



(Continued from Page 1)

Snodgrass, as well as guidance and direction from the Paulding County Economic Development office's Tim Copsey and Paulding County Area Foundation, Lisa McClure.

The ceremony opened with an invocation asking God's blessing upon the memorial and all who visit it in the years to come. The prayer recognized the courage, sacrifice and unwavering dedication of the nation's veterans, describing the monument as a lasting tribute to their service and a reminder of the price paid to preserve America's freedoms.

Special recognition was also given to living veterans and their families for the sacrifices they have made, while remembering those who gave their lives in service to the country. The invocation expressed hope that the memorial would inspire future generations to value honor, duty and unity.

Following the dedication, attendees were asked to remove their hats and face the flag as the American flag was raised over the memorial for the first time, marking a significant milestone in the completion of the veterans memorial.

The new memorial now stands as a permanent symbol of gratitude and remembrance, reflecting not only the service and sacrifice of America's veterans, but also the perseverance and dedication of the volunteers who worked for years to ensure their legacy would be honored in the heart of Paulding.

SCHOLARSHIPS WILL AID NURSING STUDENT PURSUING EDUCATION DESPITE HARDSHIPS

AUBURN, Ind. – July 15, 2026 – A former Parkview DeKalb Hospital (PDH) co-worker now working at Parkview Bryan Hospital (PVBRY) has been selected to receive two scholarships through the Parkview Health Foundation, an achievement that will make it possible for

her to continue pursuing her nursing studies despite recent challenges.

Taylor Smith has been awarded a Darlene J. Tielker Memorial Nursing Scholarship in the amount of \$4,000 and a Sherry Snyder Memorial Scholarship for \$2,000 as part of the foundation's 2026 scholarship program supporting healthcare education across northern Indiana.

Smith, who resides in Edgerton, Ohio, is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree through Bowling Green State



Taylor Smith, student nurse apprentice – RN, Parkview Bryan Hospital

University, Bowling Green, Ohio. Participating in Parkview's Student Nurse Apprentice Program (SNAP), which prepares BSN and ASN students to transition into practice as registered nurses, she works in PVBRY's Family Birthing Center and aspires to become a labor-and-delivery nurse herself.

Resilient in the face of many life challenges resulting from severe scoliosis, Smith was, nevertheless, an avid athlete in high school. However, the curvature of her spine had to be corrected, and she endured an extensive seven-hour surgery along with a significant hospital stay to begin her recovery.

"Having life-changing back surgery was something I dreaded for many years," said Smith. "After trying bracing for three years in high school, just getting settled into college, and having plans to start the nursing program the following semester, surgery was the last thing I wanted. However, with hard work, determination, and the power of God, I was able to endure the surgery, learn how to walk and do daily activities again on my own, and manage online college work in the midst of recovery so I could still graduate early with my nursing degree. These challenges pushed me to become a stronger version of myself. I made a full recovery and went back to in-person school, where I started in the nursing program just three months later. Falling behind and letting this diagnosis stop me from pursuing my dreams of becoming a nurse was never an option for me."

Smith expressed gratitude when she learned she had been awarded both the Tielker and Snyder scholarships, as the funding will provide a vital financial boost. Receiving the acknowledgment of two scholarships provides a source of confidence and encouragement as she continues to navigate the future of both her education and her health.

"Taylor's story illustrates how important this kind of scholarship program can be in lifting up people who aspire to serve their community with special skills and knowledge yet face significant barriers to achieving that goal," said Denise Andorfer, director of Parkview Health Foundation. "We're pleased the program can make higher education possible for such a strong candidate. No doubt she will draw on her personal experiences to shape her practice as a caring nursing professional."

In recommendation letters, Smith's nursing leaders from her time at PDH had high praise for the commitment, collaborative nature, academic excellence and professionalism they felt distinguished Smith among scholarship applicants. Hannah Haffenden, RN, Smith's mentor nurse, said she often received comments on how well she had trained her young charge.

"In reality, since the start, Taylor has always been ready to learn new things and lend a helping hand," wrote Haffenden. "My patients adore her, and she goes above and beyond to care for them. As nurses, we can teach many things, but dedication and compassion cannot be taught. They are deep personality traits that Taylor wears wonderfully. I am confident that Taylor will one day become a fantastic nurse."

The Darlene J. Tielker Memorial Nursing Scholarship recognizes students who embody compassion and service in nursing. Tielker, a Fort Wayne nurse, began her work as a nurse while putting her husband through college and then medical school. She exemplified the power of compassionate care in nursing for all those whose lives she touched.

The Sherry Snyder Memorial Scholarship honors the memory of a former Parkview School of Nursing student by providing financial assistance to an eligible Parkview co-worker who is pursuing a BSN.

In 2026, the foundation awarded 34 scholarships totaling \$104,000 to students and healthcare professionals across Parkview Health's service area. Scholarship winners are selected annually. Each scholarship is carefully managed by its own committee comprising Parkview leaders and foundation representatives, family members and colleagues of scholarship namesakes.

Learn more about supporting healthcare education assistance through Parkview Health Foundation. Visit donate.parkview.com.

About Parkview Health Foundation

Since 1878, charitable giving has helped make exceptional care possible at Parkview Health. The Parkview Health Foundation stewards philanthropic support to benefit patients and the broader community by enhancing the patient experience through comfort, access and healing.

Gifts to the foundation make a direct, meaningful impact—from helping patients overcome barriers to lifesaving care, to supporting scholarships that educate the next generation of Parkview caregivers, to advancing research that improves health care across the region and beyond.

The Parkview Health Foundation plays a critical role in strengthening Parkview Health's ability to deliver expert, specialized care to patients in Indiana and northwest Ohio, ensuring a healthier future for the communities it serves. For more information, visit parkview.com/parkview-health-foundation.

DEFIANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES 7/13/26

The Board of Defiance County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, July 13, 2026, in the Commissioners' Conference Room. President Dana Phipps called the meeting to order. Also present were Vice-President Mick Pocratsky; Commissioner Matthew Koester; County Administrator, Sherry Carnahan; Administrative Assistant, Carla Lucas; and Clerk, Liz Stuart.

The Commissioners met in General Session to approve and sign various resolutions, contracts, and documents.

The Commissioners also reviewed the calendar of events and discussed upcoming meetings.

The Commissioners met with Engineer Warren Schlatter for a monthly update. The County's paving contract for 2026 is expected to be completed by the end of this week. The road leading into the First Quality site has been completed, and the company has requested it be named First Quality Drive. For the landfill, June has set a new record intake at 92,551 cubic yards. The previous record was set in May of this year at 84,529 cubic yards. The new cell construction for the landfill is expected to be certified in about a month.

The Commissioner met with Economic Development Executive Director Erika Willitzer for a monthly update.

She updated the Board on new and expanding businesses in the county as well as housing developments in the works. She reported that there has been an uptick in companies needing assistance with employee recruitment.

The Commissioners met with Wastewater Operations Director Brad Fritch for an update on projects, including an inspection needed for the First Quality wastewater system and some complications that will likely require a change order for the sewer rehabilitation project in Evansport.

The Commissioners' meeting with Paulding County regarding the Auglaize Sewer System was postponed to August due to illness of one of the participants.

Court Street will remain closed during the construction of the Courthouse Addition. The completion date of this project has been delayed and is currently scheduled for October 2026.

OFF STAGE PRODUCTIONS TO HOLD AUDITIONS FOR FALL COMEDIC MURDER MYSTERY

Off Stage Productions, Inc will be holding auditions August 10th & 11th (Monday and Tuesday) for "As Long as We Both Shall Live" by Sean Grennan. Auditions will be held at Vantage Career Center, 818 North Franklin Street, Van Wert in the Commons area starting at 7:00 p.m. both nights. Enter door 7 in the front of the building.

Show dates will be October 16-18 and 23-25. Directing this show will be Matt Krol. The minimum cast size is 3 men and 2 women.

Synopsis: Quirky genius Addison Ashe has finally met a man who can keep up with her — the wealthy and charming Jamie Wilcox. But marrying Jamie means wrangling with his disapproving mother, as well as her favorite over-the-top wedding planner, Raul. When Raul is poisoned at the rehearsal dinner, tensions between the clever bride and her mother-in-law to be go from heated to full-on inferno when Mrs. Wilcox points to Addison as the killer. Can Addison solve the case before sashaying down the aisle, or is she in for a honeymoon behind bars?

CHARACTERS:

Scripture of the Week

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

— Romans 1:16

THE BLESSINGS OF GENEROSITY



As a new Christian, the first scripture I learned was Luke 6:36-38 (NIV):

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

I didn't realize back then how deeply it would influence my life. It became the core and foundation of my ministry.

Another foundational verse is 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV): "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." This verse highlights God's incredible ability to provide for His people. It reassures believers that when they give generously, God will supply all their needs, empowering them to engage in good works. The focus isn't just on material blessings but on the overall ability to flourish in every aspect of life. By trusting in God's pro-

vision, believers are encouraged to be generous and to contribute to the well-being of others, knowing that God will equip them with everything they need to fulfill His purpose. The verse ultimately calls for a life of abundance and service, reflecting God's character of generosity and love.

Additionally, Philippians 4:19 (NIV) states, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." This verse further emphasizes that God's provision is abundant and aligned with His glorious resources, echoing the theme of reliance on divine support.

"Jehovah Jireh" is a Hebrew phrase that translates to "The Lord will provide." It is often associated with a biblical account from the Book of Genesis, specifically Genesis 22:14, where God provides a ram for Abraham to sacrifice instead of his son Isaac. This name emphasizes God's provision and care for His people, highlighting the belief that God will meet the needs of those who trust in Him. It reflects themes of faith, reliance on divine support, and the assurance that God is attentive to the needs of individuals and communities.

In times of lack or fear of lack, these scriptures rejuvenate my spirit. They remind me of God's faithfulness and encourage me to live generously, confident that He will always provide for me and empower me to bless others.

Give, and it shall be given unto you. Smile, Jesus loves you and so do I.

Peace & Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

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SMILE YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA

Penny For Your Thoughts

By: Penny Whitaker

Almost every thing we do anymore is caught on film or video. Birthday parties, graduations, weddings, new babies, pictures of kids participating in sports and almost every major event in our life.

There is an old picture of me some place where I must have been around 2 years old. I was standing on the grass with a big frown on my face and you could tell I did not want my picture taken. My family captioned it "I don't want yo get my picture taken."

Another old picture of myself is when I was about 4 and my grandpa took me to a photographer to go have my picture taken. I had learned to cross my legs and to fold my arms at the same time. Trust me I was so proud to show off that I had learned how to cross my legs and arms at same time that I had the biggest smile on my face for that picture.

Then going into school we got our school photos done every year. I don't recall anyone buying mine but I was in the yearbook a few times.

One year when I was in about the 6th grade my aunt and uncle bought me a Brownie camera.

I did take some pictures with it and kept that camera a long time. Maybe it would be worth money today as an antique. Who knows?

Then there came Senior pictures. I had my hair fixed and put on my best bib and tucker and did what I hoped was a beautiful pose. Those pictures I worked for and bought them myself.

The subject of pictures came up when my kids were born. Baby pictures, party pics, pictures of them learning to walk, sports events and any accomplishment they did.

I have had bad luck taking pictures. Either there is something on someone's head in the background or I cut their head off. One time my editor, Melinda Krick wanted to get a picture of a squirrel.

One morning I looked out and there was a squirrel on the side walk. I went out to the porch and snapped a picture of that squirrel and took it to work. That picture was terrible because the squirrel was so small looking on the camera you could not tell what it was.

Then I have tried to take pictures of robins with no luck. I think the birds say "Let's all fly away. Here comes that (old) ??? Lady with the camera."

Then taking selfies is not too bad because I might take

50 shots before I get one that looks like me. Thank God for photo editors online to take out wrinkles and spotty skin.

They have been taking pictures for decades and I love looking at the old clothes, furniture and the old cars of long ago eras.

When I look at my own pictures I think "Nancy, you need a face lift to get rid of under eye bags and wrinkles which are appearing from no where."

But even as age hits me I am happy to be here, wrinkles and all.



Do you like to take pictures or get your picture taken.? Do you do good selfies of yourself? And have you ever made yourself look better on line? Do you think aging and wrinkles are inherited or not putting on face cream every night? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

OHIO STATE EXPERTS PROVIDE FOOD SAFETY GUIDANCE AS CYCLOSPORIASIS CASES SURGE

More than 1,100 positive Cyclospora test results have been reported in northwest Ohio as a surge in illnesses linked to the microscopic parasite prompts food safety experts at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) to help Ohioans understand the risks and reduce potential exposure.

With no confirmed food source identified, CFAES experts are moving quickly to share research-based guidance on symptoms, testing and food safety precautions. For ongoing updates, visit the CFAES cyclosporiasis resource center.

Ohio State University Extension, CFAES' outreach arm, has brought together food safety specialists and is using its statewide network to share information as the investigation evolves.

"When this issue became more prevalent throughout the state, we immediately started looking at how Extension can best share information quickly among our staff members and with community members," said David Civittolo, associate dean and director of Extension.

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department reports 1,119 positive test results across northwest Ohio, including 638 in Lucas County, thus far. State and local totals may differ because health agencies use different report-



ing systems and update their counts at different times. The Ohio Department of Health reported 177 confirmed cases statewide as of July 2.

Cyclospora is a microscopic parasite that causes cyclosporiasis, an intestinal illness most often associated with contaminated food or water.

"It is typical to see cyclosporiasis cases surge in the spring and summer months," said Nicole Arnold, assistant professor and food safety field specialist with Extension.

The primary symptom is frequent, watery and sometimes explosive diarrhea that can come and go for weeks. Other symptoms include loss of appetite, bloating, cramping, weight loss, nausea and fatigue.

The illness typically develops about one week after exposure but can take two weeks or longer, making diagnosis and outbreak investigations more difficult. Cyclosporiasis can be treated with antibiotics.

The parasite's life cycle also complicates efforts to identify an outbreak source, said Sanja Ilic, a CFAES food safety expert whose research focuses on the microbial safety of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Cyclospora requires time in the environment, often in contaminated water or soil, to become infectious. Fresh produce can then become contaminated through contact with affected irrigation water or soil.

Foods linked to previous outbreaks include leafy greens, cilantro, basil, snow and snap peas, berries, and green onions.

Fresh produce also has a short shelf life, meaning potentially contaminated products may be gone by the time illnesses are identified. Cy-

clospora testing is not routinely performed in many clinical laboratories, Ilic said.

While no specific grower, supplier or product has been confirmed as the source of the illnesses affecting Ohioans, investigators in neighboring Michigan have identified lettuce or salad greens as a potential source of illnesses there. Other foods have not been ruled out.

Reducing risk while the investigation continues

CFAES experts say consumers should use additional care when handling and eating fresh produce and herbs.

"Cook produce and herbs when you can," Arnold said. "Cyclospora dies at 158 degrees Fahrenheit or higher."

Consumers should continue washing fresh produce and herbs under clean running water. Washing may reduce risk but does not guarantee the parasite will be eliminated, Ilic said.

Consumers seeking additional precautions may choose to avoid eating raw produce historically linked to cyclosporiasis. Those precautions are particularly important for young children, older adults and people with weakened immune systems or certain underlying health conditions, Ilic said. Prolonged diarrhea can lead to dehydration and other complications.

Extension's presence in all 88 Ohio counties helps the university quickly translate evolving research and public health information into practical guidance, Civittolo said.

That network, combined with Extension's food safety expertise and relationships with public health professionals, helps CFAES interpret emerging information and provide guidance quickly.

(Continued from Page 1)

"At Parkview, the safety and well-being of our patients, co-workers and guests is our absolute highest priority," said Donna Van Vlerah, senior vice president, support division, Parkview Health. "While there have been no cases linked to Parkview facilities or any compromised ingredients identified within our operations, we are making changes out of an abundance of caution."

The decision follows a July 14 update from the Indiana Department of Health reporting 206 cases of cyclosporiasis since May 1. Although public health officials have not yet identified a common source and continue to investigate the outbreak, Parkview is taking proactive steps to further reduce potential risk.

Symptoms of cyclosporiasis may include watery diarrhea, dehydration, fatigue, nausea, loss of appetite and weight loss.

Anyone who develops symptoms consistent with cyclosporiasis should seek medical care. Cyclospora is

not detected through routine stool testing and requires testing specific to the parasite. Individuals experiencing diarrhea should focus on staying hydrated with water, electrolyte-containing beverages or oral rehydration solutions (ORS). If cyclosporiasis is confirmed, it can be treated with antibiotics prescribed by a healthcare provider.

While many healthy individuals experience self-limited illness, symptoms can persist or recur without treatment. Those with weakened immune systems may face a greater risk of complications.

"Our culinary and clinical nutrition teams are actively modifying menus to ensure patients and guests continue to have access to safe, nutritious and high-quality meal options," said Van Vlerah.

Parkview recommends that community members follow safe food handling practices, including thoroughly washing produce, removing outer layers of leafy vegetables when possible, washing hands before and after handling fresh produce, and exercising extra caution when consuming fresh pro-

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

Michael Leo Sullivan was born November 30, 1889, in Payne, Ohio, the son of John Sullivan, born June 10, 1856, in Pennsylvania, and Ellen (Brady) Sullivan, born in 1858 in Ohio. This couple was married February 26, 1884, in Paulding. John was working in a barrel stave factory in New Haven, Indiana. The couple moved to Payne by 1888.

This young couple started a family with the birth of Michael in 1889, followed by Eugene in 1892, Cletus J. in 1896, and Margaret H. in 1900. By 1900, the Sullivan family was farming. John's father, Michael, and John's sister, Anna Sullivan, were living with them. Anna opened a dress shop in Payne. John's sons, Michael and Eugene, were attending school.

By 1910, John had opened Sullivan's Hardware Store in Payne. The family was living on Merrin Street in Payne. Anna was still running her dress shop and dry goods store. Michael and Eugene were living at home and working in the hardware store. Cletus and Margaret were in school.

On June 5, 1917, in the Payne North Precinct, Michael, along with brothers Cletus and Eugene, registered for the World War I draft. Michael was listed as 5 feet 9 inches tall, of medium build, with light blue eyes, black hair, and slightly balding.

Eugene was suffering from tuberculosis and was bedridden. He passed away in 1918

and buried in St. John Catholic Cemetery in Payne. He left behind a wife and three small children.

On June 15, 1918, Michael went to the University of Valparaiso in Indiana as an S.A.T.C. student. This stood for the Student Army Training Corps. The program trained potential Army officers. He entered the program as a private and was honorably discharged on December 21, 1918.

By 1920, Michael found himself back in Payne, living with his parents on Merrin Street. He continued to work at the hardware store. In 1922, Michael's father, John, passed away. He was buried in St. John Catholic Cemetery.

On July 4, 1923, in Paulding, Michael married Bernice M. Cullen. She was born October 28, 1893, in Paulding. Her brother, Seth Cullen, was a World War I veteran who passed away in 1950. He served in France as both an artilleryman and a wagoner. Sorry, I got stuck going down that rabbit hole again.

By 1930, Michael and Bernice were living in Payne on North Main Street. They were operating the hardware store on Merrin Street.

On April 14, 1934, Michael's mother, Ellen, passed away. She was buried beside John in St. John Catholic Cemetery.

By 1940, Michael and Bernice were still living in Payne and operating the hardware store. In 1942, Michael had to register for the World War II draft, but at the age of 52, he was not selected.

With the long hours of running a hardware store, Michael's health became an issue.

On April 1, 1949, Michael Leo Sullivan passed away. On April 4, 1949, he was laid to rest in St. John Catholic Cemetery.

Bernice continued to operate a hardware store, but in Paulding. She was living at 627 North Williams Street in Paulding with her parents, William and Lula Cullen. Bernice passed away in 1981 and was buried alongside Michael.

...Until Next Time!

duce during the outbreak investigation.

Those seeking more information about symptoms,

testing or treatment options are encouraged to speak with their healthcare provider.

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

Paulding County Township Association

ANNUAL FISH FRY & CHICKEN TENDER MEAL

July 23, 2026 5-7pm

at Paulding County Fairgrounds

April Pre-Sale tickets will be honored at this event! PLUS...

Tickets @ the door - \$15/meal

Eat-In & Carry-Out!



DELAWARE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES \$4,000 GRANT



Congratulations to the Delaware Twp Fire Department receiving a \$4,000 grant from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. This grant will be put towards updates to their Brush Truck. The Moose Lodge holds a fund under the umbrella of the Defiance Area Foundation. Pictured with the grant are (L to R): Issac Ankney - Chief, Kolten Myers - Asst Chief, Rick Speiser - Lodge Trustee, Lynn Speiser - Lodge Vice President, and Ashley Shaw.

RHODES STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION OPENS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2027-2028 ACADEMIC YEAR

LIMA, Ohio, July 16, 2026 – The Rhodes State College Foundation is excited to announce the launch of its 2027-2028 scholarship application season on August 1, 2026. Current and prospective students are encouraged to apply at <https://rhodesstatecollege.awardspring.com/>. With just

one application, students are automatically considered for more than 70 scholarship awards. The deadline to apply is February 12, 2027.

For the upcoming academic year, the Foundation will award up to 271 scholarships, distributing more than \$324,000 in financial support. Over the past 27 years, the Foundation has provided 3,424 scholarship awards, totaling more than \$3.3 million through both endowed and

annual scholarships.

“Scholarships remove financial barriers and create opportunities for students to pursue their educational and career goals,” said Kim Miller, Senior Director of Development at Rhodes State College. “Through a single application, students can be considered for dozens of scholarship opportunities made possible by the generosity of our donors. We encourage every eligible student to apply.”

Miller added, “The continued growth of our scholarship program reflects the remarkable commitment of our donors, alumni, employees, community organizations, and community partners.”

Those interested in establishing a scholarship or who have questions about the scholarship application process can contact development@rhodesstate.edu or 419-995-8044.

plague starts transforming his town into a living, dancing horror show! Now, Paul must fight to survive as the world around him breaks into choreographed chaos.

Cast:

Paul Matthews – Sean Carpenter; Emma Perkins – Abbie Mengerink; Charlotte Sweetly – Kim Salisbury; Ted Spankoffski – Andy Walpole; Bill Woodward – Charles Bennett; Professor Hidgens – Carson Caprella; Mr. Ken Davidson / Sam Sweetly – Evan Joseph; Alice Woodward – Payton Frese; General John MacNamara – Landon Adams

Zoey Chambers – Chloe Parker; Nora – Ella Lamb; Greenpeace Canvasser – Emily Gehle; Homeless Guy – Freya Blount; Deb – Emily Ayers; Greg – Chloe Parker; Stu – Emily Gehle; Soloist Cops – Ella Lamb, Carson Caprella; Coffee Jerk – Carson Caprella; Colonel Schaffer – Anna Cassidy; Melissa – Sophie Berryman; Ensemble – Colton Easterday, Josh Hohman, Sav Merkel

This AYAT (Adolescent and Young Adult) production has a talented group of local performers ready to take you on a wild journey into a town being taken over by a singing, dancing alien entity. Please be advised that this production contains a content warning for adult language, violence, sexual language, gunshots, drug references, smoking, blood, and gore.

Performances will run July 23, 24, 25, and 26, as well as July 30, 31, and August 1 and 2, 2026. All performances take place at our main stage at 118 S. Race Street, Van Wert, OH 45891. Secure your seats early at vwct.org or call 419.238.9689 before the musical infection catches you!

(Continued from Page 1)

projects. A paint-by-number America 250 mural, face painting, chalk art and balloon art will be part of the event as well.

Professional and young choreographer dance showcases, an acting demo class, and a cabaret performance by Fountain City Festival will all take place on the north stage. The north stage will also feature a dance/spoken word performance, “What Inspires You?” discussion panel, and an acting demo class.

Music kicks off at noon, with five acts scheduled throughout the day. Fleetwood 2 the Max, a Fleetwood Mac tribute act, will perform the headlining show starting at 6 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair for seating.

The day will also feature a fresh market that includes locally-grown produce, plants and baked goods. Four food trucks will offer a variety of cuisine ranging from BBQ to ice cream.

For more information and a detailed schedule of activities, visit FlairOnTheSquare.com.

Flair on the Square is made possible in part by an investment of public funds from the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically. Bard Manufacturing, Spangler Candy Co. and other generous sponsors have also contributed.

MARY’S LAMB

This is one of the most compelling stories I have ever read. It is the kind that you find on rare occasion. Is it a human trait to root for the underdog, after all on rare occasions they win?

It appeared that John boy Ralston loved the Sawyer girl. Perhaps it was just that he felt sorry for her, but he made a special point to be by her side. Mary was quite shy, she only spoke when called upon, and she always sat alone at recess. John was the son of the local minister, and perhaps he felt compelled to befriend her, but the fact remains that they were close friends.

Mary was a grade behind John in school even though they were the same age. John had skipped a grade because his uncle was tutoring him. Everyone knew that John was going to Harvard when he was 17. Mary was getting quite fond of the tall handsome lad, but she shared it with no one, except her animals.

The chickens, the cows, the horses the sheep, all the animals that she took care of, they all had names, and they all were her pets. It was not unusual for one of her pets to follow her to school, and to wait outside until she was the first to come out.

Everyone chided her for her closeness to her pets, but John boy supported her in the venture and always stood up for her. One day her teacher reprimanded her severely for being so close to her pets, and she began to cry. After school John boy walked her home and consoled her. John boy felt so bad that the next day he gave Mary a poem that he had written, which she kept for the rest of her life.

John Ralston did go to Harvard at age 17, but he died in his freshman year. No one will ever know his relationship with Mary. Now Mary’s life retreated into a relationship with her pets. But because of him, she later became a household name, and produced a work that you are no doubt familiar with.



It wasn’t until years later that Mary was invited to speak to a church group of ladies that she told the story of a shy little girl that had been befriended by a preacher’s son. She produced the note and it would be the first time that human ears heard it’s contents:

“Mary had a Little Lamb

“Its fleece was white as snow

“And everywhere that Mary went

“The lamb was sure to go.”

There was a magazine editor present that day and she printed it in “The Lady’s Home Journal.” The poem became popular and was made into a book by a famous industrialist. You memorized the poem, and anyone my age could recite it by heart.

Commemorating the day that a lamb followed its owner Mary Elizabeth Sawyer, to school and was reprimanded by the teacher Polly Campbell, and was probably the only poem that the author John Ralston had ever written.

“It followed her to school one day

“Which was against the rule

“It made the children laugh and play

“To see a lamb at school.”

Hold the presses! I found another verse:

“And so the teacher sent it out

“But still it lingered near

“It stood and waited round about

“Till Mary did appear

“Why does the lamb love Mary so?

“The little children cry.”

—James Neuhaus

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adults who bring a child get in free

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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

Editor's Note: We here at the West Bend News allow "Letters to the Editor" because we believe there is a Constitutional right to freedom of speech. Nevertheless, we do not necessarily concur with the content that has been printed. We are just the messengers. However, any letters that attack a person, or attempt to justify a physical attack that took place will not be considered. Keep your opinion to the discussion only. The name of the person who wrote the letter is placed at the end of each article along with the town of residence. To be considered for publication, you must live in our readership area. Letters must be no longer than 1000 words, and you must provide your legal name along with a phone number and address. You can submit a letter in person at our office, by email, mail or fax.

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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Antwerp, OH 45813*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the editor.
We are in good hands
I am a volunteer for the Caring and Sharing Food Pantry here in Paulding. I also help with the food distribution every other month at the Paulding County Fairgrounds. I have had the pleasure of working at the distribution with the National Honor Society members from all three county school systems. What a blessing these students were

to work with! With a few instructions, they all just went to work and we got the job done. The people coming through were treated with respect and all told to have a good day. The weather varied from bitter cold to cool and breezy to a normal spring day. There were no complaints at all about the weather or the very long line coming through. Most of the time the students were paired up and worked together to do their stations' job with one of us. There was a little free lancing after we got started, but they figured it was an easier way of doing the job. It was fun watching the interactions with the public.

The day after the April distribution working with the Antwerp group, I worked in the pantry with three college students who donated their time to help with getting even more local people food. One wasn't from Paulding County, but he jumped in to help.

The following weekend as I was driving through town, I saw a group of kids spreading mulch around the Eagles and the Herb Monroe Park. These were younger kids, maybe middle school. This happens with kids as well as with young adults.

The point of my letter is to state that with the complaining of today's adults talking about how bad things are with our youth today, give them some direction. With basic instructions and a little guidance, anything can be accomplished. We heard the same thing about our generation so many years ago. We can't expect our youth to take over the reins and lead without leading ourselves. We have to set the example by doing the work and thinking with them. Let

them be a part of the solution. We were given a chance when we were young, today's youth deserves the same consideration.

—Mike Herber
Paulding

(Continued from Page 1)

and brings the enthusiasm, knowledge, expertise, and energy needed for this position as our cooperative is changing rapidly."

Outgoing President and CEO Randy Price echoed that confidence. "One of our greatest virtues is our investment in people," Price said. "Nick is one of those people that our co-op and the industry have developed to be a leader and advocate for those we serve. Nick and the entire Paulding Putnam team will continue to practice the cooperative values, such as concern for community, and will find innovative ways to lead in the electric and broadband industries."

For his part, Eltzroth credited the team around him. "I am incredibly honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve as the next CEO of Paulding Putnam," he said. "I would not be in this position without the talented and dedicated team I have the privilege of working alongside."

"To our members, thank you for the trust you place in us. Our commitment remains unchanged: to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric and broadband services while investing in the future of our communities. I look forward to serving our members, employees, and communities with integrity, transparency, and a servant's heart."

A Leader Grown From Within the Cooperative Family

Eltzroth has served as Paulding Putnam's Chief Operating Officer since July 2023, providing executive le

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out

Before joining Paulding Putnam, Eltzroth served as Manager of Engineering at Midwest Energy and Communications in Cassopolis, Michigan, where he led engi-

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neering, system planning, and smart grid initiatives. He began his career as a System Electrical Engineer at Holmes Wayne Electric Cooperative in Millersburg, Ohio, engineering distribution and substation projects.

Eltzroth is a Licensed Professional Engineer (PE) in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Ohio Northern University and a Master of Business Administration from Ball State University. He recently completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Management Internship Program. He is active in industry leadership through the NRECA Broadband Leadership and Advisory Group and the Accord Telecommunications Collaborative, and was named to the Forty Under 40 lists in South Bend, Indiana (2022) and Fort Wayne, Indiana (2024).

Continued Momentum on Fiber Expansion

This leadership transition comes as the co-op continues its multi-year fiber-to-the-home expansion, one of the largest infrastructure investments in the cooperative's history. Since the Board of Trustees voted in July 2024 to provide fiber internet, nearly 900 miles of mainline fiber have been built. In total, more than 1,500 miles are planned across the cooperative's seven-county territory in northwest Ohio and northeast Indiana. The Board and executive team emphasized that the transition in leadership will not slow the pace of construction, member sign-ups, or community outreach already underway.

Those with questions about the transition or who want to learn more can visit Paulding Putnam's website at www.PPEC.coop or call 800-686-2357.

HAVE A WEDDING, ENGAGEMENT OR ANNIVERSARY?
Let your friends and neighbors know for **FREE** in the West Bend News.
(pictures are extra)

THE HIDDEN DANGER OF INVESTING TOO CAUTIOUSLY

One of the most significant risks investors face isn't losing money in a market dip; it's failing to reach their long-term financial goals.

Many people focus heavily on short-term losses in the stock market and try to protect their savings by investing conservatively or avoiding stocks altogether. But that runs the risk that their savings won't grow enough to keep up with inflation or support future needs.

Understanding what investment risk really means helps you make smarter financial decisions, considering these three key aspects.

- Risk tolerance describes your emotional comfort with risk. If you'd want to pull your money out of the market during a downturn, that reveals something about your tolerance. Many financial advisors use questionnaires to help clients understand how they might react in different market conditions.

- Risk capacity refers to how much risk you can afford to take. Your timeline matters. A 35-year-old saving for retirement has decades to ride out market swings. A retiree drawing income from their portfolio doesn't have that same cushion.

- Required risk describes how much risk you may need to take to reach your financial goals. Higher returns generally come with higher risk, though higher risk does not guarantee higher returns. If you need strong growth to retire comfortably, you may need to accept more short-term volatility.

Sometimes these elements don't line up. You might be uncomfortable with risk but need strong growth to meet your goals.

Balance and diversification matter: Finding the right balance matters more than you might think. A small difference in your annual rate of return, from 5% to 7% for instance, doesn't just add up a little. It multiplies. That's the power of compounding — returns earning their own returns,

year after year, building on an ever-growing base. Over 30 or 35 years, that can become significant.

You needn't choose between playing it so safe your money barely keeps up with inflation and taking on more risk than you're comfortable with. Instead, a balanced mix can fit your comfort level and still help grow your money over time.

The age factor: You'll want to adjust your approach to risk as you get older. If retirement is years away, your portfolio may lean toward growth investments like stocks and stock mutual funds; you have time to absorb short-term losses and benefit from long-term gains. Lower risk investments like bonds still play a role because they can help smooth out changes in your portfolio's value.

As you near retirement, your portfolio may shift toward a more even mix of stocks and bonds to limit exposure to large market swings. The goal is to protect what you've built while still generating enough growth to fund a retirement that could last decades.

Investing well isn't about eliminating risk; it's about taking the right amount of it. Too little risk can be just as damaging as too much. A financial advisor can help you find the balance that matches your comfort level, your financial situation and your long-term goals.

Investors should understand the risks involved with owning investments, including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. The value of investments fluctuates and investors can lose some or all of their principal.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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: Sailors, Vancress, 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, Vancress 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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JOHN PAULDING SUMMER BLAST CELEBRATES COMMUNITY, HISTORY AND PATRIOTISM



Celebrating America 250 at Paulding's Summerblast Parade on July 10, 2026, Scott Fire Department was one of many parade participants of this annual event.



Abraham Lincoln made an appearance in the historic downtown district of Paulding, Ohio on Saturday, July 11, 2026 before he was scheduled to recite the Gettysburg Address at Herb Monroe Park.

PAULDING — Downtown Paulding was filled with patriotic spirit and hometown pride as residents and visitors gathered for the John Paulding Summer Blast, a two-day celebration featuring a parade, family activities, historical tributes, and entertainment.

Festivities kicked off Friday evening with the John Paulding Summer Blast Parade, which wound through downtown as spectators lined the streets to cheer on floats, community organizations, local businesses, first responders, and classic vehicles. Prior to the parade, children took part in the popular Bike Decorating Contest, proudly riding their creatively decorated bicycles as part of the procession.

Following the parade, families enjoyed a variety of activities, including the Kiwanis Kid Zone, inflatables provided by Everlite Collective, children's games, food

trucks, and the Boy Scouts pizza tent. Music by DJ Larry kept the celebration going into the evening before the day concluded with a fireworks display that lit up the Paulding sky.

Saturday's activities began early with the America 250 Revolutionary Run, featuring both a 5K race and a one-mile fun run/walk. Proceeds from the event benefited the Paulding Exempted Village Schools Pay-to-Play Program.

Throughout the day, visitors browsed shopping vendors and food trucks while enjoying numerous family-friendly attractions on the courthouse lawn. The Paulding County Carnegie Library sponsored games and activities, while the Boy Scouts offered archery and BB gun demonstrations. Self-guided historic tours also gave guests an opportunity to explore Paulding's rich heritage.

One of the day's highlights came during the lunch hour when Abraham Lincoln made a special appearance in downtown Paulding. Portrayed by professional Lincoln presenter Kevin Wood, the nation's 16th president greeted visitors, posed for photographs, and delivered a stirring recitation of the Gettysburg Address. The presentation drew an attentive audience, many of whom paused to reflect on the historic words that continue to inspire Americans more than 160 years after they were first spoken.

A community picnic also brought residents together over lunch while patriotic music performed by the Paulding High School Band added to the festive atmosphere.

Saturday also featured two significant community milestones with the dedication of the new Paulding Veterans Memorial and the unveiling of the official Downtown Historic District sign. Both projects represented years of planning, fundraising, and volunteer dedication, celebrating the community's commitment to honoring its veterans while preserving its historic downtown.

The John Paulding Summer Blast once again showcased the strong community spirit that defines Paulding, providing two days of entertainment, education, and patriotic celebration for residents and visitors of all ages.

DPL HOSTS AUTHOR ALESSANDRA NORDEN

[DEFIANCE] — Local author Alessandra Norden will visit Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., on August 3 at 6 p.m. for a special book talk and signing.

In the book, *From Broken to Crowned*, Norden shares how her Christian faith has carried her through painful life experiences. She also will discuss how the book came to be written.

Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing.

This free program is open to all adults, and no registration is needed.

For more information, contact the library at 419-782-1456.

ANTWERP VFW POST 5087 AWARDS SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS



Pictured above are (front, l-r): Harlee Moore, Leigha Doster, Estee Lichty, Taylor Stiebling, Lilly McKay, and Ella Hughes; (back, l-r) Raelynne Zuber, Bobby Phillips (VFW representative), Haydyn Lengacher, Hampton Rogge, and Zaine McMichael

The members of Antwerp VFW Post 5087 are proud to invest in the future of their community by awarding several \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors in 2026.

These scholarships recognize students who have

demonstrated academic achievement, leadership, community involvement, and a commitment to making a positive difference.

By supporting local graduates, Antwerp VFW Post 5087 continues its tradition of honoring those who serve

while encouraging the next generation to pursue their educational goals.

For scholarship requirements, application information, and deadlines, please contact Antwerp VFW Post 5087 or your high school guidance office.

ANTWERP CHAMBER HOSTS PATRIOTIC KIDDIE PARADE & CANDY BAR BINGO



Patriotic Kiddie Parade enjoyed a remarkable summer evening parading their America 250 patriotism down Main St. In downtown Antwerp, Ohio on Monday, July 6, 2026.

Oh, say can you see... just how much FUN we had tonight at the Patriotic Parade & Candy Bar Bingo! Antwerp Chamber of Commerce sponsors this event every summer right after the Independence Day holiday as a way to continue the fun of holiday. This year's event theme was America 250 and all the participants jumped on board and came decked out in the stars and stripes, with glitter and glam fanfare!

Beginning at the steps of Antwerp Manor Assisted Living, bikers, trikers, strollers, and walkers bid a "hello" and "fairwell" to the residents of the Manor and trekked from Archer Drive to Main Street with a final destination of the Antwerp VFW Post #5087 picnic area for the much anticipated Candy Bar Bingo!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who came out and helped make the evening such a success!

Special thanks to everyone who participated in the parade and bingo, Gen Fed for hosting Bingo and generously donating the delicious candy bars, Antwerp VFW Post 5087 for allowing us to use their pavilion, and Antwerp Police



Candy Bar Bingo is a serious affair! There is chocolate at stake! Gen Fed Credit Union sponsored the Bingo and the candy bars for this anticipated summer event!

Department for providing a safe escort through town!

What a wonderful evening celebrating our community

and America's 250th Birthday! Happy 250th Birthday, America!

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Harlan, IN 46743

STUDENT RAISES \$1,300 FOR HER OWN SCHOOL THROUGH PIGGY BANK PHILANTHROPY



A simple piggy bank has turned into a powerful act of generosity for one local student.

Jenny, a student at the Defiance County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Good Samaritan School, recently raised \$1,300 through the Defiance Area Foundation's Piggy Bank Philanthropy initiative and donated the funds back to her school.

Jenny chose Good Samaritan School because of the positive impact it has had on her life.

"I chose Good Samaritan School because they play an important role in my life," Jenny shared. "I attend school here and have experienced firsthand the support, opportunities, and sense of belonging it provides."

Her donation will help support programs that strengthen relationships and create meaningful experiences for students and families, including Parent Lunch, Grandparent Lunch, Leader's Farm, and other community-building activities.

"I want to help create meaningful programs and

community connections so current and future students can experience that same sense of inclusion and support as I have," she said.

Piggy Bank Philanthropy encourages children, families, and community members to save their spare change and donate it to causes they care about. Participants then share their giving stories with the Defiance Area Foundation to inspire others throughout the community.

"Jenny's story perfectly captures the purpose of Piggy Bank Philanthropy," said Chelsie Schroeder, Marketing Director for the Defiance Area Foundation (DAF). "Her generosity demonstrates that anyone, regardless of age, has the ability to make a lasting difference."

Community members interested in participating in Piggy Bank Philanthropy can pick up a complimentary piggy bank at the Defiance Area Foundation office, located at 613 W. Third Street in Defiance, and are encouraged to share their stories with DAF after making their donation.



OHIO STATE LIMA PROFESSOR EARNS PROMOTION DR. ROBIN BAGLEY HITS ACADEMIC MILESTONE

The Ohio State University at Lima is pleased to announce that Dr. Robin Bagley has been promoted to associate professor of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology, effective July 1, 2026.

Promotion and tenure are awarded to tenure-track faculty who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship and teaching, and who have provided dedicated service to both their field and the university.

"I am absolutely delighted to celebrate Dr. Robin Bagley's well-deserved tenure here at Ohio State," said Dr. Margaret Young, dean and director of Ohio State Lima. "Throughout her time as an assistant professor, I have watched Robin bring an extraordinary level of warmth and a vibrant enthusiasm to her teaching. Her innovative approach in the classroom is always paired with a deep commitment to supporting her students—a dedication that has rightfully earned her several awards over the years. I am incredibly

proud of her accomplishments and so grateful for the energy, care, and curiosity she brings to our community every day."

Dr. Bagley recently received the 2025–2026 College of Arts and Sciences Early-Career Faculty Excellence Award, which recognizes outstanding performance in research, teaching and service. She is Ohio State Lima's 2025 recipient of both the Faculty Award for Sustained Student Mentorship and the Teaching Excellence Award, and she serves as the co-chair of the popular STEAM on the Quad event. In 2023, she won the Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award and mentored Marie Walton, who took first place in the animal sciences category at the 28th Richard J. and Margaret D. Denman Undergraduate Research Forum.

A primary goal of the Bagley Lab is to describe the community of natural enemies associated with the pine sawfly genus *Neodiprion*. Dr. Bagley welcomes undergraduate researchers to study host-parasite relationships and the diverse insect populations of the campus prairie.

HUSTED SECURES MILLIONS IN CRITICAL FUNDING FOR OHIO INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

"It's great to see these critical projects receive the funding they need to keep Ohio moving forward."

WASHINGTON – Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio) today announced that he secured \$50 million in federal funding for two major Ohio infrastructure projects through the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program.

In total, four Ohio projects will receive \$69,830,645 through the USDOT BUILD grant program.

Husted successfully advocated for \$50 million in BUILD funding for the Brook Park Public Infrastructure Improvements project and the Fort Washington Way Project, submitting letters of support to DOT Secretary Sean Duffy on behalf of both projects. Each project was awarded \$25 million.

"I fought for these projects because they will improve safety, support economic growth and help Ohio communities compete and thrive for decades to come. From improving access to major transportation corridors to creating new spaces for businesses and families, these investments will strengthen our economy and improve quality of life for Ohioans. It's great to see these critical projects receive the funding they need to keep Ohio moving forward," said Husted.

"This is a monumental infrastructure investment into the heart of Cincinnati that will change the way our community grows and gathers for generations to come. We are grateful for the support from the federal government, especially Senator Husted, and are proud to have partnered with Hamilton County, the City of Cincinnati, and a wide range of community leaders to finally move forward on the long-standing promise of building the caps over Fort Washington Way," said Brendon Cull, President & CEO of the Cincinnati Regional

PAULDING UNVEILS OFFICIAL DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT SIGN



Pictured above are (l-r): Melinda Krick, Kim Sutton, Dave Burtch, and Ann Walker.

Community Revitalizing Paulding (CoRP) celebrated the unveiling of the official Downtown Historic District sign on Saturday, July 11, marking the culmination of a project that has been years in the making.

The effort was led by a dedicated committee of local historians and community members, including Dave Burtch, Melinda Krick, Kim Sutton, Ann Walker and Jane Nice. Planning for the project began before the COVID-19 pandemic, which temporarily delayed progress. Once activities resumed, the group renewed its research and completed an application to the National Register of Historic Places in 2023.

In 2024, CoRP received

official notification that Paulding's downtown district had been added to the National Register of Historic Places, recognizing the area's historical significance and helping preserve its heritage for future generations.

Following the designation, CoRP launched a fundraising campaign to purchase and install two historic district signs at the entrances to downtown along State Route 127, which passes through the historic district. The signs were designed to be durable and long-lasting, serving as a permanent reminder of the community's commitment to preserving its history.

The new sign's stately appearance reflects the importance of protecting Paul-



ding's historic character while celebrating the people, buildings and stories that have shaped the community. CoRP members said they hope the signs will stand as lasting symbols of the community's pride in its past and its investment in the future.

Chamber.

"This federal funding opportunity represents a once-in-a-generation chance to reconnect our downtown, create new public green space, and continue the momentum at The Banks. By capping Fort Washington Way between Vine and Walnut streets, we can transform an infrastructure barrier into a community asset that benefits residents, visitors, and future generations," said Hamilton County Commission President Stephanie Summerow Dumas. "This investment will fully fund planned improvements along Front and Main: prioritizing safety, leveraging Metroparks Toledo's investments along the riverfront, and encouraging new business development throughout the corridor. I'm grateful for the federal government's support of this project and its continued investment in making Toledo a great place to build," said Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

The grant allocation builds on Husted's work as a member of the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Appropriations Committee. In these roles, Husted has been a strong advocate for strengthening Ohio's infrastructure and ensuring that already appropriated funds are obligated to projects that will

serve Ohioans.

The USDOT's BUILD program provides grants for surface transportation infrastructure projects with significant local or regional impacts.

The four Ohio projects receiving funding are:

- The City of Brook Park's Public Infrastructure Improvements – \$25 million to modernize access to the I-71 interchange, reconstruct critical regional and local connector roads, and integrate high-capacity transit and pedestrian infrastructure.

- Hamilton County's Fort Washington Way Project – \$25 million to construct an approximately 1.2-acre highway cap and public plaza over

the eight-lane, sunken section of I-71/U.S. Route 50, known locally as Fort Washington Way.

- The City of Sharonville's East Sharon Road Separation Feasibility Study – \$320,000 to advance planning and technical implementation of a grade-separated crossing on East Sharon Road, improving safety and mobility.

- The City of Toledo's Front and Main Corridor Modernization Project – \$19,510,645 to modernize approximately two miles of roadway and sidewalks along Front Street and Main Street, enhancing transportation access and supporting economic development.

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TINORA FOOTBALL RECEIVES \$1,000 GRANT FOR NEW TRAINING EQUIPMENT



Congratulations to Tinora High School Football for receiving a \$1,000 grant from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. This grant will be used to purchase new football training equipment. The Defiance Moose Lodge holds a donor advised fund under the umbrella of the Defiance Area Foundation. Pictured with the grant are (l-r) Mark White - Lodge Trustee and Jamie Ort - Tinora Football Mom's Treasurer.

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Dena Fakhouri, Dearborn,

PUBLIC MEETING

HARRISON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF ZONING

To add an amendment to the zoning resolution for Solar energy and battery energy storage systems along with updates to zoning regulations from state legislative changes and zoning fee changes.

Thursday August 6th at 7:00pm at the Payne American Legion

220 North Main St. Payne, OH 45880

You may view a copy of the amendment Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm

From Trustee Chad Benschneider at 8602 Road 51 Payne, OH 45880

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; that to secure the payment of said Note deceased borrower, executed and delivered a Mortgage Deed, thereby conveying the following described premises:

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 there from; 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

180 days in jail, with 179 days suspended. Additional conditions included no contact with the victim or the victim's residence and compliance with all orders of the civil protection order.

Michael L. Wood Jr., Paulding, pleaded guilty to menacing. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$114 in court costs. Wood was sentenced to 30 days in jail, all of which were suspended. Additional conditions included maintaining good behavior, no unlawful contact with the victim, and continuing current counseling.

Mason E. Hernandez, Defiance, pleaded guilty to drug possession. He was fined \$50 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. He was also ordered to maintain good behavior.

Heath T. Sears, Middle Point, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Donald C. Arnold, Ossian, Indiana, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Ned Jones Jr., Petersburg, Virginia, pleaded guilty to a registration violation and a seat belt violation. He was fined \$70 on the registration charge and \$30 on the seat belt violation. Court costs of \$95 were assessed.

Karen M. Hanenkratt, Defiance, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Rick A. Hainline, Van Wert, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Kyle D. Showalter, Payne, domestic violence, dismissed with prejudice at the request of the state. Court costs were waived.

Amanjot Singh, Caledon, Ontario, pleaded guilty to violating a no-thru-trucks restriction. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

Aaron C. Contreras, Paulding, pleaded guilty to assault. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$217 in court costs. Contreras was sentenced to 180 days in jail, all of which were suspended. Additional conditions included standard probation, maintaining good behavior, an evaluation through Westwood and completion of treatment, on-line courses, a risk assessment, and 20 hours of community service.

Cecelia C. Ivester, Cecil, pleaded guilty to domestic violence. She was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$300 in court costs. Ivester was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 175 days suspended. Additional conditions included probation, maintaining good behavior, and serving five days in jail with one day of credit.

Seth E. Wyse, Ridgeville Corners, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Hunter F. Bauer, Paulding, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Phillip I. Hilty, New Haven, Indiana, pleaded guilty to assured clear distance ahead. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. Hilty, also pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30. No additional court costs were assessed on that charge.

Jessica Mendez, Fort Wayne, Indiana, driving under a financial responsibility suspension, dismissed. Court costs of \$97 were assessed to the defendant.

Timothy T. Eppe, Defiance, pleaded guilty to driving while texting. He was ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

Ryan B. Sallee, Woodburn, Indiana, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$62 in court costs.

Bryan E. Rockwell, Milledgeville, Illinois, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Dustin L. Jeffries, Smithfield, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Rodrigo Lopez Flores, Fort Wayne, Indiana, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

OHSAA ANNOUNCES GOLDRING RETIREMENT, ADDITION OF BIXLER AND KAUFMAN

Longtime administrator Bob Goldring will retire at the end of July and a pair of veteran school administrators have joined the OHSAA staff, OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute has announced.

With Goldring's retirement, the OHSAA has added Andy Bixler as Director of Eligibility and Student Services, and Scott Kaufman as Director of Sport Administration and Operations. They both join the OHSAA after serving at OHSAA member schools for more than 30 years. Their bio information is below.

Goldring joined the staff in October 1995 and held titles including Director of Information Services, Assistant Commissioner, Director of Operations and Director of Communications and Special Projects. Twice during his 31-year career at the OHSAA he was tasked with serving as Interim Executive Director, including during the summer of 2020 when the OHSAA developed policies and procedures for school sports during the COVID-19 pandemic. While many states did not play in the fall of 2020, Bob's work with the Ohio Department of Health and the Governor's Office helped pave the way for Ohio student-athletes to play sports that fall and for the 2020-21 school year.

During the first half of Bob's career at the OHSAA, he was responsible for media and public relations, publications, and had oversight of the media at state tournaments and of the office webmaster. In that time he helped enhance

LEGAL NOTICE TO BIDDERS

VILLAGE OF PAYNE, OH

The Village of Payne, Ohio, will receive sealed bids for the purchase of one (1) brush chipper for use by the Village Street Department. Equipment shall be substantially equivalent to an Altec DC 1317 Brush Chipper and shall meet the minimum specifications established by the Village of Payne. Complete specifications may be obtained from the Village Office during normal business hours.

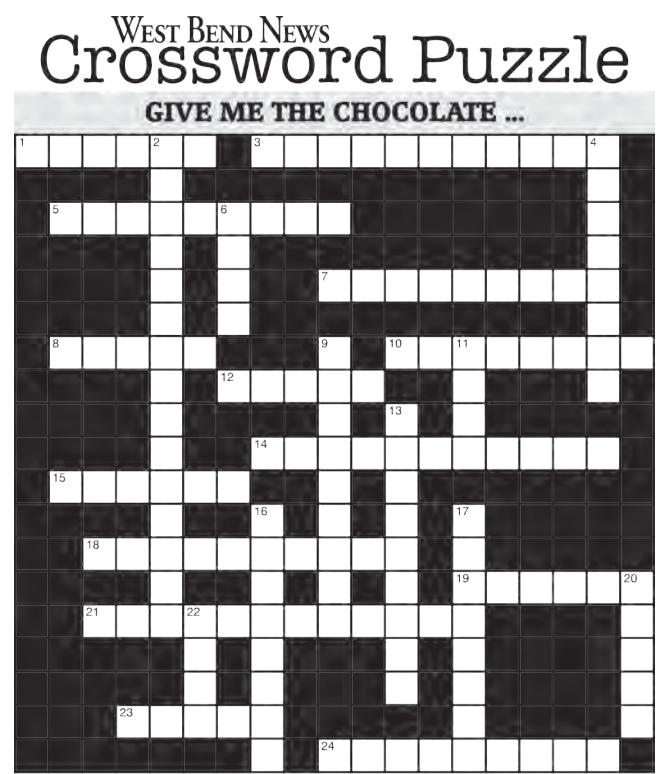
Sealed bids shall be clearly marked: "Brush Chipper Bid - Village of Payne" and delivered to:

Village of Payne
119 N Main St.
PO Box 58
Payne, Ohio 45880

Sealed bids must be received no later than: 4:00 p.m. on August 7th, 2026. Bids received after this time will not be considered. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of Village Council beginning at: 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 10th, 2026
Village Municipal Building
119 N Main St
Payne, Ohio 45880

The Village reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive informalities or irregularities in the bids received, and accept the bid deemed most advantageous to the Village.

By order of the Village of Payne, OH
Lora Lyons, Mayor
Village of Payne



- Across**
1. Earliest known civilization to cultivate cacao in Mesoamerica.
 3. Natural fat extracted from cacao beans.
 5. Scientific genus name meaning "food of the gods."
 7. Chocolate commonly used in baking cookies and desserts.
 8. Tropical tree whose seeds are used to make chocolate.
 10. Mixing process that improves chocolate's smoothness and flavor.
 12. Whitish coating that forms when chocolate is improperly stored but remains safe to eat.
 14. Chocolate containing a high percentage of cocoa with little sugar.
 15. Process of reducing moisture in cacao beans before shipment.
 18. Premium chocolate containing extra cacao butter for dipping and molding.
 19. Empire that valued cacao beans as currency.
 21. First step after harvesting that develops chocolate's flavor.
- Down**
23. First European country to popularize drinking chocolate.
 24. Common name for the fermented and dried seed of the cacao tree.
 2. Pure ground cacao containing both cocoa solids and cocoa butter.
 4. Step that enhances the aroma and flavor of cacao beans.
 6. Naturally pink chocolate introduced commercially in 2017.
 9. Aztec ruler said to have enjoyed chocolate beverages.
 11. Pieces of roasted cacao used to make chocolate liquor.
 13. Careful heating and cooling that gives chocolate a glossy finish.
 16. Process that turns cacao nibs into a smooth paste.
 17. Italian chocolate blended with finely ground hazelnuts.
 20. Ingredient added by Europeans to sweeten bitter cacao.
 22. Civilization that prepared a bitter chocolate drink for ceremonies.

solution on page 11

THIS PUZZLE BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL

Paulding County Hospital • 1035 West Wayne St. • Paulding, OH 45879
Antwerp Regional Health Ctr • 608 Erie Street • Antwerp, OH, 45813
Oakwood Medical Center • 109 N. First Street • Oakwood, OH 45873
Payne Medical Center • 301 South Main Street • Payne, OH 45880

the Association's relationship with the media by providing more and timely information such as news releases, publishing the OHSAA Working With the Media Handbook for athletic administrators and tournament managers and the OHSAA Public Relations Guide for Coaches.

Beginning with the 2008- (Continued on Page 10)

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.

THE LEFT TURN



Kyle Larson flips at the Brad Doty Classic. Photo by Campbell Photography.

By: Ron Burt

We are currently in the middle of the two biggest and exciting weeks of racing of the summer. The 2026 DIRTcar Late Model Summer Nationals just ended at Wayne County Speedway, last Sunday. Tyler Carpenter added to his growing resume Sunday night with the Feature win, but Tanner English claimed the biggest prize of the summer as that Tour Champion. The Modified Champion will be crowned next week.

The USAC Midwest Thunder Midgets were in action on Friday, July 10th at Bloomington IN Speedway. Feature Top 3, 1st Ian Creager, 2nd Bryce Massingill and 3rd Kole Kirkman. Just down the road at Circle City Speedway outside Indianapolis, on Friday, The Great Lakes Sprints headlined the racing program. Feature Top 3, 1st Parker Price Miller, 2nd Zane DeVault and 3rd Graham Huffman.

On Saturday, July 11th, Oakshade Raceway held the annual Birthday Race which is part of the DIRTcar Summer Nationals. Top 3 Feature Winners: Late Models 1st Frank Heckenast Jr., 2nd Ryan Unzicker, and 3rd Sam Seawright. Summit Modifieds: 1st Zeke McKenzie, 2nd Matthew Baker and 3rd Dillon Nusbaum. Dominator Stocks: 1st Mason Luttrell, 2nd Jeff Foks Jr., and 3rd Brad Eitnietar.

Saturday, July 11th Angola Motorsport Speedway Feature winners only: Late Models Tommy Cook, Modifieds Johnathon Gatton, Street Stocks Brandon Bledsoe, Front Wheel Drive Outlaws Travis Barcus, and Front Wheel Drives Corbin Hender-

son.

Sunday, July 12th Wayne County Speedway. DIRTcar Late Models Summer Nationals wrapped up the 33 event series. Feature Top 3, 1st Tyler Carpenter, 2nd Eric Wilson and 3rd J.R. Gentry. Summit Modifieds 1st Dalton Lane, 2nd Nathan Loney, and 3rd Dusty Swecker.

Monday the High Limit Sprint Series was at Fremont Speedway. Top 3 at Fremont: 1st Brent Marks \$12,000., 2nd Justin Peck and 3rd Aaron Reutzel.

Tuesday, Attica Raceway Park hosted the World of Outlaw Winged Sprints, at the 38th Annual Brad Doty Classic. NASCAR fans held their breath when 3 time Classic Champion, and race leader at the time, Kyle Larson took a violent flip. He was bruised, totaled the car, but the safety equipment did its job. 38th Annual Brad Doty Classic, Feature Top 3, 1st Bryce Lucius and \$20,000.00, 2nd Logan Schuchart, and 3rd Michael Kofoid.

Wednesday, July 15th the World of Outlaws and High Limit race teams headed to Eldora Speedway in Rossburg Ohio for the 43rd Annual Kings Royal. The winner on Saturday, July 18th of the prestigious race will get the robe, crown, scepter and \$200,000.00 for the win.

High Limit Racing ran the Wednesday and Thursday nights races, the Annual Double Down Duel\$ on Wednesday. Double Down Duel\$ A-Feature Top 3: 1st Brent Marks \$12,000.00, 2nd Tyler Courtney and 3rd Kyle Larson. Double Down Duel\$ B-Feature Top 3, 1st Corey Day \$12,000.00, 2nd Gio Scelzi

and 3rd Justin Peck.

On Thursday, July 16th, it was the \$100,000.00 to win Jokers Jackpot. At Eldora. The night before Kyle Larson and Rico Abreu battled each other and that continued Thursday. Rico led the first 24 laps of the 35 lap feature, and then Kyle Larson found the opening he

needed to take the lead and put his car in Victory Lane, for the second straight year, and pick up another \$100,000.00. Feature Top 3: 1st Kyle Larson \$100,000.00, 2nd Rico Abreu \$25,000. and 3rd Logan Schuchart \$15,000. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out!

(Continued from Page 9)

09 school year, Goldring served as the OHSAAs chief liaison with the membership and staff, planned and compiled information for Board of Directors meetings, wrote public address announcements and created timing itineraries for OHSAAs state tournaments, produced newsletters for member school administrators, planned various OHSAAs statewide meetings, nominated and secured individuals for special national and OHSAAs awards, worked with the OHSAAs student eligibility appeals process, and oversaw several committees and special projects.

Bob's previous work was in collegiate sports information offices at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (Terre Haute, Ind.), Purdue University and as assistant sports information director from May 1990 to September 1995 at Ohio State, where he earned two degrees.

Bixler and Kaufman Join OHSAAs Staff

Bixler joins the OHSAAs Director of Eligibility and Student Services after serving as the superintendent of Anna Local Schools in Southwest Ohio for the last 20 years. He was a member of the Southwest District Athletic Board for 22 years and also served two terms on the OHSAAs Board of Directors, including being elected President of the Board for the 2016-17 school year and Vice President for the 2024-25 school year. His committee work has included contributions to competitive balance, finance, Division I disparity, and divisional expansion initiatives.

Andy began his career in education as a math teacher and multi-sport coach at Brookville and Preble Shawnee High Schools from 1992 to 1999. He then served as high school principal at Preble Shawnee High School before becoming principal at Anna High School from 2001 to 2006.

Kaufman joins the OHSAAs Director of Sport Administration and Operations after serving as the Athletic Director and Assistant Principal at Lakota West High School in Southwest Ohio since 2013. During his 34 years in education he also taught, coached or served as an administrator at Cincinnati Princeton, Cincinnati Seven Hills and Cincinnati Wyoming.

For 16 years, Scott was a representative on the Southwest District Athletic Board and spent a three-year term on the OHSAAs Board of Directors, including as President for the 2021-22 school year. During his years on the board, he served on the OHSAAs Competitive Balance Committee, OHSAAs Football Site Selection Committee and the OHSAAs Technology Committee. He was the Southwest District Division I Tournament Coordinator for volleyball and basketball and since 2023 was an OHSAAs Regional

Basketball Coordinator.

Additional OHSAAs Staff News

OHSAAs Director of Officiating and Football Administrator Beau Rugg will serve as the administrator for girls flag football, which is a new OHSAAs recognized sport for the 2026-27 school year.

Sport Administrator BJ Duckworth will continue in his role as sport administrator for cross country and track and field and will add field hockey and swimming and diving to his duties.

Michael Cornathan has been promoted to sport administrator and will oversee girls and boys volleyball and bowling.

OHSAAs Sport Administrator Assignments

Doug Ute - basketball

Dr. John Kronour - tennis, ice hockey, cheerleading

Beau Rugg - football (tackle and flag)

Monroe Britton - golf, wrestling, lacrosse, baseball

Kelly Schoenly - soccer, gymnastics, softball, cheerleading

BJ Duckworth - cross country, field hockey, swimming and diving, track and field

Michael Cornathan - volleyball, bowling

EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS' BIDS FAREWELL TO DEDICATED EDUCATOR & SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

After decades of unwavering commitment to education and service, the East Allen County School Board is bidding a heartfelt farewell to Mr. Steve Screeton, whose career has left an enduring legacy on generations of students, educators, and the entire community.

As both a respected educator and a dedicated member of the Board of School Trustees, Screeton has devoted over 40 years to ensuring every student had the opportunity to succeed. Throughout a distinguished career marked by compassion, integrity, and visionary leadership, he championed academic excellence, supported educators, and consistently placed the needs of students at the forefront of every decision.

"Mr. Screeton has been a remarkable advocate for children and public education," said Board President Tim Hines. "Whether serving in the classroom or helping guide district policy as a board member, he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence. Our schools and community are stronger because of his leadership."

During his tenure and beyond his work in the classroom, he was a legendary basketball coach at New Haven High School. His contributions to athletics were recognized with his induction into the New Haven Athletic Hall of Fame.

County Commissioner Ron Turpin presented Mr. Screeton with a Proclamation

SERVICEMASTER BY MCCANN RETURNS AS SILVER SPONSOR FOR 2026 DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GALA



Pictured are Brandon McCann, President and Owner of ServiceMaster by McCann, and Dan Michel, President of the Defiance Area Foundation Board of Trustees.

The Defiance Area Foundation is pleased to recognize ServiceMaster by McCann as a returning Silver Sponsor of the 2026 Gala, Bow Ties & Boas, with a generous \$3,500 sponsorship.

Their continued support helps make the Foundation's signature fundraising event possible while benefiting the Defiance Area Foundation Community Fund, which provides flexible grant dollars to

support local nonprofits, community projects, and emerging needs throughout Defiance County.

"We are grateful for ServiceMaster by McCann's continued partnership and commitment to our community," said Chris Yoder, Executive Director of the Defiance Area Foundation.

The 2026 Gala will be held on Saturday, October 3, at the Knights of Columbus.

from the Allen County Board of Commissioners proclaiming July 14, 2026, Steve Screeton Day!

Reflecting on his years of service, Screeton expressed

gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

"It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to work alongside dedicated educators, families, and com-

The Left Turn

Your Source For Tri-State Racing

ohio Sport Blitz Facebook Live with Ron Burt

www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz

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ANOTHER GORRELL BROS

AUCTION

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

PROPERTY & AUCTION LOCATION: 26379 Road M, Cloverdale, Ohio 45827

JULY 25TH, 2026 @ 10 AM

INSPECTION DATES: Wednesday, July 22 • 5:00-6:00 PM • Thursday, July 23 • 5:00-6:00 PM • Saturday, July 25 • 9:00-10:00 AM...

COUNTRY HOME • 2.221± ACRES • OUTBUILDINGS • GRAIN BINS

Welcome to 26379 Road M, Cloverdale, Ohio! Situated on 2.221± acres, this country property offers peaceful rural living with plenty of space and numerous agricultural improvements. The farmhouse features 4 bedrooms, 1 full bathroom, living room, family room, kitchen, and an attached garage. The property also includes numerous outbuildings and improvements, including a 22' x 70' pole building, 54' x 64' pole building, 38' x 70' barn, multiple storage sheds, and three grain bins. Whether you are looking for a country home, hobby farm, additional storage, or an agricultural property with existing improvements, this property offers an excellent opportunity!

SELLERS: Linda Schwartz & Family and John & Shirley Hammersmith
Auctioneers: Zachary B. Gorrell, Broker; Kenneth Thomas, Auction Manager; Chris Aufrance, Auctioneer

GORRELL BROS. AUCTIONEERS & REAL ESTATE LLC
112½ N. Water St. Paulding, Ohio 45879 | 419-399-4066...
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UNITED EDGE
REAL ESTATE AND AUCTION CO., LLC

SCAN ME!

STRUCTURE RELOCATION AUCTION

ABSOLUTE - NO RESERVE - NO MINIMUM BID

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6TH @ 4:00 PM ET LIVE & ONLINE BIDDING

3 outdoor storage buildings for absolute auction. Including a heated 42'x50' Morton building (2009) with 4 overhead garage doors, a 24'x40' garage with an overhead door, and a 14'x18' storage shed.

Auction Location: On-Site @ 958 E High St. Hicksville, Ohio 43526
Inspection by Appointment - Payment due at end of auction
Buildings must be removed no later than August 14TH
Buyer is responsible for all removal logistics

REGISTER TO BID • UnitedEdgeUE.com

(419) 298-1100 • Info@UnitedEdgeUE.com
153 N Michigan Ave, Edgerton, OH 43517

Darren Bok, #57199670989, UE #2018000074 • 15% Buyer's Premium



Steve Screeton

community members in support of our students. I am incredibly grateful for the relationships built over the years and remain confident that the district's brightest days are still ahead. I will always be an advocate for public education."

Although his official role is coming to an end, the impact of Screeton's leadership will continue to benefit the years to come through the lives of the students, staff, and families he inspired.

The Board of School Trustees and district administration extend their deepest appreciation for his extraordinary service, and we wish him the best in his next chapter and hope it's filled with good health, happiness, and continued opportunities to make a difference.

DPLS BOARD TO HOLD SPECIAL MEETING 7/21

The Defiance Public Library System Board of Trustees has scheduled a special meeting for Tuesday, July 21, beginning at 4 p.m. at 311 Fort St., Defiance, OH (white home across from Defiance Public Library), for discussion and possible action related to the director's job description. Meetings of the board and its committees are open to the public.

PAULDING CARNEGIE LIBRARY INVITES TEENS TO A WICKED NIGHT OF FUN

The Paulding County Carnegie Teens Services would like to invite Teens, ages 13-18 to "A Wicked Party" at the library. Join us as we enjoy food, a Wicked theme craft, then viewing the "Wicked" movie. The fun begins on Friday, July 31st at 5:00 pm. The movie will begin at 6:15 pm. And will end at 9 pm. Dress up as your favorite "wicked" character but not required and bring your friends for an exciting time. Call to register at 419-399-2032, space is limited.

ODOT NORTHWEST OHIO WEEKLY TRAFFIC IMPACTS

DEFIANCE COUNTY:

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.

State Route 249 closure: State Route 249 over the St. Joseph River, just east of the Indiana state line, closed July 10 for approximately 30 days for bridge painting. Detour: SR 1 to U.S. 6 to SR 49, back to SR 249

FULTON COUNTY:

Culvert replacement

State Route 2, just west of

Classified Ads

Sell it in the Classifieds!

- Classified ads are \$8.50 for 20 words or less and \$.15 for each additional word.
- **Bold is \$1.00 additional.**
- Ph: (419) 258-2000 • Email: info@westbendnews.net
- 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. tf

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. \$65obo. Call 419-258-0127

THE HEALING HEARTH: Handcrafted herbal remedies, salves, body care & dried herbs. Find us on Facebook or Call/Text 419-258-0656.

County Road 20, east of the village of Archbold, will close July 21 for approximately five days for a culvert replacement.

Detour: SR66, U.S. 20A, SR108

State Route 109, between State Route 120 and County Road U, is closed for bridge replacement over Bear Creek through early October. Detour: SR 109 to US 20 to US 23 to US 223 (Michigan) and reverse.

Event

State Route 66, between Lafayette/Barre St. and Mechanic St. in Archbold, will be closed for an event on Saturday, August 8. Plan for pedestrians in the area and use an alternate route.

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 closed July 13 for approximately 130 days (Nov. 9) for a bridge replacement. No detour will be

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

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

FOR SALE: +/- 37 ACRE FARMLAND. Newer tile and outlets. Hoytville/Napanee Soil. Paulding County/Harrison Twp., On Rd 51 just North of CR 94. Inquiries, Call Ken 419-549-0871 29,31p

posted.

• 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.*

• U.S. 224 at SR 65 is open. Upcoming closures are expected, dates to be determined.

State Route 65 closure: State Route 65 between County Road M and Township Road 10-K (6.22 MM) closed 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 114/State Route 115 lane restrictions, Kalida: State Route 114 and State Route 115 in the village of Kalida may have temporary traffic impacts July 27 - October 30 for construction of a shared-use path. Traffic will be maintained via flaggers or temporary traffic signals. Construction will take place along:

• Front St. between SR 114/ Main St. and Second St.

• SR 114 (Main St.) between Front St. and Rd M (Northland Dr.)

• Rd M (Northland Dr.) between SR 114 (Main St.) and SR 115 (Napoleon Rd.)

• SR 115 (Napoleon Rd.) between Rd M (Northland Dr.) and Plum Creek

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 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 - delayed until further notice: Road M just west of State Route 65 will close, date to be determined, for approximately five days to

install a culvert. *No detour will be posted.*

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 closed 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 August 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 August 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 be restricted to alternating one way July 27-31 for chip seal resurfacing. Traffic will be maintained via flaggers.

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.

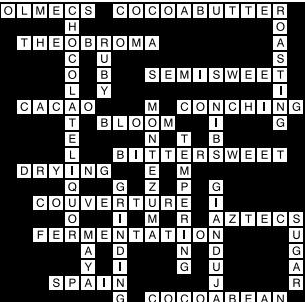
WILLIAMS COUNTY:

Resurfacing:

State Route 34, from County Line Road 1 through the villages of Edon and Blakeslee, will be restricted for resurfacing beginning Aug. 3 through early fall.

Culvert replacement:

State Route 107, between County Road 9 and County Road 10, will be closed for culvert replacement; dates to be announced. Work was post-



Crossword solution from page 9

poned due to recent truck fire and resulting pavement damage on State Route 49. Posted detour will be SR 49 to US 20 to SR 576.

HELP WANTED:

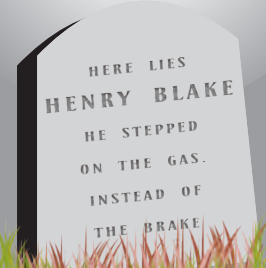
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NEW AIRBNB, THE WAVERLY HOUSE, OPENS IN PAYNE WITH CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING



Pictured welcoming The Waverly House to the Payne business community are (l-r) Chad Benschneider, Payne Chamber President; Lora Lyons, Payne Mayor, presented a free chamber membership to Kristy Wobler and Allan Wobler owners of the Waverly House – a short term rental Air BnB.

The Payne Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed a new business to the community with a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of The Waverly House, a newly renovated Airbnb offering visitors a comfortable alternative to a traditional hotel stay.

Joining the celebration were Payne Chamber of Commerce President Chad Benschneider, Village of Payne Mayor Lora Lyons, and owners, Kristy and Allan Wobler.

The Waverly House is owned by Allen and Kristy Wobler, who spent approximately 18 months transforming the property into a fully furnished short-term rental. Their extensive renovation

has created a welcoming home designed for both travelers and local guests.

The rental features three bedrooms, one bathroom, a full kitchen, living room, washer and dryer, a one-car garage and a fenced backyard complete with a fire pit. The home comfortably accommodates six guests and can sleep up to eight.

Since opening in April, The Waverly House has already hosted 15 groups of renters. In addition to welcoming out-of-town visitors, the property has also become a gathering place for local residents. The home has been used for family visits, weekend getaways, girls' nights and small gatherings, providing

extra space when homes become crowded with guests.

With Paulding County having relatively few short-term lodging options, The Waverly House is a valuable addition to the area. The investment by Allen and Kristy Wobler helps expand accommodations for visitors while also providing a unique venue for local residents to enjoy.

Congratulations, Allen and Kristy Wobler on your new business venture, The Waverly House, in the Payne community.

For additional information, photos or to book a stay, scan the QR:



PAULDING COUNTY LIBERTARIAN CLUB FIRST MEETING SCHEDULED

The Paulding County Libertarian Club is officially holding its first meeting on Saturday, July 25th, 2026, at

11:00am at the Paulding Pancake House. Paulding County and the surrounding area residents are invited to attend this social gathering to begin forming the club.

"Paulding is ready for a new political party to reach the roughly 8,000 voters who didn't vote in this year's primary election," said Christopher Elder. Less than 25% of Paulding County's registered voters cast a ballot for a political party in 2026. In the 2024

US Senate race, 5% of Paulding County voted for the Libertarian candidate, who was Putnam County resident and current Ohio gubernatorial candidate Don Kissick. "This is an enormously positive development in the fight to restore liberty in Ohio, especially here in the northwestern region," Kissick said. "Mr. Elder has been doing a lot of great work, and I am eager to support him in this endeavor." Mr. Kissick is expected to attend the meeting later this month.

The Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Ohio, Michelle MacCutcheon, also commented on the formation of the Club in Paulding. "Coming together in our communities and building a connected and grassroots movement will be what makes Ohio stand out among all the States."

Elder notes that the task ahead is not an easy one. "We're not going to grow a huge roster after just one meeting," he said. "But we are continuing something that has already started in our region. I hope my fellow community members here in Paulding realize Libertarians are not a threat; rather, we are an opportunity."

The Paulding County Libertarian Club welcomes everyone to attend the meeting and to order a meal from a local favorite restaurant. Inquiries about the meeting or club should be directed to Christopher Elder by calling or texting 419-670-1831.



PAULDING COUNTY CARNEGIE LIBRARY HOSTS TEEN AUTHOR JENNA KIPPER BOOK SIGNING

The Paulding County Carnegie Library will host a special meet-and-greet with teen author Jenna Kipper on Thursday, July 30, from 3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. at the library, 205 S. Main St., Paulding.

Community members will have the opportunity to meet Kipper, author of the fantasy novel *The Tale of the Corns: The Becoming*, learn about her writing journey, and have books signed during the event.

Kipper's accomplishment as a published young author highlights the creativity and talent of local youth, and the library invites readers of all ages to stop by, visit with the author, and celebrate her literary achievement.

For more information, contact the Paulding County Carnegie Library at 419-399-2032 or visit www.mypccl.org.

FIRST UM PRESCHOOL ANNOUNCES OPEN HOUSE & REGISTRATION

For 50 years, First United Methodist Church Preschool has been a pillar of early childhood education in downtown Van Wert. This Christian-based preschool, serving children ages 3 to 5, is excited to announce its upcoming Open House and ongoing registration for the 2026-2027 school year. "We're where kids truly love to learn and discover!"

Located conveniently at 113 W. Central Avenue in Van Wert, First UM Preschool is known for its commitment to high-quality education in a nurturing Christian environment. The preschool's key features include being established and state-licensed for over 50 years, offering a Christian atmosphere, maintaining low student-to-teacher ratios, and employing experienced, licensed teachers. They also provide flexible class options: a 2-day per week class for 3-year-olds and pre-kindergarten options for 3 or 4 days per week.

Families are invited to the Open House on Monday, August 3, 2026, with two convenient sessions: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM or 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. This is a fantastic opportunity to tour the facilities, meet the dedicated staff, and learn about the curriculum, which follows Ohio Department of Education guidelines. Information packets and 2026-2027 registration will be available.

Financial aid is available, ensuring that a quality early education is accessible. Don't miss this chance to secure your child's spot at a

preschool where they will grow and thrive!

For more information, visit vanwertfirst.net and click on "Preschool," or contact: Marilyn Agler, Preschool Administrator at 419-238-0631 x308 or at marilyn.agler@vanwertfirst.net.

DEFIANCE POST INVESTIGATING FATAL CRASH INVOLVING A PEDESTRIAN

Center Township – The Defiance Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal crash that occurred on July 12, 2026, at approximately 10:47 P.M. on U.S. 6 in between County Road 9 and County Road 10 in Center Township, Williams County.

Preliminary investigation revealed a 2012 Kenworth commercial semi-tractor trailer, operated by Jason Yoder, age 46, of Hicksville, was eastbound on U.S. 6. Michael North, age 73, of Bryan, was a pedestrian on U.S. 6 and was struck by the Kenworth semi-tractor. Mr. North was pronounced deceased at the scene. Mr. Yoder reported no injuries.

The roadway was closed and traffic detoured around for approximately two hours during the investigation.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted at the scene by The Ohio Department of Transportation, Williams County Sheriff's Department, Williams County EMS, Williams County Coroner's Office, Bryan Fire Department and John's Towing & Repair Service.

The crash remains under investigation.

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