly the person was working on their car and the vehicle had rolled on top of him.

On June 27 a report was received a report from North Garden Apartments of children playing in the dumpster.

On June 26 the police department was requested to unlock a vehicle on Shaffer Rd. The police responded and unlocked the vehicle.

On June 25 an owner of a downtown business reported that a vehicle was parked at his business, and he would like the vehicle moved. The police contacted the owner and the vehicle was moved.

On June 24 the police department received a call from Dollar General of what ap-

peared to be a homeless man rummaging through their trash. The officer arrived and spoke to the individual and then assisted him with getting a ride.

On June 24 a motor vehicle accident was reported on Washington St. A report was prepared.

If you would like to report any suspicious activity or if you have any questions, please contact the Antwerp Police Department, 419-258-2627. They are always ready to serve the residents of the Village of Antwerp!

STATE PATROL INVESTIGATES FATAL CRASH

Delta - The Toledo Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal traffic crash that occurred on July 5, 2026, at approximately 5:27 p.m. The crash occurred on State Route 109 at County Road D in York Township, Fulton County.

A 2002 Ford Windstar was southbound on State Route 109 driven by Blaine Warnimont, age 29, of Cloverdale, Ohio. A 2015 GMC Terrain was westbound on County Road D driven by Gabriel Caley, age 25, of Fayette, Ohio. Mr. Caley failed to stop at a stop sign striking Mr. Warnimont. The vehicles went off the southwest corner of the intersection striking a utility pole and cable box before coming to rest in a corn field.

Mr. Warnimont was taken by ground ambulance to Fulton County Health Center where he was pronounced deceased. Mr. Caley was taken by ground ambulance to Fulton County Health Center with minor injuries. A passenger with Mr. Warnimont was taken by ground ambulance to the University of Toledo Medical Center

The Left Turn

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DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION AWARDS \$5,000 GRANT TO HICKSVILLE CHRISTMAS CRUISE THRU



Pictured are Dreama Eby - Hicksville Christmas Cruise Thru Board Member, and Chelsie Schroeder - Defiance Area Foundation Marketing Director.

The Defiance Area Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Hicksville Christmas Cruise Thru during its 2026 Spring Grant Cycle.

Funding for the project was provided through two funds under the Defiance Area Foundation umbrella, including \$1,372 from the Defiance Area Foundation Community Fund and \$3,628 from the Hanna Family Memorial Fund.

The grant will assist with replacing the Christmas arch-

way located at the entrance of the Christmas Cruise Thru after the structure was damaged when struck by a vehicle. The archway serves as a welcoming feature for visitors attending the annual holiday attraction.

The Hicksville Christmas Cruise Thru has become a cherished community tradition, drawing visitors from throughout the region to enjoy festive light displays and celebrate the holiday season.

with non-life-threatening injuries. Mr. Warnimont was not wearing a safety belt. Impairment does not appear to be a factor in the crash.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted on scene by the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, Wauseon Fire Department, and Delta Community Fire Department. The Ohio State Highway Patrol encourages motorists to wear safety belts.

The crash remains under investigation.

NORTHWEST OHIO/DISTRICT 1 - WEEKLY TRAFFIC IMPACTS WEEK OF JULY 13, 2026

ODOT District 1 proudly serves Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, and Wyandot counties. Below are the details for Defiance, Paulding, Putnam, and Van Wert Counties.

U.S. 24 Lane Restrictions - U.S. 24 on the west side of the city of Defiance will be restricted to one lane; the right lane and shoulder is closed for a slope stabilization project in two locations:

- U.S. 24 westbound at Krouse Road
- U.S. 24 eastbound at Baltimore Street

Estimated Completion: October 2026

State Route 15/Ralston Avenue Closure, Defiance - State Route 15 (Ralston Avenue) between Latchaw Drive and Anthony Wayne Boulevard in the city of Defiance will close Monday, July 20, for a project to construct a dual roundabout. Estimated Completion: November 1, 2026

- Detour: U.S. 24 to Clinton Street to Session Street, back to Ralston
- Local detour: Fallen Timbers Drive to Wemore Avenue (connection to be constructed with this project)

- From southeast: Ralston Ave. to Session St. to Clinton St. to High St to Latchaw Dr.
- From northwest: A temporary drive to the hospital will be constructed on Ralston between U.S. 24 and Anthony Wayne Blvd.
- Hospital access: Access will be available on both sides of the project:
- From southeast: Ralston Ave. to Session St. to Clinton St. to High St to Latchaw Dr.
- From northwest: A temporary drive to the hospital will be constructed on Ralston between U.S. 24 and Anthony Wayne Blvd.

State Route 15/Ottawa Avenue Closure, Defiance - State Route 15 (Ottawa Avenue), between Ayersville Avenue and Agnes Street, in the city of Defiance, closed March 30 for approximately 142 days for a roadway reconstruction project. Local access will be maintained to properties within the work zone using one-way southbound travel.

Estimated Completion: August 2026

- Detour: State Route 111 to SR 637 to SR 66 to SR 613, back to SR 15.

New Maintenance Closure Begins June 1

State Route 18, between State Route 15 and the eastern corp line of Hicksville, will be closed for center line paving beginning Monday, June 1 through Thursday, June 11.

- Detour: SR 15 to SR 249 to SR 2 and vise versa.

State Route 249 closure - State Route 249 over the St. Joseph River, just east of the Indiana state line, will close on Friday, July 10, for approximately 30 days for bridge painting.

Detour: SR 1 to U.S. 6 to SR 49, back to SR 249

PAULDING COUNTY:

U.S. 24 lane restriction - U.S. 224 in both directions between the Indiana state line and U.S. 127 will be restricted to one lane (July 9-Sept. 1) for concrete pavement repairs.

State Route 49, State Route 500, State Route 613 lane restrictions - State Route 49, State Route 500, and State Route 613 in the village of Payne may be restricted to alternating one way through the work zone beginning for finish work on a resurfacing project. Traffic will be maintained with flaggers.

State Route 500 closure - State Route 500 between the Indiana state line and the village of Payne may be restricted to alternating one way through the work zone beginning for finish work on a resurfacing project. Traffic will be maintained with flaggers.

State Route 613 lane restrictions - State Route 613 between SR 500 and U.S. 127; and between the village of Payne and the Indiana state line will be restricted to alternating one way July 13-17 for chip seal surface treatment. Traffic will be maintained via flaggers.

Township Road 33 Closure - Township Road 33 just south of State Route 500 over Flat Rock Creek will close Monday, July 13, for approximately 130 days (Nov. 9) for a bridge replacement. No detour will be posted.

PUTNAM COUNTY:

U.S. 224 /State Route 65 closure and lane restrictions (Ottawa) - State Route 65 in the village of Ottawa will have the following traffic impacts for curb replacement, widening,

and signal improvement project. Estimated completion: July 17, 2026.

- State Route 65/Elm Street between Second Street and Locust Street in the village of Ottawa is restricted to two 12-foot lanes. Turning movements will be restricted through the work zone.

- State Route 65 at U.S. 224 in the village of Ottawa closed June 16 for approximately 21 days.

State Route 65 closure - State Route 65 between County Road M and Township Road 10-K (6.22 MM) will close Monday, July 13, for approximately five days for a culvert replacement. County Road M will remain open.

Detour: SR 12 to CR 5, back to U.S. 224

State Route 190 closure - State Route 190 between Road R and Road Q will close Monday, July 27, for approximately 60 days to extend culverts, and reconstruct and raise the profile of the roadway.

Detour: SR 634 to U.S. 224, back to SR 190

State Route 613/State Route 634 closure - State Route 613/State Route 634 between Road 22 and the village of Continental is open following a closure for a culvert replacement.

State Route 694 closure - State Route 694 between State Route 114 and State Route 115 will close Monday, July 27, for full-width resurfacing.

Detour: SR 114 to U.S. 224, back to SR 694

Road M closure - Road M just west of State Route 65 will close Monday, July 20, for approximately five days for a culvert replacement. No detour will be posted.

VAN WERT COUNTY:

U.S. 30, U.S. 224, & Lincoln Hwy projects - U.S. 30/John Brown Road restricted crossing U-turn (RCUT) construction

- U.S. 30 will be restricted to one lane in each direction beginning Monday, July 13.

- John Brown Rd will close on Monday, July 13, for approximately 17 days (July 30). No detour will be posted.

- U.S. 224/Lincoln Highway roundabout construction
- The intersection of U.S. 224 and Lincoln Highway will close on Aug. 1 for approximately 60 days for construction of a roundabout. Check back for detour information.

- U.S. 224 bridge rehabilitation construction

- U.S. 224 between U.S. 30 and Lincoln Highway will close on Aug. 1 for approximately 120 days for rehabilitation of the bridge over the railroad. Check back for detour information.

State Route 118 closure - State Route 118 between the city of Van Wert and the Mercer County line will close Monday, July 27, for approximately five days for chip seal resurfacing. Access to all properties will be maintained.

State Route 709 closure - State Route 709 between State Route 118 and State Route 116 will close Monday, July 20, for approximately five days for chip seal resurfacing. Access to all properties will be maintained.

Fox Road lane restrictions, Van Wert - Fox Road westbound between Shannon Street and Washington Street will have intermittent lane restrictions for construction of a shared-use path.

The West Bend News

Sudoku Puzzle

	8		7	6				
	5	6		1	2			
2	4			5		1	6	
7				3		4		
6	2					8	1	
			1		5	7	3	
	3			8	1			
8					6			
5		1		7		3		4

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

FIELD REPORTS FROM OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OFFICERS

Central Ohio - Wildlife District One

While on patrol, State Wildlife Officer Josh Elster, assigned to Pickaway County, was contacted by an angler at the Deer Creek Lake spillway who noticed several individuals snagging fish. Officer Elster responded to the area and contacted the group to check for fishing licenses. Only one member of the group had a valid fishing license. Four individuals were issued a summons for fishing without a license and were ordered to pay \$130 in fines and court costs in Circleville Municipal Court. Officer Elster took time to explain snagging laws to the group.

Recently, State Wildlife Officer Tyler Eldred, assigned to Morrow County, and State

Wildlife Officer Chad Grote, assigned to Marion County, assisted with a job shadow day for high school and college students and ODNR interns at the Wildlife District One office in Columbus. Officer Eldred showed his patrol vehicle to more than 20 individuals and discussed the job duties of a wildlife officer. The participants had the chance to use thermal and night vision equipment, wear duty gear, and explore other law enforcement equipment. Officer Grote demonstrated the Ohio Division of Wildlife's law enforcement drone program through a simulated water rescue by using the drone to drop a rope throw bag.

Northwest Ohio - Wildlife District Two

State Wildlife Officer Nathan Cass, assigned to Crawford County, was on patrol when he noticed a vehicle

(Continued on Page 10)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

AGCREDIT, AGRICULTURAL CREDIT ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff
vs.
ESTATE OF CHRISTINE L. HOUNSHELL, ET.AL., DEFENDANTS,

Case No. CI-26-026

Judge Tiffany R. Beckman

Defendants, Unknown executors, administrators, heirs, beneficiaries and legatees of the Estate of Christine L. Hounshell, and the Unknown spouses of the foregoing heirs, beneficiaries and/or legatees, whose place of residence is unknown and whose last known address is unknown, and who cannot be served within the State of Ohio, will take notice that on February 04, 2026, AgCredit, Agricultural Credit Association, filed a Complaint as Plaintiff in the Court of Common Pleas of Paulding County, Ohio, in Case No. CI 26 026 against Estate of Christine L. Hounshell, and others as Defendants, alleging that the deceased borrower, Christine L. Hounshell, executed and delivered a certain Note, a copy of which is attached to the Complaint and made a part thereof, that there is due to Plaintiff from Defendants, Unknown executors, administrators, heirs, beneficiaries and legatees of the Estate of Christine L. Hounshell, and the Unknown spouses of the foregoing heirs, beneficiaries and/or legatees, by reason of default under the terms of the Note the unpaid principal balance of \$56,278.34, plus interest at the rate of 4.900000% per annum from January 12, 2026, plus any sums advanced to pay real estate taxes, hazard insurance premiums, property protection and maintenance, plus late charges and interest from the date of such advances; for Plaintiff's cost of evidence of title and for all of its costs herein expended; that the Mortgage referred to be found and adjudged to be a valid and subsisting, first and best lien upon the real estate described herein; that the Mortgage and the Defendants equity of redemption be foreclosed; that all parties hereto answer as to their interests or be forever barred from asserting the same; that all liens be marshaled and their priorities determined; that the premises be sold as if upon execution, and the proceeds of any sale be applied according to law; and for such other relief as is just and equitable.

Commonly known as: 9203 Road 192, Cecil, OH 45821
Parcel Number: 14-04S-014-00

A full description can be obtained from the Paulding County Auditor's Office.

that said Note is in default, whereby the conditions set forth in said Note and Mortgage have been broken, said Mortgage Deed has become absolute and

Plaintiff is entitled to have said Mortgage foreclosed, said premises sold, and the proceeds applied in payment of Plaintiff's claims; that Defendants, listed in this action, may have or claim to have some interest in or lien upon said premises; that all of said Defendants be required to set forth any claim, lien or interest in or upon the above described premises which he or she may have or be forever barred therefrom; that therefore Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendants, in the amount of \$56,278.34, plus interest at the rate of 4.900000% per annum from January 12, 2026, plus any sums advanced to pay real estate taxes, hazard insurance premiums, property protection and maintenance, plus late charges and interest from the date of such advances; for Plaintiff's cost of evidence of title and for all of its costs herein expended; that the Mortgage referred to be found and adjudged to be a valid and subsisting, first and best lien upon the real estate described herein; that the Mortgage and the Defendants equity of redemption be foreclosed; that all parties hereto answer as to their interests or be forever barred from asserting the same; that all liens be marshaled and their priorities determined; that the premises be sold as if upon execution, and the proceeds of any sale be applied according to law; and for such other relief as is just and equitable.

Defendants, Unknown executors, administrators, heirs, beneficiaries and legatees of the Estate of Christine L. Hounshell, and the Unknown spouses of the foregoing heirs, beneficiaries and/or legatees, are further notified that they are required to answer said Complaint on or before 28 days after the last week that the publication has run for THREE successive weeks, or judgment may be rendered as prayed for therein

Respectfully submitted,
LUPER NEIDENTHAL & LOGAN
A Legal Professional Association

/s/ Christian D. Donovan
Christian D. Donovan (0081125)
1160 Dublin Road, Suite 400
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1052
(614) 221-7663 Fax: (866) 381-0301
E-mail: foreclosure@LNAttorneys.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES

Paulding County Job and Family Services (PCJFS) is seeking proposals from qualified organizations to administer Early Care and Education Services for eligible children and families residing in Paulding County.

The selected contractor will be responsible for providing eligibility determination and administration of publicly funded early care and education programs; supporting families in accessing quality early learning opportunities; promoting school readiness, parental employment, and family self-sufficiency; conducting provider monitoring activities; providing technical assistance and guidance regarding child care licensing requirements; collaborating with community partners; collecting and reporting program data; and ensuring compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and program requirements.

The contract period is anticipated to begin August 1, 2026, with renewal options at the discretion of PCJFS and subject to available funding.

Proposal specifications, contract requirements, evaluation criteria, and submission instructions may be obtained by contacting:

Paulding County Job and Family Services
Lynessa Watterson, (419) 399-6108
Lynessa.Watterson@jfs.ohio.gov

Proposals must be received by July 23, 2026, at 4:00pm.

PCJFS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to award a contract in the best interest of the agency and the communities it serves.

YEARS AGO IN PAULDING COUNTY



July 1913: The main building of the county infirmity (county home), located near the east edge of Paulding, was destroyed by fire. The wooden structure had been built in 1879 with an addition in 1884.

A NEW DAY IS BORN

JOHN PAULDING DAYS

PAULDING, OHIO — JULY 25, 26, 27

— FEATURING —

SALES and VALUES GALORE

— PLUS —

FUN + AMUSEMENT + PRIZES + PARADE

WATCH and LISTEN

for further announcement

The Following Merchants Are Participating In Promoting
John Paulding Days For Your Enjoyment

PATRONIZE THEM REGULARLY

Mentzer's 5c to \$1.00 Store	Iris Bake Shop	Greers For Years, Drug Store
Ducats' Dept. Store	Gorman Insurance	Paulding Hatchery
N. H. Coons & Ruhlman Coals	Barnes Hotel	Davis Pontiac
R. W. Slane, Sewing Machine Exch.	K. & W. Accounting	Grizzly Mfg. Div.
City Loan	Don H. Price Insurance	J. P. Crain Hardware
Fisher's Appliance Store	Paulding Consumers & Supply	Chief Market
Burke's Shoes & Clothing	Central States Gas Company	Cassel's Gamble Store
Geha's Restaurant	Gillen Oil Company	H. & R. Dress Shop
Farm Bureau Elevator	Ankney Insurance	Paulding - Putnam Electric Co-op.
Paulding Grain & Seed	Beatty's Locker Service	Webb's Radio
Paulding Lumber Company	Western Auto Associate Store	Fry's Corner Store
Parson's Market	Reinhart Chevrolet	Paulding Theatre
Paulding Equity Exchange Elevator	John Deere	Crowell Funeral Home
Paulding Progress	National Bank Of Paulding	The Exchange
Moore Bros. Clothing & Shoes	R. M. Royer Insurance	Culligan Soft Water Service
Roy S. Point Jeweler	Krick Furniture Store	J. F. Cavanaugh, Atty.
John Kaiser Trucking	Finan Hardware	Paul Spriggs, Atty.
Bliss Cafe		Ray Miller

July 1957: The inaugural John Paulding Days was celebrated over three days in late July. The event was organized by the Paulding Chamber of Commerce and local merchants and civic organizations.

By: Melinda Krick

It Happened in July ...

Many important, unusual and memorable events in Paulding County history have taken place in the month of July:

1873 – The county's first bank opened. "Paulding Bank" with George W. Potter, Banker.

1888 – The new courthouse is now inhabited. The furniture has all arrived and will be placed in position. The county officers have transferred their books, documents and papers into their new quarters. We have one of the finest courthouses in Ohio considering the price paid for its construction.

1888 – The sale of the old courthouse, county offices and contents took place at public auction and a good price was obtained for the property. The courthouse sold for \$445 to M.D. Mann, who will move it to Jackson Street and convert it into an opera house.

1893 – Paulding is swept by fire with 43 business rooms and two dwellings destroyed, including the new Hotel Barnes and Deposit Bank. The hotel was set to open the next day. Fire enveloped the whole block of frame buildings fronting on Perry Street and also those fronting on Williams Street up to the alley next to Pursel's brick block.

1898 – Payne's Second Big

Fire: Two Whole Blocks Gone Up In Smoke! Fire raged for over four hours and thousands of dollars' worth of property were destroyed on the evening of July 4. The fire was discovered in the rear of a store on the north side of Merrin Street. Hundreds of people from town and the surrounding country assembled to fight the blaze. Nearly 40 businesses were impacted.

1898 – A fire in Paulding on the south side of Perry Street in Paulding burned several business rooms containing the Model Opera House, a saloon, hardware store, meat market and bakery-restaurant. The Hotel Barnes and the Deposit Bank were spared.

1908 – The courthouse was struck by lightning but the only damage was a few slate tiles knocked off the little dome.

1913 – The two-story main building at the county infirmity [county home] caught fire from a spark from the kitchen chimney. The frame building and contents were totally destroyed.

1914 – Paulding's first Chautauqua, a seven-day event conducted by the Red-path Chautauqua, was a grand success. Every afternoon and evening program had a good musical program accompanied by a good lecture or entertainment. The opening ses-

sion was marred by heavy wind and rain that collapsed the large tent on the audience.

1916 – Oakwood Deposit Bank vault was blown open by thieves, who were unable to open the inner safe that contained the bank's cash assets. The vault had been drilled by an electric drill. The thieves fled with a small amount of currency. Later, a badly wrecked car was found close to Toledo, and contained papers bearing the Oakwood bank name and a small quantity of dynamite.

1916 – A special election will be held asking voters to approve issuing \$20,000 in bonds to purchase a site and construct a county hospital.

1921 – Paulding County's new \$200,000 brick highway, extending four miles west from the Payne corporation limits to the state line, completely opened to traffic.

1930 – State Route 9 through the county is now designated as U.S. Route 127, connecting Cincinnati with northern Michigan.

1931 – The Farmers & Citizens Bank of Payne has taken over the business of the Farmers National Bank of Haviland, which discontinued operations.

1933 – A dam is being constructed across Flat Rock south of the sugar factory. When completed, it will form a basin in which a large quantity of water can be stored. The dam will be about 150 feet in length, four feet thick and seven feet high a portion of the distance.

1933 – The Latty district school board has decided to abandon the Briceton School because of the small attendance and as an economy measure.

1935 – Trustees and clerks of the county's 12 townships have formed a county trustees' association. They elected O.E. White of Payne as chairman; M.M. Hoover, clerk of Paulding Township, as vice-chairman; and Charles H. Dunakin, county surveyor, as secretary-treasurer. This is the last county in the state to form an organization.

1938 – Vagabond Village, your neighborhood picnic ground and tourist camp, located between the junctions of U.S. 127 and U.S. 24, is now an official Greyhound Bus Stop.

1950 – Over 10,000 attended Paulding's Centennial and Second Annual Homecoming. A mile-long parade opened the three-day celebration. Local merchants hope to make the homecoming an annual affair.

1957 – The first annual "John Paulding Days" is being staged here Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The stores will be open each evening and are already giving away tickets for grand prizes, including a portable TV set. Entertainment will include bands, dances, Teenage Road-E-O, kids' day contests and a carnival on the north and east sides of the square.

1968 – Twenty-three cars of an eastbound Norfolk & Western freight train derailed west of Melrose, just east of the Goodwin crossing. The accident tore up about three-quarters of a mile of track.

1970 – Mr. And Mrs. Ernest Weller are tearing down the old Norfolk & Western Railroad depot at Oakwood.

1983 – Five Span Bridge, close to a century old, will soon be a part of nostalgia. Workers began tearing out asphalt and guardrails. Construction of the original iron bridge began in 1875. The first span on the west is the only remaining original span.

1984 – Paulding County Carnegie Library hosted ceremonies marking its listing on the National Register of Historic Places as the first county library funded by Andrew Carnegie.

1986 – Joint efforts of federal, state and local government agencies as well as numerous private companies have resulted in the containment of an oil spill on the Auglaize River between Five Span Bridge and Power Dam. The 42,000-gallon spill originated at Lima. Crews worked 24 hours a day for several days at the bridge, Oakwood and other locations. The oil impacted wildlife, killing many fish, birds and other species.

(Continued from Page 9)

pulled off on U.S. Route 30 with hazard lights on. Officer Cass saw the car had a flat tire and activated his emergency lights as he stopped. Officer Cass contacted the driver and four young children in the car. Several of the children were visibly upset, so Officer Cass gave them all fishing bracelets to cheer them up. Officer Cass then assisted the driver in removing the flat tire and retrieving the spare tire from the trunk. At this point, a tow truck arrived to change the tire. Officer Cass stayed on scene until the family was safely back on the road.

State Wildlife Investigator Kevin Good contacted two anglers at Mazurik Boat Ramp and found that they had taken 11 walleye more than the daily limit of six per angler. Investigator Good issued summonses to the anglers for the violation. During the contact with the first two anglers, a second group of suspects trailered their boat without strapping it down or putting their rods away and quickly left the boat ramp. Investigator Good located the second group nearby, found that they had kept 12 walleye beyond their limit, and issued them summonses for the violation. Meanwhile, State Wildlife Investigator Brian Bury contacted a third group of suspects at East Harbor State Park. Investigators Good and Bury found this group had taken three walleye over the daily limit. Each angler was issued a summons. In to-

THE LEGACY CONTINUES...



Zach Gorrell, a Kiwanis member and the new President/CEO of Gorrell Brothers, was the featured speaker at this week's Kiwanis meeting as part of the Chamber Spotlight series. He was introduced by fellow Kiwanis member Jill Strahley.

A fifth-generation member of the Gorrell family, Zach recently assumed ownership of Gorrell Brothers from his grandfather, Larry Gorrell. During his presentation, he shared the company's rich history and its evolution over more than a century.

Founded in 1920 by three Gorrell brothers in Angola, Indiana, the business originally focused on selling horses. In the 1950s, Gorrell Brothers relocated to Ohio,

where the company continued to expand its services and build its reputation.

Today, Gorrell Brothers specializes in residential, farmland, and multi-parcel auctions as well as providing many other services. Zach noted that online auctions have become an increasingly important part of the business, while onsite auctions have also experienced a resurgence in popularity.

The company has also recently relocated its offices from its longtime Williams Street location in Paulding to the upper floor of the building at 112 N. Water St., positioning the business for its next chapter while continuing a family legacy that spans five generations.

tal, nine Wisconsin anglers were issued summonses and 26 walleye were seized. Collectively, the anglers paid more than \$2,800 in fines, restitution, and court costs. Each angler's fishing license was suspended for one year.

Northeast Ohio – Wildlife District Three

State Wildlife Officers Eric Moore and Zach Hillman, assigned to Medina and Summit counties, respectively, pa-

trolled Spencer Lake Wildlife Area. As the officers prepared to contact an angler, the individual quickly packed up and walked away. The officers caught up and determined the suspect did not have a fishing license. Officers Hillman and Moore advised the individual to wait in place while they wrote a ticket for fishing without a valid license. Upon returning with the paperwork, they could not locate the sus-

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58th Annual

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Hamler Summer Fest Ohio

Hamler Community Park

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BBQ Chicken • Hot Beef • Bratwurst
Hot Dogs • Sauerkraut
German Potato Salad • Baked Beans
• Beef & Noodles • Ice Cream

JULY 24-25-26, 2026

Donnerstag JULY 23 7:00pm
Interdenominational Church Service

Freitag JULY 24 gates open at 4:30 • food line opens at 5:00
5:30pm - 6:30pm • 7:30pm - 8:30pm • 9:30pm - 10:30pm Frank Moravcik
6:30pm - 7:30pm • 8:30pm - 9:30pm • 10:30pm - 11:30pm Culkar-Golob Band

Samstag JULY 25 gates open at 2:00 • food line opens at 3:00
2:30pm - 3:30pm • 5:30pm - 6:30pm • 8:30pm - 9:30pm Frank Moravcik
3:30pm - 4:30pm • 6:30pm - 7:30pm • 9:30pm - 10:30pm Fred Ziwich
4:30pm - 5:30pm • 7:30pm - 8:30pm • 10:30pm - 11:30pm The Garrett Tatano Band

Sonntag JULY 26 gates open at 11:00 • food line opens at 11:30
adults who bring a child get in free
12:00pm - 1:00pm • 2:00pm - 3:00pm • 4:00pm - 5:00pm The Garrett Tatano Band
1:00pm - 2:00pm • 3:00pm - 4:00pm • 5:00pm - 6:00pm The Good Times Orchestra

bands and times subject to change

SATURDAY, JULY 25

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY 5:00pm • SIGN-UP BEGINS AT 4:00pm
All participants receive a drink ticket

ADMISSION PRICES

\$7 FRIDAY • \$7 SATURDAY • \$5 SUNDAY
\$15 3-DAY PASS
Under age 16 admitted free with parent.
Gates open approx. 1 hour before music starts.

SUNDAY IS KIDS DAY!

FREE • blow ups • snow cones • cotton candy • adults who bring a child get in free

ONE STEP AT A TIME RECEIVES GRANT FOR MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION



Congratulations to One Step at a Time for receiving a \$1,000 grant from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094, who holds a fund under the umbrella of the Defiance Area Foundation. This grant was given for mental health education in the schools and community. Pictured with the grant are (l-r) Stacy McCarty - Defiance Moose Lodge Administrator and Sherri Hammersmith - One Step at a Time Founder.

pect. The officers met with Wadsworth Police Department to look for the individual and issue a summons, along with an additional charge for deterring a law enforcement officer. They located the suspect hiding inside a relative's home. The subject was charged for deterring an officer and fishing without a valid license and paid more than \$300 in fines and court costs.

In May, concerned members of the Lake County birding community noticed American herring gulls nesting on top of the Sears building attached to Great Lakes Mall in Mentor, slated for demolition. State Wildlife Officer Ryan Pawlus, assigned to Lake County, contacted the contractors performing the demolition and informed them of the situation. The contractors, to avoid harming any eggs or hatchlings, stated intent to collect the birds prior to the imminent demolition of the roof. Officer Pawlus received three herring gull hatchlings and transported them to the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center for rearing and release.

Southeast Ohio - Wildlife District Four

In early April, State Wildlife Officer Tyler Fields, assigned to Scioto County, received information about someone wild turkey hunting during the closed season in Wayne National Forest. Officer Fields arrived at the scene and talked to the suspect. The individual was found to have shot a turkey and left a firearm and the harvested bird in the woods to recover later. The suspect took Officer Fields to the site, and the turkey and firearm were seized as evidence. The suspect was issued a summons for taking a wild turkey during the closed season and hunting without a valid turkey permit. The individual was found guilty in Portsmouth Municipal Court, ordered to pay \$1,130 in restitution, fines, and court costs, and sentenced to 10 days in jail, suspended. The turkey was forfeited to the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Southwest Ohio - Wildlife District Five

State Wildlife Officer Andy Dowdell, assigned to Butler County, and Law Operations Manager Jason Keller assisted with a woodland box turtle repatriation program at a Cincinnati Zoo property. Repatriating box turtles in Ohio involves returning confiscated, surrendered, or displaced turtles to protected wild habitats. The Ohio Division of Wildlife, alongside partners like the Cincinnati Zoo and various wildlife rehabilitators, conducts health screenings and disease testing before releasing the turtles into designated, monitored environments. It is unlawful to remove a wild box turtle from its natural habitat in Ohio. The box turtle is a state-listed species of special concern, and state law prohibits the capture, possession, sale, or harm of these wild turtles.

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ewsllc@emypeople.net

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Classified ads are \$8.50 for 20 words or less and \$.15 for each additional word.
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P.O. Box 262, Antwerp, OH 45813
Classifieds MUST be paid up front!!

WANTED: Old toys, postcards, jewelry, coins, railroad items, watches, military collectibles, antiques, pens, stamps, comics, magazines, records. Paulding by the jail. (419) 399-3353 or txt 419-786-9514.

DEWALT PORTABLE POWER STATION DCB1800 4 battery Charger/inverter - \$339. Call 419-258-0127

MOWER LIFT FOR SALE: Huskee HZR350 Lift for riding or zero turn lawn mower. \$650bo. Call 419-258-0127

RAIN TECH SEAMLESS GUTTERS, 419-258-1818 26-28

CHICKEN COOP built on Haywagon, 4x12, 5 nests, raised 15 large hens. Payne, \$400. Message 419-503-3518 28-29p

TIMBER WANTED: Specializing in walnut trees, white oak trees and hardwood trees. Buyer of standing timber. Call Gary Keegan 517-296-4601 2-31p

DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIEDS IN WEST BEND NEWS IS FRIDAYS AT 12NOON!

FORT DEFIANCE Antiques: 402 Clinton St. Downtown Defiance, OH. Hours M-Sat 10-5. 419-782-6003 tf

placed turtles to protected wild habitats. The Ohio Division of Wildlife, alongside partners like the Cincinnati Zoo and various wildlife rehabilitators, conducts health screenings and disease testing before releasing the turtles into designated, monitored environments. It is unlawful to remove a wild box turtle from its natural habitat in Ohio. The box turtle is a state-listed species of special concern, and state law prohibits the capture, possession, sale, or harm of these wild turtles.

State Wildlife Officer Micah Collier, assigned to Brown County, led an investigation involving two nonresidents engaged in unlawful white-tailed deer hunting. The investigation began in the fall of 2023 and concluded in the fall of 2025. The two individuals were charged with 11 wildlife violations, including jacklighting and taking more than one antlered deer per season. Both were found guilty in Brown County Municipal Court and received a combined four years of revoked hunting privileges. They were ordered to pay \$17,666 in restitution and forfeited a firearm, hunting equipment, and antlered deer.

USDA ACCEPTS 18,000 ACRES IN OHIO THROUGH 2026 CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT TO BENEFIT NATURAL RESOURCES, AG OPERATIONS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting more than 18,000 acres in Ohio into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for 2026. Through CRP, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers agricultural producers and landowners incentive payments for their conservation efforts while benefiting their agricultural operations and protecting the nation's natural resources.

"The Conservation Reserve Program continues to demonstrate the strength of voluntary, producer-led conservation across the country," said Don Jones, FSA State Executive Director in Ohio. "The success of the 2026 en-

rollment period reflects USDA's Farmers First commitment and the dedication of America's farmers and ranchers to protecting our natural resources."

Producers and landowners submitted offers on nearly 18,300 acres in Ohio. Accepted acres include participation through General CRP, Grassland CRP, and Continuous CRP initiatives that support soil health, water quality, wildlife habitat, and long-term conservation on work-

ing lands.

Of the nearly 15,000 acres in Ohio set to expire on Sept. 30, producers submitted re-enrollment offers for approximately 10,700 acres. Additionally, producers submitted offers to enroll 7,600 acres of new land in Ohio. Counties with the highest accepted acreage include Ross, Pickaway, and Shelby.

USDA's CRP is one of the nation's largest voluntary conservation programs, helping agricultural producers protect sensitive land while strengthening rural communities and supporting long-term sustainability.

HUSTED, VA SECRETARY COLLINS IN DAYTON AT VA MEDICAL CENTER

Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio) joined U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Doug Collins at the Dayton VA Medical Center for a meeting with hospital leadership on supporting veterans' health care and a tour of the facility.

"Our veterans put their lives on the line for our country and deserve access to high-quality health care. Facilities like the Dayton VA Medical Center are helping deliver on that promise. Ohio is home to one of the largest veteran populations in the country, and I was honored to host Secretary Collins to show firsthand how our state supports our troops during and after their service," said Husted.

"The Dayton VA Medical Center is a standout performer when it comes to quality healthcare, customer service and convenience.

1	8	9	7	6	4	2	5	3
3	5	6	8	1	2	9	4	7
2	4	7	9	5	3	1	6	8
7	1	5	6	3	8	4	2	9
6	2	3	4	9	7	8	1	5
4	9	8	1	2	5	7	3	6
9	3	4	5	8	1	6	7	2
8	7	2	3	4	6	5	9	1
5	6	1	2	7	9	3	8	4

Sudoku solution from page 9

Under President Trump and thanks to the support of strong leaders like Sen. Husted, we are bringing that same level of excellence to VA facilities across the nation," said Collins.

This visit builds on Husted's work to support veterans and their access to health care.

Husted is leading the Rural Veterans' Improved Access to Benefits Act. This bill would ensure veterans living in rural communities have permanent, cross-state access to certified health care providers for their required disability claim exams.

Husted is also backing the Veterans' Assuring Critical Care Expansions to Support Service members (ACCESS) Act. This bill would ensure the consistent implementation of the VA Community Care Program and streamline veteran access to mental health and addiction treatment.

As Lt. Governor of Ohio, Husted strongly supported efforts to expand reciprocity for professional licenses for military spouses. This program helps military families quickly find work when they relocated for their service.

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CUSTOM PRINTING

BOARD OF DD RECEIVES \$2,000 COMMUNITY FUND GRANT



Pictured above (l-r) Dennis Myers, Defiance Co. Board of DD Director of Early Intervention; Kendra Vittorio, Defiance Co. Board of DD Speech Language pathologist; Tim Whetstone, DAF grants committee member; Jenna Peper, Defiance Co. Board of DD Communications Manager and Leslie Zartman, Defiance Co. Board of DD Human resources manager.

The Defiance Area Foundation has awarded a \$2,000 grant to the Defiance County Board of Developmental Disabilities during its 2026 Spring Grant Cycle. Funding for the grant was provided through the Defiance Area Foundation Community Fund.

The grant will be used to

enhance therapy services, staff training, community engagement opportunities, and educational programming through the purchase of art, sensory, and learning resources. These resources will support individuals served by the Board of DD and help create meaningful opportunities

for learning, personal growth, and community involvement.

The Defiance Area Foundation's Community Fund supports projects and programs that address current and emerging needs throughout Defiance County, helping strengthen the quality of life for local residents.

ANTWERP SQUARE MOVES FORWARD; COMMUNITY INVESTORS INVITED TO NAME NEW STREETS

Progress continues on the Antwerp Square project on the south side of the village as Phase 1 advances through infrastructure design and residential lot development. Engineering drawings for the newly identified building lots are being completed and will soon be ready for approval and permits, a key step that will allow the lots to be officially platted. Once approved, plans will be put out for public bid for the installation of water, sewer, surface-drainage and public street infrastructure.

Phase 1 includes the creation of four new streets within the residential addition. The property ownership development team, MWB Investments, is inviting community investors to participate in naming these streets. Four investors are being sought, each contributing a \$10,000 tax-deductible donation through a 501(c)(3). Final street names are subject to approval by the Developer and County Auditor. Funds raised will be used to secure an open lot designated for future green space within the development. Final plans for the green space will be shaped through local input once the streets are named.

Antwerp has a long tradition of honoring individuals who helped shape the community by naming streets after them—Daggett, Woodcox, Wilcox, and, most recently, Meyer. Investors who participate in naming the new streets will be recognized for generations as contributors to Antwerp's continued growth and progress.

Residents or organizations interested in discussing the project or naming one of the four streets are encouraged to contact the Paulding County Economic Development Office at 419-399-8282.

HADESTOWN TEEN AT THE HUBER OPERA HOUSE

The Huber Summer Theater Academy will present HADESTOWN TEEN on Saturday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, July 19 at 2:00 p.m. at the Huber Opera House. This production is a culmination of a 16-day academy where 45 area youth (ages 14-18) learn the music, choreography, and create this full musical from start to finish. In addition, they assist with costuming, set build, and technical areas of the production.

49th ANNUAL MAUMEE VALLEY ANTIQUE STEAM & GAS ENGINE SHOW



The 49th annual Maumee Valley Steam Show at 1720 South Webster Road east of New Haven, IN will be held July 23-26, 2026. Note that the dates are about three weeks earlier than previous years.

Take an exciting trip to yesteryear by visiting the Maumee Valley Steam & Gas Association show bringing you the past with the exact same equipment that our forefathers used to plow, thresh wheat, Blacksmith, saw lumber and make wood shingles helping make America the prosperous land that it is today. It is guaranteed to bring back memories to the old and present history to the young.

Aside from the antique demonstrations, there is a large Flea Market to browse through. Whether or not you buy anything, it's quite interesting to check out. If flea markets aren't your thing there is a daily quilt show (260-580-5285) to enter.

A Fish and Chicken dinner is on Friday and Saturday. There are many other food vendors, steamed sweet corn

and ice cream daily.

The Dekalb County Horsemen will be giving free hay rides on Friday and Saturday. Parades of the steam engines and tractors will be at 4:00 p.m. on Friday and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

A cruise-in of vintage cars and trucks will be all weekend. The American Legion Band will provide music at 5:00 p.m. on Friday followed by the Dee Bee's playing Oldies Music at 7:00 p.m. Children can have fun on Saturday by participating in a Kiddie Tractor Pull at 2:00 p.m., watching an Exotic Animal Show at 3:00 p.m. and a Magic Show at 4:00 p.m. Bill Werling and the Breakaway Square Dance Band will be entertaining on Saturday at 7:00 p.m. Put on your dancing shoes and get ready to do-si-do. Friday and Saturday after dark there is a Spark Show. A tractor pull is Friday at 5:00 p.m. and all day Saturday.

All exhibitors are free but must register at the office to receive a plaque. More information at www.maumeevalley.org. 260.414-9489

AN OPPORTUNITY TO

INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY

BECOME A SHAREHOLDER

LEARN ABOUT BECOMING A SHAREHOLDER

ASK QUESTIONS

MEET BANK LEADERSHIP

MEAL PROVIDED

Opportunities like this don't come around often.

Join us for an informational meeting to learn more about Sherwood Banc Corporation/ Sherwood State Bank shareholder opportunity and what it could mean for you.

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Sherwood Banc Corporation/Sherwood State Bank will be holding informational meetings on an exciting investor opportunity. This chance does not come around often, so it's something you won't want to miss.

You are invited to attend any meeting and will be given the opportunity to learn more of what this shareholder invitation means. Each presentation will last approximately one hour and refreshments will be provided.

MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

DEFIANCE Harvest Moon July 15, 2026 5:00PM	ARCHBOLD The Home Restaurant July 22, 2026 8:00AM	HICKSVILLE The Gathering Place July 24, 2026 11:00AM
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YOU'RE INVITED!

Reserve Your Seat Today.

Please RSVP

Daja Stocklin
419-899-2111
daja@sherwood.bank

Questions the day of the meeting?
Mickey C. Schwarzbek
419-769-3698

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HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 A.M-5 P.M / SATURDAY 8 A.M- 12 P.M