



SHANNON VILLENA NAMED HICKSVILLE ROTARY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



The Hicksville Rotary Club has a long-standing tradition of honoring an individual who has made a difference in the local community. At the club's July 21 luncheon meeting, the Citizen of the Year award was given to a very surprised Shannon Villena, who exemplifies what it means to be an active supporter of the Hicksville community and the local Rotary club.

A native of Edgerton, Shannon began her Hicksville working career at the

Hicksville Community Service Center where she served as Director for over 10 years, working closely with both county and local social service agencies. She also served as President of the Hicksville Chamber of Commerce for five-plus years, which allowed her to broaden her focus by strengthening the business community and working to involve local businesses in making Hicksville a better

(Continued on Page 2)



ANTWERP FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH INVITES CHILDREN TO "FOCUS ON GOD" DURING VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

ANTWERP — Antwerp First Baptist Church is inviting area children and families to take part in its 2026 Vacation Bible School, themed "Focus on God Every Day in Every Way."

The three-day program will be held Tuesday through Thursday, August 4-6, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. each evening at Antwerp First Baptist Church.

Centered on the message of keeping God at the forefront of everyday life, the Vacation Bible School will encourage children to strengthen their faith through Bible lessons, activities, fellowship, and fun. Promotional materials for the event also feature the reminders, "Did You Know? God loves you." and the scripture from Colossians 3:2, "Set your mind on

(Continued on Page 3)

OHIO'S FIRST SOLAR-POWERED JAIL TAKES SHAPE IN PAULDING COUNTY



PAULDING — A new landmark in Ohio's clean-energy progress is rising beside the Paulding County Jail, where steel racking now marks the early stages of the state's first solar-powered correctional facility.

Within weeks, the frames will hold a 385-kilowatt solar array designed to meet the jail's round-the-clock energy demands. Combined with a 60-kilowatt system being installed at the county's McDonald Pike facility, the project is expected to generate approximately 620,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year — enough to power about 55 average Ohio homes.

County officials say the initiative positions Paulding County ahead of Ohio's largest urban centers. "Not Franklin County. Not Cuyahoga County. Paulding County got there first," they noted, emphasizing the significance of a small rural county leading the state in on-site renewable energy at a jail.

Much of the project's cost is being offset through a federal clean-energy incentive that provides direct payments to local governments equivalent to renewable energy tax credits long available to private developers. With those incentives applied, the county anticipates recovering

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Community Calendar

TUE & WED

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

July 27-31

• True North VBS @ Antwerp GMC, 6-8:30p each night

July 27

• Summer Monday Night Bingo @ VW Co CoA, 6p
• NW Ohio's Castles, Churches & Courthouses @ Hicksville Library, 5p
• Bill Gladwell Mentalist Program @ Antwerp Library, 5p

July 29

• Grief Support Group @ Christ Continental UMC, 6:30p
• Storytime @ Hicksville Rotary Pavilion, 10:30a

July 31

• A Wicked Party @ Paulding Library, 5-9p

August 3

• Author Alessandra Norden to Visit @ Defiance Library, 6p

August 4-6

• Focus VBS @ Antwerp First Baptist Church, 6-8p

August 6

• Blood Drive @ First Church of Christ, Hicksville, 1-6p

August 8

• Senior Saints Concert @ Headwaters Church, FW, 2p

August 11

• 1,000 Books Celebration @ Defiance Library, 10:30-11:30a



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MEET THE AUTHOR

DUANE A. BAILEY

Wildlife Officer • Conservationist • Storyteller

FROM THE FIELD TO THE PAGE

For more than 32 years, Duane Bailey served as a Wildlife Officer with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, protecting our natural resources and the people who enjoy them.

His first book, *The Rings of Saturn: A Game Warden's View of the Universe*, brings together decades of true stories, humor, hardships, and heartfelt moments from a life spent in the outdoors.

Join Duane for an evening of stories, signing, and conversation about his remarkable career and the people, places, and lessons that shaped it.

"I wasn't really a writer," Duane admits. My training was in technical writing. But someone told me—write the story the way you would tell it to someone sitting across from you. That's what I did."

BOOK SIGNING

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OBITUARIES



EDON, OH:
Marilyn Lois Bunn, age 90, of Edon, Ohio passed away on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at the Golden Years Homestead, Fort Wayne, Indiana where she had been a resident. Marilyn and her husband owned the B & B Drive-In, and she later did clerical work for Van Wert Manufacturing, Shearers and Siebenaler Construction. She enjoyed reading, traveling the lower 48 states, and loved her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Marilyn was a member of Lake Area Christian Church for many years and was her husband's "gopher" at Lake James Christian Camp and Retreat Center.

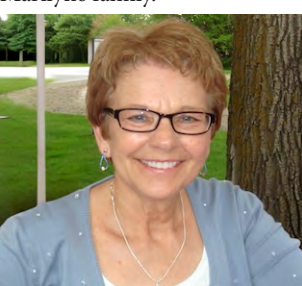
Marilyn was born on December 29, 1935, in McClure, Ohio, the daughter of Elmer and Beatrice (Shidler) Lanzer. She was the valedictorian of the McClure High School class of 1954. She graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1958 then taught at Grover Hill High School. She married Leonard T. Bunn on July 22, 1962, and he survives.

In addition to her husband of 63 years, she is also survived by her sister, Vivian Lanzer, of McClure, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Visitation for Marilyn will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2026, from 10:00-11:00 am at the Edon Church of Christ, 101 Franklin Street, Edon, Ohio followed by funeral services beginning at 11:00 am with Scott Saltzman, Evangelist, officiating. Burial will follow at Edon Cemetery.

Memorials may be given to the Lake James Christian Assembly, 1880 W 275 N, Angola, IN 46703.

Krill Funeral Home, Edon, Ohio is honored to serve Marilyn's family.



PAULDING, OH:
With profound sadness, we announce the passing of **Shirley May Clemens**, age 75, who passed away peacefully on July 17th 2026, at Paulding County Hospital after a long fight with Alzheimer's.

Shirley was born in Defiance to Jim and Alwilda Ankney. She was a longtime resident of Briceton, Ohio, retired from IIT in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where she worked as a supervisor for 25 years, and a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She shared a lifetime of love with her devoted husband, Don Clemens, creating countless

memories through their travels together and the life they built side by side.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her beloved daughter, Bobbie Jo (Noffsinger) Yocum, her sister Sally, and her two brothers Tom and Tony.

She is remembered by her husband, Don Clemens; her daughter, Lora Clemens; her son, Trent Clemens (Stacy); and son in law Chris Yocum, her grandchildren, Jayde Garcia, Tawni Ridgeway, Abbie Keirns (Jordan), Zayne Yocum, and Jack Clower; as well as two great grandchildren, Jayce and Carmen, and the many friends and loved ones she welcomed into her heart and treated as her own family.

Shirley found joy in cheering on the Ohio State Buckeyes, collecting and admiring lighthouses, spending time with her fur babies, and making memories on trips with her husband and treasured girls' getaways. Above all, her greatest happiness came from her children, grandchildren, and the people she loved.

Known for her kind heart, generous spirit, infectious laugh, and warm smile, Shirley touched the lives of so many. She had a way of making everyone feel welcome and loved, and her compassion reached far beyond her own family. She will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

While our hearts are broken, we are grateful for the countless memories, laughter, and unconditional love she gave so freely. Shirley's legacy lives on in the family she adored, the friendships she nurtured, and the community that will forever remember her.

Funeral service will be held at 1:00 P.M. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Hedges Cemetery, Jackson Township, OH.

Visitation will be from 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. on Monday, July 20, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home. There will also be visitation from 12:00 P.M. until time of services on Tuesday.

Memorial contributions may be made in Shirley's memory to CHP Hospice.

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



ANTWERP, OH:
Thomas Frederick Trauterman, 88, of Antwerp, passed away July 23, 2026 at Defiance Inpatient Hospice.

Tom was born October 26, 1937 in Butler County, PA to Helen (Watt) & Carl Trauterman I.

He joined the Navy in 1954 and served on an air craft carrier. He married Lelia Bair and had 3 children, Robin (Denise) Trauterman, Kathy (Kevin) Smith, & the late Tammy. He enjoyed the outdoors, watching birds, and gardening. He also enjoyed

collecting Indian artifacts, antiques, and bottles. He was a member of the Paulding Church of Christ.

Tom has one brother, Jay Trauterman; 4 grandchildren, Valarie (Dave) Penland, Brad (Sarah) Brown, Sara (Sam) Swanson, & Kylee (Ian) Farinacci; & 13 grandchildren.

Tom was also preceded in death by his wife, Lelia; daughter, Tammy; & siblings, Carl II, Nancy, & half siblings, Leroy and Fred.

SUPERIOR CREDIT UNION NAMED BRONZE SPONSOR FOR 2026 DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GALA



Pictured (left to right) are Ian Pelfree, Defiance Area Foundation Gala Committee Member, and Tyler Hamman, Financial Service Officer at Superior Credit Union.

The Defiance Area Foundation is pleased to recognize Superior Credit Union as a Bronze Sponsor of the 2026 Gala, Bow Ties & Boas, with a generous \$2,000 sponsorship.

Their support helps make the Foundation's signature fundraising event possible while benefiting the Defiance

Viewing is Monday, July 27th from 4-7 PM at Dooley Funeral Home, Antwerp.

Service is Tuesday, July 28th at 11 AM with viewing one hour prior at the funeral home.

Tom will be laid to rest privately in Zion Country Church Cemetery in Huntington, IN.

Memories are to Kathy Smith.

Fond memories may be shared at dooleyfuneralhome.com.

Scripture of the Week

"A good man deals graciously and lends; He will guide his affairs with discretion."

— Psalm 112:5

BE TRANSFORMED...



Be transformed by the renewing of your mind comes from Romans 12:2 in the New Testament, where the Apostle Paul urges believers not to conform to the patterns of this world but to be transformed through a change in their thinking.

From a Christian standpoint, this concept emphasizes the importance of spiritual renewal and growth in a believer's life. Here are some things to consider:

1. Spiritual Transformation: The transformation of the mind is a fundamental aspect of the Christian faith. It suggests that when an individual embraces Christ, a radical change occurs, affecting their thoughts, values, and behavior. This transformation is facilitated by the Holy Spirit, guiding believers toward a deeper understanding of God's will.

2. Renewing the Mind involves studying scripture, praying, and cultivating a relationship with God. It prompts Christians to contemplate God's truth and let it influence their outlooks, instead of being swayed by worldly opinions. From my personal experience,

this journey isn't for the faint-hearted or those seeking quick results; it demands patience and time. Without these, you risk joining those who dismiss Christianity and mock the church and believers—the same group that Peter sat with around the fire the night he disowned Jesus.

3. Discernment: A renewed mind enables Christians to discern God's will—what is good, pleasing, and perfect. This discernment helps them make choices that align with their faith and purpose, contributing to a fulfilling spiritual life.

4. Impact on Behavior: As the mind is renewed, it naturally leads to a transformation in behavior. Christians are called to live out their faith through love, service, and kindness, demonstrating the change that has taken place within them. You know the old saying "Free your mind and your butt will follow." Smile.

5. Ongoing Process: It's important to recognize that the renewing of the mind is not a one-time event but a continuous journey. I encourage you to regularly engage in service to God's people. This will keep you aligned with Christ.

In summary, being transformed by the renewing of the mind is about embracing a new identity in Christ and allowing that identity to change how one thinks, acts, and relates to the world. It is an invitation to grow deeper in faith and to reflect God's love and truth in everyday life.

Enjoy the journey.

Peace and Love,

—Pastor Dwayne



ADVENTURE AWAITS AT TRUE NORTH VBS!

It's time to hit the trail ... for an adventure!! Join Antwerp Global Methodist Church at the end of July for Vacation Bible School.

This year we will travel north seeking God's Truth. At True North, kids will discover that they can trust Jesus in a wild world! True North is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, here, and touch. Team building games, unforgettable Bible songs, fun crafts and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life.

We hope to see you all there!!

Dates: July 27th - July 31st

Time: 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Ages: 3 years old through 6th grade

Place: Antwerp Global Methodist Church

INTERNATIONAL JUGGLERS' ASSOCIATION BRINGS FREE FAMILY PERFORMANCE TO THE LIBRARY

(FORT WAYNE, IN) – The Allen County Public Library invites the community to discover the fun, skill, and creativity of juggling during "Planting the Juggling Seed," a free, family-friendly performance presented by the International Jugglers' Association Festival and produced by the Youth Juggling Academy.

The event will take place Tuesday, July 28, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Theater at the Main Library (900 Library Plaza).

Designed for audiences of all ages, the interactive showcase features beginner and professional jugglers sharing their passion for the art of juggling through engaging performances, demonstrations, and audience participation.

Throughout the program, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions about juggling and, following the performance, guests are invited to stay for a free hands-on juggling lesson, where participants can learn the basics and try juggling for themselves.

"This program is a fun opportunity for folks to experience live performance

while discovering a new hobby together," said Beth Boatright, Director of Community Partnerships and Programs at the Allen County Public Library. "We're excited to partner with the International Jugglers' Association to bring this unique, interactive event to our community."

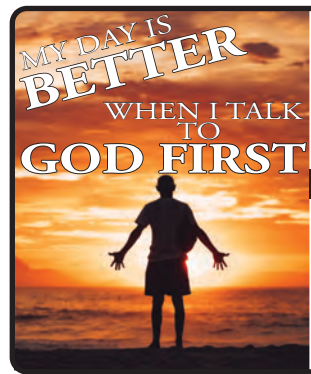
The program is free and open to the public. While registration is not required, it is encouraged so attendees can receive event reminders. Seating is limited. For more information or to register, visit acpl.info/events.

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place to live and work. For the last 14 years, Shannon has been the Director of Marketing and Public Relations for The Hicksville Bank, while continuing to be involved with community activities, most notably serving as the Hicksville representative for United Way's Clothes for Kids

project.

Everyone who knows Shannon appreciates the many ways she works to make Hicksville a very special community. The Hicksville Rotary Club acknowledges that the Village of Hicksville is extremely fortunate to have Shannon Villena as one of its citizens.



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*Proclaiming a
Changeless Christ in a
Changing World.*

9:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
10:15 a.m. Worship Service

CARTER AND ESTLE SPEAK TO THE KIWANIS



Members of the Paulding Kiwanis Club were treated to a virtual journey through the Mediterranean during this week's program, as presenters Debbie Carter and Cheri Estle shared highlights from what they described as the trip of a lifetime.

Invited by fellow Kiwanian George Carter, the presenters recounted their recent Mediterranean cruise, taking members on a visual tour of some of Europe's most iconic destinations. Their presentation included visits to the Vatican, Naples, Pompeii, Athens, Rome, and the island of Crete, Greece.

Through photos and personal stories, Carter and Estle highlighted the region's rich history, stunning architecture, and world-

renowned artwork, including masterpieces by Michelangelo. They also shared memorable experiences such as a two-hour golf cart tour through the streets of Rome and a culinary tour featuring the local flavors of Crete.

The presenters expressed their appreciation to Casey Schwartz of Happy Travel for coordinating the travel arrangements that helped make the unforgettable journey possible.

The Paulding Kiwanis Club meets weekly and welcomes programs that educate, inspire, and connect members with experiences from around the world while remaining dedicated to serving the children and families of Paulding County.

THE GUY WHO DIDN'T LIKE MUSICALS



Pictured above (front row) are Carson Caprella, Abbie Mengerink, and Sean Carpenter; (back row) Andy Walpole, Kim Salisbury, and Charles Bennett.

By: DAVE MOSIER

A music-hating nebbish who gets trapped in musical hell is "the guy" in *The Guy*

Who Didn't Like Musicals — the AYA (Adolescent-Young Adult) Theatre production that opened Thursday at Van

Wert Civic Theatre.

In this horror-comedy-musical written by Nick and Matt Lang, with music and lyrics by Jeff Blim, Paul Matthews (Sean Carpenter in his fifth show at VWCT) is a white-collar drone quietly living out a boring existence in his hometown of Hatchetfield. His only personality quirk is his intense dislike of music — especially musicals. That's why he declines an offer by co-worker Bill Woodward (Charles Bennett) to see a production of *Mama Mia!* at a local theater. Instead, he trots off to make moon eyes at Emma Perkins (Abbie Mengerink), a barista at Beanies coffee shop that he has a crush on.

In addition to Bill, Paul shares his humdrum office life with co-workers Charlotte Sweetly (Kim Salisbury) and Ted Spankoffski (Andy Walpole). Unbeknownst to Paul, though, Charlotte, although married to Sam, a police officer, isn't averse to a little on the side with Ted as well.

Things start spiraling out of control the next day when Bill tells Paul about a meteor hitting the theater the night before and people — including their boss, Mr. Davidson (Evan Joseph) — start singing and dancing like they're in a musical (because that's how the mind-controlling aliens communicate).

Paul runs over to Beanies to tell Emma about his suspicion that aliens are turning Hatchetfield residents into one big musical cast and finds the barista, who is also not a big music fan, forced to sing and dance by her boss, Nora (Ella Lamb), as a customer tip-appreciation ploy. In fact, one of the funniest bits in the show is Mengerink's deadpan face and movements as she, a co-worker, Zoey (Chloe Parker), and her boss do a tip-appreciation song for customers. After finding customers in the shop, as well as her boss and co-worker, already infected by aliens through poisoned coffee, Paul, Emma, Bill, Ted, and Charlotte look for a way to survive the tuneful invasion, but, one by one, fall prey to the insidious musicality of the aliens.

The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals is a fun show with catchy tunes and funny comedy bits. Carpenter is getting good at playing the nerdy, but clueless guy caught up in something he doesn't quite understand, and he again shows he is good at the everyman role. Bennett has the nerd loser Bill down pat, while Walpole is fun as the unrepentant sleazeball Ted.

Joseph is also good as Mr. Davidson, as well as playing Charlotte's husband, Sam, while Carson Caprella shines as a dotty professor who at first helps Paul, but later joins the aliens willingly.

Several other actors also excel. Emily Gehle does well as a Greenpeace canvasser who has Paul's number, while Payton Frese gets a slinky number near the end as Bill's wayward daughter, Alice.

My personal favorite actor in this production is Salisbury, whose personality shines through in every scene, making Charlotte a uniquely interesting character — especially when singing and vamping with Joseph on the slinky love duet, "You Tied Up My Heart".

The sets are clever, lighting and sound perfect for the production, while the gore was goofy, not lose-your-lunch

nasty.

Director Alyssa Taylor and Music Director Perri Webb do a good job of guiding what could have been an out-of-control production with a steady hand on the tiller. The show gets at least a PG rating because of some naughty bits and spicy language, but is good fun nonetheless.

The show, sponsored by Biggby Coffee, runs the weekend of July 30 - August 2. Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m., with Sunday afternoon matinees beginning at 2:00 p.m.

For more information, visit: <https://vwct.org> or call 419.238.9689.

PCED BOARD HIGHLIGHTS STRONG BUSINESS ACTIVITY ACROSS THE COUNTY

Paulding County Economic Development (PCED) Board of Directors recently convened for its bi-annual meeting, receiving a broad update on ongoing economic activity and new business growth throughout the county. The meeting opened with remarks from Lori Brodie of Ohio Senator Jon Husted's Office, who introduced herself and shared insights on federal discussions that may influence rural communities. Paulding County Prosecutor Matt Miller also attended to introduce himself and learn more about the board's ongoing economic development efforts.

Director Tim Copsey highlighted several major projects advancing throughout the county, including redevelopment of the Keller (former DANA) building in Antwerp, a two million bushel grain bin expansion at Mercer Landmark in Latty, the Paulding County Hospital's physical therapy addition, construction of the new doctor's office in Payne, and the Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative's building and internet expansion in Paulding. Copsey also reported continued success at the Small Business Innovation Center, located on the south side of the courthouse square, where four offices are occupied on the main floor and Kyzer Realty and Putnam Law Offices maintain offices upstairs.

Copsey noted that multiple commercial buildings and greenfield sites remain available for prospective businesses, including the Paulding Industrial Park, office space in the former Brigner Trucking building west of Payne, the former Spartech facility, and the Stokely and Schweller Electric buildings in Paulding. Residential development also continues to move forward, with the Antwerp Square project preparing 100 new residential opportunities and 24 new residential lots under development on Payne's west side. Additionally, the Village of Antwerp announced new funding awarded for construction of a water treatment plant.

Committee updates included a new financial reporting format presented by the Finance Committee, prompting discussion on the need for sustainable future revenue for the 501(c)(3) organization. The Governance Committee reminded members of proposed bylaws changes introduced in May, which were subsequently ap-

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

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

MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING OHIO



By: Mark Holtsberry

Robert Ungericht was born in Medina, Ohio, on December 25, 1895. This Christmas baby was born to Anna (Pratt) Ungericht, who was born in Germany in December 1862. She was a divorced woman raising Robert on her own. Her father was Philip A. Pratt, a Civil War veteran who served with Company B, 191st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Sorry, off the path again.

By 1900, while living in Washington Township, Anna and Robert were farming for a living. On January 1, 1901, Anna married George Stevens. He was a widower working as a day laborer. This marriage produced a daughter, Anna Catherine, who was born on April 4, 1902, in Paulding.

By 1910, Anna was divorced again. She was raising chickens on a farm, and Robert and Anna Catherine helped. Robert attended school through the sixth grade.

On June 5, 1917, while living in Washington Township, Robert registered for the World War I draft. He was described as tall, with a slim build, blue eyes, light hair, and

a fair complexion. He was working as a farmer.

On July 22, 1918, Robert was inducted into the National Army. He served with the 159th Depot Brigade until August 8, 1918, when he was assigned to Company M, 336th Infantry, 84th Division. On August 27, 1918, Robert departed Hoboken, New Jersey, for service in France. He served with the 336th Infantry until November 20, 1918.

He was then transferred to Company E, 158th Infantry, where he served until receiving an honorable discharge on May 3, 1919.

After returning home from France, Robert was living in Toledo, Ohio, where he boarded with the Schultz family. He was employed part time as a laborer.

By 1930, Robert had moved to Latty, Ohio, to live with his mother, Anna Miller. George Stevens had passed away, and Anna had remarried. Her third husband was Echard Miller, a farmer from Jackson Township. Robert was working as a junk dealer, while Anna was employed as a cook in a diner.

By 1940, Robert and Anna were living in Grover Hill. Robert was working as a junk buyer and automobile salvage dealer.

On October 15, 1950, Robert's mother, Anna, passed away. I could not determine where she was buried.

Robert continued living in the Grover Hill area until moving to Paulding in the early 1960s. He passed away at his home on October 2, 1965, and was buried in Middle Creek Cemetery, Lot 395, New Section, Grave 4.

I am guessing that his mother, Anna, is also buried in Middle Creek Cemetery.

... Until Next Time!

proved. The meeting concluded with an executive session to discuss potential new development projects and a review of the County Profile for the PCED website. President Fred Manz encouraged

board members to identify defining attributes that make Paulding County unique and to help shape a stronger identity statement for the Strategic Planning Committee.

(Continued from Page 1)

things above."

The church welcomes children from the community to attend and enjoy an evening of

learning, encouragement, and Christian fellowship.

For more information about Vacation Bible School, contact Antwerp First Baptist Church.

Senior Saints

2026 Public Concert Schedule

Updates are posted at GrabillMC.org/seniorsaints

- Aug. 8 – Saturday 2pm • Concert @ Headwaters Church, 2000 N Wells St., Fort Wayne, IN • Park directly off Wells Street. Door 4 • 260-489-4942
- Aug. 10 – Monday 12:30pm • Concert @ Emmanuel Community Church, 12222 US 24, Fort Wayne, IN • Door 2 Worship Center) • 260-672-3377
- Aug. 11 – Tuesday 1:00pm • Concert @ College Park Church, 1945 College Ave. Huntington, IN • Enter door #2 on Opal Street • 260-356-2642
- Aug. 23 – Sunday 6:30pm • Concert @ Leo Apostolic Church, 11714 Grabill Rd., Leo, IN • 260-627-2944
- Aug. 27 – Thursday 2:30pm • Concert @ Decatur Church of God, 1129 Mercer Avenue Decatur, IN • 260-724-2580
- Sept. 10 – Thursday 12:15pm • Concert @ First Assembly Church, 1400 W. Washington Ctr. Rd., Fort Wayne, IN • Door 5 • 260-490-8585
- Sept. 17 – Thursday 7:00pm • Concert @ Huber Opera House, 157 E. High St. Hicksville, OH • 419-542-9553
- Sept. 27 – Sunday 6:00pm • Concert @ Grabill Missionary Church, 13637 State St. Grabill, IN • 260-627-3678

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Paulding Veterans Memorial Committee

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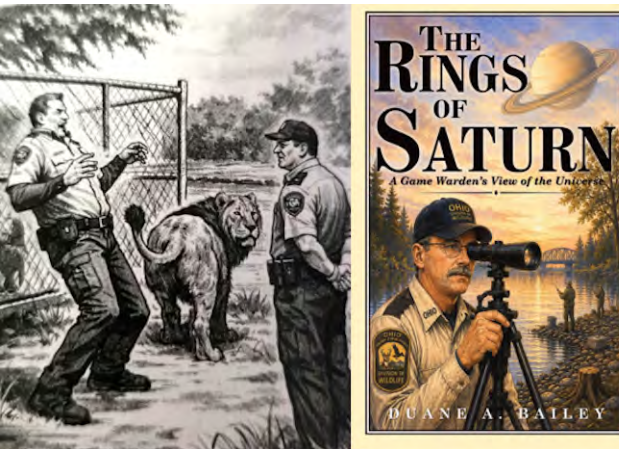
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- Daniel C. Wilder – Quartermaster, John Paulding VFW Post 587

MEMBERS

- Jon Snodgrass – Retired History Teacher, Paulding Exempted Village Schools
- Kim Freshwater-Sutton, Vice President, Paulding County History Museum

“For those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, we are grateful that such men and women were among us. For those who continue to serve, we honor their commitment. For those who return to civilian life, we honor their service.” — Steve Buyer



By: Jim Abrams

I first met Duane Bailey in 1983 when I was assigned as the Division of Wildlife's Hancock County Game Protector in northwest Ohio's district two. Bailey had grown up on the east side of Columbus and was a graduate of Ohio State University. Upon completion of the 1980 Game Protector Academy, he was sent to Paulding County; replacing longtime warden Danny Griffiths Jr., who'd served in that position since 1953.

Paulding County was organized by the legislature in 1820 and is home to the meandering Auglaize and Maumee Rivers. As it grew, farmers came to the fledgling county to try to make a living, but settlement in the area was slow. Once densely timbered, trees were rapidly cut for lumber and floated northward on the Maumee River. Shipbuilders manufactured masts from the huge logs and barrel making became an important industry. Early farmers often quipped that they grew two crops a year - frogs and ice. Today, due to land clearing and drainage, the

county has become highly agricultural with just over 18,000 residents inhabiting its 419 square miles - ranking its population 83rd out of Ohio's 88 counties.

This became Bailey's primary patrol responsibility for more than 30-years. He ran into a lot of different situations during that career and - like most wardens - has been told repeatedly that he could write a book about his experiences. That idea wasn't actually new to him and he would mention it often during the years we worked in the same district. He'd told me that if it ever materialized, he planned to name the manuscript The Rings of Saturn, a strange name I never bothered to question.

During our years in the division, Duane and I would cross paths at meetings, training, and during a variety of special projects. The time we spent working together was not frequent due to the sixty miles separating our counties and our work units covered different portions of northwest Ohio. Regardless, what time we did share was enjoy-

able and our friendship developed. Whenever he mentioned that someday he'd like to write a book, I'd tell him that it was up to him to turn that someday into today and encouraged him to get started. In fact, we had that same discussion just a couple of months ago.

Well, now he's done it. Here's a slightly edited sample of one of his book's 46 stories.

"One of the lesser-known duties of a wildlife officer involved contacting individuals who held wild animal propagation licenses. These permits were required for people who raised and sold certain approved wild animals - for instance, pen-reared pheasants or other species allowed under Ohio law. Each year, we were responsible for conducting inspections of those facilities..."

"On one particular day, my unit supervisor - whom I'll simply call Bob - met me in Paulding County so we could conduct several of these inspections together. Bob was sharp, squared away, and wore the uniform well. He had been a solid county officer before becoming a supervisor, and I always enjoyed working with him. We visited a couple of facilities first where everything was in order - clean pens, organized records, no issues. But I knew the next stop would be memorable..."

"I took Bob to another propagator who maintained what could best be described as a small menagerie. Only a few of his animals required Division of Wildlife permits - namely some pheasants, a couple of raccoons, and a black bear, all native species. But he also possessed an African lion and a tiger - former circus surplus animals he had acquired years earlier... the Division of Wildlife had no regulatory authority over those exotic species..."

"Still, curiosity got the better of us, and the owner offered to walk us down to see the lion enclosure. The cage sat near a pond, with only a narrow path between the fence line and the water's edge. As we approached, the lion began pacing toward us. The owner casually said, 'You might not want to get too close. He's got a habit.' Bob... walked right up to the edge of the cage."

"Sure enough, the lion followed him. The big cat turned, backed toward the fence, and without hesitation, let loose a powerful stream straight through the wire. It hit Bob square in the chest. As Bob staggered backward, the lion pivoted and followed along the fence line, continuing to spray.

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Bob kept retreating while the lion maintained aim with surprising accuracy..."

"For reasons not fully documented it would be quite a while before Bob ever accompanied me on another propagator inspection." - An Inspection to Remember - And Smell by Duane Bailey.

Bet you didn't see that game warden story coming! Of course, over thirty years of working wildlife enforcement, an officer can gather plenty of material, and that's what Bailey's *The Rings of Saturn, A Game Warden's View of the Universe* offers. The book gives a rare glimpse of one officer's work in rural Ohio, protecting what can't protect itself. In it you'll be with Officer Bailey as he catches more than just hunting and fishing violators, you'll meet some characters and bad actors, and share some of the humor, heartbreak, and kindness.

This is your opportunity to ride along and watch as each chapter unfolds. You'll begin to understand some of the quiet truths that wearing the badge offers. There's Operation Fish Fry, Truck Bed Full of Trouble, The Manicure that Gave it Away, The Paulding County Poachers Association, Duct Tape Can't Fix Stupid, Deer Roping, The Arctic Visitor, Quiet Zone - Judge Sleeping, and so much more.

Are you wondering where Duane Bailey came up with the rather abstract name for the book? *The Rings of Saturn* was actually born during an early morning along the Maumee River. If you want to find out, I guess you'll need to read the book - you can't expect me to give it all away. To get a copy of *The Rings of Saturn, A Game Warden's View of the Universe*, visit: <https://bookstore.westbendprinting.com/product/the-rings-of-saturn/>

You know, I never got the actual chance to buy one of Duane's books. He sent me a signed copy for giving him that shove off of first base. Hope his book is a homerun. That sort of goes along with the story on page 53...

"A game warden's job is 10% paperwork, 90% pretending to casually stroll while actually sprinting toward someone fishing without a license." - Anonymous

(Continued from Page 1)

The treasurer's report was given by Bill Thomas, followed by the secretary's report by Sherri Baker.

Old business presented began with the concern over the placement of the Democrat's tent at the Paulding County Fair. It was changed from the previous location without knowledge of the members. The new site didn't allow for the tent stakes to be driven in the ground due to the gravel base. The tent site was then moved to a grassy area that was still off the main thoroughfare. It was decided to contact the fair board as to the concern for next year.

The creation of a float for area parades and events was the topic for the next discussion. The frame was donated by George Geyer. Design and construction will be handled by members who volunteered.

Donations to several local and state campaigns were approved. They will be completed and delivered soon.

Marcy Kaptur's visit to the Paulding County Fair was appreciated by many. She took advantage of the opportunity to speak one - on - one with fellow fairgoers.

New business included a number of topics. Several Paulding County members will be attending the August 1st Democratic dinner in Columbus. There will be a number of candidates speaking. A motion was made by Mike Porter to purchase tickets for the group that will be representing Paulding County. The motion passed.

The purchase of signs for candidates was also passed. The group is investigating the possibility of sending post cards as a reminder of the November elections.

It was decided to change the August meeting date to Tuesday the 18th. It will stay with the meeting place being the Paulding Eagles with the 7:00 p.m. time remaining the same. This change was noted to be for August only. Future meetings will remain the second Tuesday of each month.

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.

RAYNI RISTER NAMED TO OHIO UNIVERSITY'S SPRING 2026 PRESIDENT'S LIST

Ohio University Russ College of Engineering and Technology student Rayni Rister of Antwerp, OH has been named to Ohio University's Spring 2026 President's List.

At the end of each semester, Ohio University's undergraduate students are evaluated based on their semester GPA and hours to determine placement on the President's List, Dean's List or Provost's List.

The President's List distinction is presented to undergraduate students who exhibit an exceptional commitment to academic excellence each semester. Criteria for the President's List include a 4.0 GPA for the given semester with a minimum of 12 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

In spring semester 2026, approximately 2,400 Ohio University undergraduate students qualified for OHIO's President's List.

Ohio University strives to be the best student-centered, transformative learning community in America, where students realize their promise, faculty advance knowledge, staff achieve excellence, and alumni become global leaders. Our Athens Campus offers students a residential learning experience in one of the nation's most picturesque academic settings. Additional campuses and centers serve students across the state, and online programs further advance the University's commitment to providing educational access and opportunity. Visit www.ohio.edu for more information.

Edward Jones
Member SIPC



Bryan R Post
Financial Advisor
117 E High Street
Hicksville, OH 43526
419-542-6260
edwardjones.com

MKT-58940-A AECSPAD

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, H&W, 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: Advanced Auto, Chief, Defiance Public Library, Dollar General (Clinton St), Marathon Main Stop, Newman's Marathon Carryout, Senior Center, Smoke Stop ...

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: Barber Shop Ministries, Citgo, Dollar General, Johnson Memorial Library, Marathon, McDonalds, Red Angel Pizza, Sailors, Senior Center, Shell Station, Vancrest, Village offices

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, Holly, Wood & Vine, Integrity Ford, Kwik Mart, Maramart, Napa

Do It Best, PC Sheriff's Office, PCH, PC Carnegie Library, Stykemain, VFW Post 587

Payne: Antwerp Exchange Bank, Dollar General, Lichty's Barber Shop, Maramart, Panchos, Payne Library, Puckerbrush Pizza, Village offices, Vancrest of Payne

Sherwood: Post Office, Sherwood Bank, Sherwood Library, Village Food Emporium

Scott: Scott Post Office

Van Wert: CVS, Ace Hardware, Chief, Walmart, Orchard Tree

INDIANA LOCATIONS

Fort Wayne: Golden Years Nursing Home, Golden Years Assisted Living, Hahn Systems, Walmart

Grabill: Grabill Hardware, Farm Building Supply, Save-A-Lot/Grabill Country Sales

Harlan: Marathon, Harlan Donuts, Dollar General, Harlan Cafe, Antwerp Exchange Bank

Hoagland: Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market

Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain

Monroeville: All American Marathon, Adams Heritage Assisted Living, Dollar General, Phillips 66

New Haven: ACPL Library, Clips, Chamber of Commerce, CVS, H&K Chevrolet, Ken's Meat Market, McDonalds, NH Bakery, Paterson Hardware, Richard's

Woodburn: ACPL Library, Chop Shop, Clip-N-Tan, Country Oasis, Dollar General, Financial Partners, Heckley Automotive, Post Office, Phoenix Manor, S&V Liquors, Woodburn Hardware, Woodburn Xpress

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DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION AWARDS \$5,000 GRANT TO LIFEWISE HICKSVILLE



Pictured are Rick Straley - LifeWise Hicksville Board Member, Abby Nafziger - LifeWise Hicksville Director, Joni Rosebrock - LifeWise Hicksville Board Member and Don Hange - Defiance Area Foundation Grants Committee Member.

The Defiance Area Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to LifeWise Hicksville during its 2026 Spring Grant Cycle. Funding for the grant was provided through the Hanna Family Memorial Fund under the Defiance Area Foundation umbrella. The grant will help sup-

port the purchase of a transportation bus for the new LifeWise program serving Hicksville Exempted Schools. The bus will provide transportation for participating students and help ensure the successful implementation of the program within the community.

LifeWise seeks to provide students with opportunities for character development and faith-based learning during released time throughout the school year. Reliable transportation is essential to the program's operation and long-term success.

ANTWERP BOARD REVIEWS STRONG FINANCIAL YEAR, SUMMER IMPROVEMENTS



Twenty-nine educators from across the country traveled with the EF (Education First) organization to Peru July 7-15. The group observed and participated in service oriented programs in school and agricultural settings in order to gain a better understanding of the rich heritage of service to others and their communities in the Peruvian culture and to bring back to our communities ways we can develop the same approach to serving others. The group also visited the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu. Pictured above is Dr. Miller with the children at an afterschool program in a Peruvian village near Cusco.

The Antwerp Local Board of Education met Thursday, July 16, reviewing the district's year-end financial position, receiving updates on several summer improvement projects, and approving personnel and operational items for the upcoming school year before entering executive session.

Treasurer Kristine Stuart reported the district concluded fiscal year 2026 in a strong financial position,

with revenues exceeding projections while expenditures came in below budget. Stuart said the district received more tax revenue than anticipated and spent less than originally budgeted, allowing approximately \$1 million to be set aside for future capital needs, including building improvements, bus purchases and other long-term projects.

Superintendent Dr. Marty Miller reported that construction of the new elementary office entrance is nearly complete. The project will improve building security and visitor access for students, staff and guests entering the elementary school. During his report, Miller presented the new entrance sign, produced by West Bend Printing, that will be installed as part of the completed project.

Miller also updated the board on several other summer maintenance projects. The school parking lot has been seal coated and restriped in preparation for the upcoming school year, and plans are moving forward to replace an aging chiller unit as part of the district's ongoing efforts to maintain its facilities.

Middle/High School Principal Jessie Arnold submitted a written report to the board highlighting academic and extracurricular updates along with upcoming activities. No elementary principal's report was presented during the meeting.

The board approved the purchase of a new 84-passenger school bus from Cardinal Bus Sales at a cost of \$149,435. Members also approved the district's 2026-27 Gifted Plan and the Official Certificate of Estimated Resources for fiscal year 2027.

Personnel action included approval of a reduction in force for certified special education teacher Bridget Slattman due to declining enrollment and the appointment of Dora Hower as junior high football cheer coach for the 2026-27 school year. The monthly substitute teacher list from the Western Buckeye Educational Service Center was also approved.

Following the regular meeting, the board entered executive session to consider the compensation of a public employee or public official. Returning to open session, members approved a revised classified salary schedule for the 2026-27 school year before adjourning.

The next meeting of the Antwerp Board of Education is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board of Education conference room.

EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS WELCOMES NEW MEMBER TO BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

New Haven, IN — The East Allen County Schools

Board of School Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Donald Gage to serve as the district's newest board member. Mr. Gage will officially assume the position on August 4th, filling the vacancy created by Vice President, Steve Scree-ton's resignation effective July 27, 2026.

Mr. Gage brings a strong commitment to public education and a passion for serving students, families, staff, and the community. A resident of the district for many years, he has been actively involved in the community through various organizations, professional experience, and most importantly, his children are students of the district.

"We are excited to welcome Donald Gage to the Board of School Trustees," said Tim Hines, Board President. "Our board is strengthened by individuals who are dedicated to ensuring every student has access to exceptional educational opportunities. We look forward to the perspective and leadership he will bring as we continue advancing the district's mission."

As a member of the Board of School Trustees, Mr. Gage will work alongside fellow board members to establish district policies, oversee the responsible use of public resources, and support the superintendent in providing high-quality educational experience for every student.

The Board of School Trustees extends its appreciation to all community members who expressed interest in serving on the board of school trustees and participated in the

selection process. The district remains committed to transparent governance and fostering strong partnerships with the community.

For more information about the Board of School Trustees, including meeting dates and agendas, visit the district's website at www.eac-s.k12.in.us.

PAULDING PUTNAM FIBER INTERNET EXPANDS SERVICE TO RURAL KALIDA & THE VILLAGE OF HAVILAND, ANNOUNCES CONTINUED GROWTH ACROSS REGION

Paulding Putnam is continuing its fiber internet expansion with high-speed service now available in the rural Kalida area and the village of Haviland. These additions represent the latest milestone in the cooperative's ongoing effort to bring reliable, high-speed internet to rural northwest Ohio and northeast Indiana.

Service is now available in parts of the following areas:

- Latty
- Haviland
- Scott
- Grover Hill
- Roselm
- Ottoville
- Fort Jennings
- Van Wert
- Kalida

Construction continues to move forward, with additional service areas expected to open soon. Areas scheduled to become available in August include Convoy, the village of Payne, and Columbus Grove. Service is also anticipated to expand into the Miller City and Continental areas later this summer.

Paulding Putnam has built more than 800 miles of mainline fiber infrastructure and plans to exceed 1,500 miles as expansion continues.

Unlike many providers, Paulding Putnam offers residential internet packages designed around customers' lifestyles, whether they work from home, enjoy streaming and gaming, spend time outdoors, or want additional parental controls and Wi-Fi management tools. All residential plans include straightforward pricing with no contracts, data caps, or hidden fees. Business internet packages are also available for farms, small businesses, and commercial operations requiring advanced connectivity and multi-gig speeds.

As part of a summer pro-



Fiber Technician Matt Jay brings the fiber cable into subscriber's home.

motion celebrating America's 250th anniversary, new residential customers who sign up in July will be entered to win a \$250 bill credit. Also, any new residential customers who sign up for a 1 Gig internet package through August 31 will receive one month of free service.

Paulding Putnam Electric members who would like to learn more about fiber internet are invited to stop by Paulding Putnam's fiber internet table during Member Appreciation Day at the Fort Wayne Zoo on Saturday, July 25, between 9 am and 1 pm. Staff will be available to answer questions, discuss available packages, and help determine if service is available at their address.

Those interested in fiber internet service (even those who are not electric members) are encouraged to complete the interest form online at www.PPEC.coop/internet. This helps the co-op guide construction plans and notify customers when service is available.

Members can learn more about packages, check availability, and sign up at www.PPEC.coop/internet or by contacting member services at 800-686-2357.

Call or Email your classified ad today!
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RAIDER SPOTLIGHT

JULY 2026



From the Superintendent's Desk ...

The beginning of the 2026-27 school year is upon us. As we prepare for the beginning of another wonderful school year, I would like to acknowledge our staff and summer help on getting our buildings ready for Teachers and students. The buildings have never looked better!

The first day of school is August 18 and our open houses are scheduled for August 13. The open houses at Grover Hill and Payne Elementary are scheduled for 6-7 p.m. on the 13th

and the Jr./Sr. High open house will be from 5-6 p.m. that evening. More details will be announced on our website and Facebook. You will also find the upcoming 2026-2027 school calendar on our web site. The updated school supply lists are also available on our website under each building.

The STEAM Center is progressing on time. You will notice the transformation if you come by, and everything remains on schedule. Our goal is to begin utilizing this new space for great learning opportunities soon after Christmas break.

I would also like to acknowledge Wayne Trace's new partnership with the Antwerp Exchange Bank. Our varsity gym floor is being refinished as I type, and the new floor is going to be amazing! When you attend an event, you are going to notice the Antwerp Exchange Bank's logo displayed on our floor. I would like to thank Antwerp Exchange Bank for sponsoring The Palace Gym Floor and for their generous donation to Wayne Trace Local Schools!

Enjoy your last few weeks of summer break and we look forward to seeing everyone soon!

WAYNE TRACE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S

back to School

Cafeteria Information

- MEAL APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES TO COMPLETE. AN ONLINE APPLICATION CAN BE FOUND UNDER THE CAFETERIA TAB AT WWW.WAYNETRACE.ORG. THE CENTRAL OFFICE OR SCHOOL SECRETARY WILL HAVE PAPER APPLICATIONS, OR EMAIL SCHULTZJ@WAYNETRACE.ORG TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION.
- THE DISTRICT IS PROUD TO OFFER FREE BREAKFAST TO ALL STUDENTS, WE ENCOURAGE EVERY CHILD TO START THEIR DAY WITH A NUTRIOUS MEAL TO HELP FUEL LEARNING AND SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO STOP BY THE CAFETERIA DURING OPEN HOUSE TO DEPOSIT MONEY ONTO YOUR CHILD'S ACCOUNT.

CONTACT THE FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR WITH ANY QUESTIONS 419-622-5171 EXT 106

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Wayne Trace Local School District is to prioritize the philosophy of One District-One-Mission-One Vision. Wayne Trace is committed to educational excellence that will help all students achieve at their highest level and to graduate with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to become thinking, productive citizens in a changing global society, this is accomplished through a system which supports community values and integrates community, technology, and educational resources delivered in a safe environment by a caring staff.

Wayne Trace Local Schools
4915 US 127
Haviland, OH 45851
419-263-2512

Superintendent: Paul Jones
Treasurer: Lori Davis
www.waynetrace.org

THE LEFT TURN



Danner Wins Rich Vogler Classic in First Attempt. Christopher Pedersen Photo



Anthony Macri won the 43rd Kings Royal for the 2nd straight year. Campbell Photography.

By: Ron Burt

Winchester, Ind., July 19 — It was a different driver, but the results were the same. Briggs Danner in the Doran Racing USAC Silver Crown Car, lead all 100 laps of the 34th Annual, Rich Vogler Classic at Winchester Speedway. Four years in a row, the Doran USAC Silver Crown car has led start to finish, that's 400 laps. The 24-year-old driver hadn't even seen the half-mile high-banked oval before he tested on Saturday, but he won the pole and led wire to wire in only his third USAC Silver Crown pavement race. Kody Swanson led all 400 laps of the last four Rich Vogler Classics driving a Doran Racing-prepped car. He's not competing in the series this year since he became its director in the off season.

There were four caution flags in the first 70 laps of Sunday's race which kept the top

runners close, especially the top three of Briggs Danner, point leader C.J. Leary, and Dakota Armstrong.

Leary and Armstrong kept the pressure up on Danner on all the restarts. At the one-quarter mark Danner had a 0.578-second lead. He was able to pad his advantage to over a second (1.045) for the first time on lap 45, only to have the field bunch up behind him for another yellow. Following the restart on lap 71 Justin Grant passed Mario Clouser for fourth on lap 72. At the three-quarter mark Danner had a 0.675-second lead over Leary, with Armstrong right behind. Still, Danner was able to increase his advantage to over 1 second again by lap 79, and with no more restarts he was able to increase it to 2 seconds in the race's late stages. But there were still challenges ahead as Armstrong passed Leary for

second with a move to the outside on the backstretch working lap 93 and immediately focused on catching Danner. Lapped traffic cut Danner's advantage to only 0.538 on lap 96, but once he was clear of them, he was able to hold off Armstrong. He had a 1.415-second margin of victory over Armstrong at the checkered. It was his second career USAC Silver Crown victory and first on a paved track. C.J. Leary finished third for the Podium.

Eldora Speedway, July 18-World of Outlaws Kings Royal was won for the 2nd year in a row by Anthony Marci and \$200,000.00 for his win. 2nd Rico Abreu \$35,000.00 and 3rd Giovanni Scelzi \$25,000.00. Marci part of the Pennsylvania Posse and had a lot of Key-Stone State race fans at Eldora chanting Posse-Posse. He led the first 13 laps. Garett Williamson charged into the lead. He pulled away from the field. Behind him, the war began for second as 10th-starting Rico Abreu was on the move and took the spot, but Marci got it back with seven laps to go and set his sights on Williamson.

The laps wound down, and Williamson remained committed to the cushion while Marci built speed through the middle. With two laps to go, Marci snuck by to regain the lead. A yellow flag for a stopped car on the final lap set up a green-white-checkered finish. Marci stayed composed when the green flag flew and drove away to his second

straight Kings Royal title to become King Anthony XLIII.

Flat Rock Speedway MI, July-18 "Hurricane" Scott Hantz won his 2nd Stan Yee 150. Jeff Vrsek was 2nd and 3rd Chris Benson.

Wauseon, OH, July 18 - Oakshade Raceway hosted its second Sportsman/Mod event of the season, pitting the Sportsman drivers against UMP Modifieds in a single class. The night started off with the track record being broken twice in qualifying, first by Dylan Hough and then by Dylan Jessen.

At the start of the 25-lap, \$1,200 to win Sportsman/Mod feature event, it was Jarrod Klay in a Modified that took the early led. Klay started on the pole and after an early caution flag, began to battle with the sportsman of Dylan Jessen. Klay was able to hold off Jessen, until lap 10 when he pushed high off turn four and Jessen slipped by on bottom. Jessen would go on to pull away from the rest of the field to earn the easy victory. Dylan Hough appeared to finish second but failed to make weight in post-race inspection, turning the second finishing position over to Dylan's father, Mike Jessen. Klay would finish third for the Podium. Top 3 in Dominator Stocks 1st Jeff Foks Jr., 2nd Adam Noonan and 3rd Kaleb Hinkley. Sport Compacts Top 3: 1st Ryan Okuley, 2nd Nathan Owens, and 3rd Jason Lee. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out!

IT'S FIESTA TIME IN FORT WAYNE!



Get ready for one of Fort Wayne's most vibrant celebrations! Fiesta Fort Wayne 2026 returns on Saturday, August 8, bringing a full day of music, food, culture, and family-friendly entertainment while celebrating the achievements, traditions, and contributions of the Hispanic and Latino communities throughout Northeast Indiana.

Held annually, Fiesta Fort Wayne showcases the rich diversity and cultural heritage of the Latino community while bringing people of all backgrounds together to celebrate, learn, and connect. Throughout the day, guests will enjoy local, regional, and national folkloric dance performances, authentic Latino cuisine including tacos, pupusas, arepas, and other traditional favorites, live music, piñatas, interactive games, children's activities, face painting, cultural exhibits, and community information booths.

The celebration takes place from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Headwaters Park Lincoln Pavilion, offering nonstop entertainment and activities for all ages in one of Fort Wayne's premier outdoor venues.

Everyone is welcome! Whether you're a lifelong Fort Wayne resident or visiting from a neighboring community, Fiesta Fort Wayne invites you to experience the sights, sounds, flavors, and traditions of Latino culture while creating lasting memories with family and friends.

"We are excited to present Fiesta Fort Wayne 2026 and showcase the incredible contributions of the Hispanic and Latino communities in Northeast Indiana," said Fernando Zapari, Fiesta Fort Wayne Coordinator and Organizer. "This event brings people together, fosters unity, and allows us to share our beautiful traditions and culture with everyone."

Don't miss this unforgettable celebration of culture, community, and connection. Come experience the music, dancing, food, and traditions that make Fiesta Fort Wayne one of the region's premier cultural festivals.

For more information, visit fiestafortwayne.com or contact Fernando Zapari at 260-704-0682, f.zapari@hotmail.com, or Erika Cervantes Zapari at 260-241-4520, erika.zapari@fiestafortwayne.com

EAST CENTRAL FIRE & EMS EXPANDS COMMUNITY AED INITIATIVE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH NEW HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT



East Central Fire & EMS is proud to announce the presentation of seven Automated External Defibrillator's (AED's) to The New Haven Police Department as part of East Central Fire and EMS' ongoing initiative to place lifesaving equipment in patrol vehicles throughout the community.

This initiative is designed to expand access to critical emergency medical equipment and improve response capabilities during sudden cardiac emergencies. By equipping police officers with AEDs, lifesaving care can be brought to those in need as quickly as possible when every second counts.

Officers are often among the first emergency responders to arrive on scene. Having immediate access to an AED can significantly enhance emergency response efforts by providing rapid intervention during cardiac-related emergencies.

Through this collaborative effort, AEDs have been placed in New Haven Police Department vehicles, expanding the availability of emergency car-

diac care throughout the community. The initiative reflects the shared commitment of East Central Fire and EMS and the New Haven Police Department to improving public safety and emergency preparedness.

East Central Fire and EMS extends its sincere appreciation to the community partners and donors whose support helped make this initiative possible. Contributors recognized on the project include 1st Due Communications, Holler Tax & Accounting, Ehle Services, Bars Inc., 3 Pals Pub, Challenge Tool, Home Lumber, and Koesters.

The success of this project demonstrates the impact that community partnerships can have on enhancing public safety resources and improving emergency response capabilities throughout New Haven.

If you or your business would like to partner with East Central Fire and EMS on this initiative Donations can be sent to: East Central Fire and EMS, 910 Hartzell Rd., New Haven, IN 46774. Marked - AED

DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES 1000 BOOKS

[DEFIANCE] - Defiance Public Library invites families to celebrate the young readers who completed the 1000 Books

Before Kindergarten program this year.

Join us at the library, 320 Fort St., on August 11 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. for a special story time and graduation celebration honoring these early literacy champions. The celebration will continue with a

visit from Team Lily of Lily Creek Farms at 11 a.m.

The event is free and open to all children and families. No registration is required. (Children do not need to have completed the '1000 Books' program to attend this event.)

Help us celebrate a year of reading, learning, and building a strong foundation for lifelong literacy.

This special event is sponsored by the Friends of Defiance Public Library. For more information, call 419-782-1456.

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SCAN ME!

NOCAC'S FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER'S WORK FEATURED BY STATEWIDE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES



Sydney Schliesser, NOCAC Financial Opportunity Center employee.

Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC) is featured in the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies' (OACAA) 2025 Annual Report which was released the week of July 20, 2026. Specifically, the feature highlights Trevor's journey from homelessness to securing not just a place to live, but also a job, and more

secure financial future. The story is a great example of how NOCAC's Financial Opportunity Center's coaching and financial literacy programming along with a coordinated effort among other NOCAC services strengthens people and the communities they live in.

Angie Franklin, Executive Director of NOCAC stated, "It is an honor to be one of the featured agencies." Sydney Schliesser, the NOCAC employee that is involved in the work OACAA highlighted

shared, "Every success story like Trevor's is a reminder that financial coaching is about far more than budgets, it's about helping people rebuild confidence, create opportunities, and believe in a better future. By walking alongside clients as they overcome barriers to employment, housing, and financial stability, I get to help turn moments of crisis into lasting independence.

Seeing someone achieve goals they once thought were out of reach is the most rewarding part of the work I do,"

Ohio's Community Action Agencies serve in all 88 counties across the State of Ohio. NOCAC serves within northwest Ohio in Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Van Wert, and Williams counties. The OACAA's 2025 Annual Report can be viewed https://oaca.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/OACAA-AR2025_final-web.pdf with the NOCAC highlight on page 20.

NORTHWEST STATE RAISES OVER \$60,000 FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



Pictured above (l-r) John Schmidt (Swanton American Legion Post 479), Mike McCann (Mayor, Defiance), and Eric Waldron (Worthington Steel)

ARCHBOLD, OHIO – The Northwest State Community College Foundation hosted its annual Green Carpet Event on May 14, "A Night of Classics,"

and raised over \$60,000. All proceeds from the event go directly to student scholarships. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2026

Making a Difference Awards, which were created by the NSCC Foundation as a way to recognize and celebrate individuals, businesses and organizations in the six-county area committed to improving their communities. This year's recipients were Mike McCann (individual), Swanton American Legion Post 479 (organization), and Worthington Steel (business).

In addition to the Making a Difference Awards, the Green Carpet Event included a thrilling musical performance by Denise Davis & the Motor City Sensations. Gourmet food stations, a cash bar and a silent auction rounded out the festivities, as the Auditorium and surrounding areas were decorated in the event's "A Night of Classics" theme. As a special attraction, the River City Rodders from Napoleon also brought some classic cars to display outside the Auditorium entrance area.

"The Green Carpet Event and the Making a Difference Awards celebrate hard work, community support and giving," said Robbin Wilcox, NSCC Executive Foundation Director. "We work year-round to raise awareness and needed funds for student scholarships, and this event is a critical piece of those efforts. We awarded over \$1,000,000 in Foundation scholarships this year, and we're focused on how we can continue to do more for our learners. We are blessed to work in a community that is passionate about philanthropy, and helping unlock students' possibilities," Wilcox continued.

A special recap program of the NSCC Green Carpet Event is now available for free, on-demand viewing on Northwest State Community College social media, as well as the NWOHio.Live YouTube page - [YouTube.com/@NWOHio_live](https://www.youtube.com/@NWOHio_live).

MY BEST LITTLE HELPER

Dotting My Teas By:
Marlene Oxender

My mother used to tell me I was her best little helper. It made me want to help her more.

I wonder how many times I heard her say that I was her best little helper. In my mind, it was too bad for the rest of my siblings who weren't her best little helper.

As an adult, all I can say is, "Well played, Mom. Well played."

It all makes sense now – I was her ninth child. There were three boys ahead of me. Mom needed help with ba-



bies ten and eleven.

Mom had learned to tap into a child's desire to be trusted. She knew how much we already knew, and we'd dry the dishes and stack them as if we were working in our toy kitchen. We'd fold the towels and even help with the laundry.

She knew we'd keep an eye on the other children as she reminded us that there'd be no fighting. My brothers

learned how to change tires and fix sinks because they were in charge of holding the flashlight and handing the correct tool to the adult who was getting the work done.

My mother's words stayed with me all these years, but I wonder how many other words have quietly disappeared. I was recently reminded by a college friend of a high score I had received on a final exam.

There she was, remembering one of my accomplishments, while I needed her story and a few prompts before I remembered it.

The next day I asked myself why our memories are the way they are. Why don't we train ourselves to dwell on joyful moments? Why does our mind keep old hurts alive and well? Why don't we dwell on our accomplishments – not in pride, but in joy?

If we were asked to teach a Gratitude 101 class, many of us would decline, thinking we're not qualified. But saying yes to an offer such as that would make us think. It'd make us study and wake up to the little things we take for granted.

I remember attending a meeting years ago where we answered roll call by naming a sound we love to hear. My answer was the sound of my car doors locking on their own as the car moves from park to drive. It's my car's way of telling me it wants me to be safe.

What a clever idea – using any of the five senses as a prompt to help us think of things we're grateful for. The sound of birds chirping is something I can hear even when my house windows are closed. I don't know how I know what a mourning dove sounds like, but I can identify its coo. I must have been taught by an adult, and for that I am grateful.

Many of us are familiar with the story of two healthy houseplants that were used in an informal school experiment to see how plants are affected by words.

It was arranged for one plant to be exposed to a continuous recording of children speaking compliments and supportive words. The second plant was subjected to a recording of hateful comments. At the end of the month, one plant was healthy, and the second plant wilted and failed to thrive.

If plants really do respond this way, think about how words affect humans.

Like a cassette recorder, our mind can set a story on replay that stops only when we push the pause button. And if the little voice in our head has been speaking like a bully, we can take away its power.

We can show it the door and welcome a new voice with a better story and a more selective memory.

Every day brings an opportunity to put a new tape into our cassette player. We can become proficient at using the rewind button when we'd like to start over – perhaps with a kinder voice or a more gentle approach.

Our hearts are the keepers of words; we know where they came from and how long they've been around. But we rarely think about the words we've spoken to another person – words that settled in someone else's heart. We can only hope the

ANTWERP CHAMBER INVITES ENTRIES FOR ANNUAL CUTIE PIE CONTEST



The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce is inviting proud parents and grandparents to show off their little ones by entering the annual Antwerp Chamber Cutie Pie Contest, which will be held during Day in the Park on Saturday, August 8 at Riverside Veterans Memorial Park.

The contest is open to children from newborn through 4 years of age. Participants are asked to submit a 4-by-6 photo of their "cutie pie," a decorated container for collecting votes, and an entry fee (see Antwerp Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page for details).

Photos and decorated voting containers may be dropped off in advance at Petals & Vines or Leland Smith Insurance.

During Day in the Park, visitors will have the opportunity to cast their votes by making monetary donations for their favorite contestant. The Cutie Pie receiving the most monetary votes will be

crowned the winner and will receive four passes to the Fort Wayne Zoo.

In addition to providing a fun competition for local families, the Cutie Pie Contest serves an important community purpose. All money raised through the contest funds the Antwerp Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, which is awarded to Antwerp High School students who attend Vantage Career Center. The scholarship helps support local students as they pursue career and technical education.

The contest is designed to celebrate the community's youngest residents while giving families an opportunity to support a worthwhile cause. Organizers encourage everyone to stop by during Day in the Park, cast their votes, and help make this year's fundraiser a success while enjoying the many activities planned for the annual celebration.

story they play on repeat is the one of how we once made their day.

Our parents began placing gifts under the tree decades ago, and I see the value in the toys they'd chosen for us. There were baby dolls and strollers. Wooden bridges and toy trucks. But now I know the best gifts a child can receive are words of encouragement. Words that let us know how capable we are. Words that settle in our hearts – never letting us forget who we are.

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

reached at mpoxender@gmail.com

GRACELYN STOLLER NAMED TO OHIO UNIVERSITY'S SPRING 2026 DEAN'S LIST

Ohio University Russ College of Engineering and Technology student Gracelyn Stoller of Antwerp, OH has been named to OHIO's Spring 2026 Dean's List.

The Dean's List recognizes undergraduate students who complete a particular semester with a GPA between 3.5 and 3.999 with a minimum of 12 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

In spring semester 2026, approximately 6,800 Ohio University undergraduate students qualified for the Dean's List. A complete listing is available online.

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DEFIANCE SOCIETY OF ARTISTS RECEIVES \$3,000 GRANT FOR NEW ROOF



Pictured with the grant are (L to R) Stacy McCartney - Defiance Moose Lodge Administrator and Rosie Bryant - local artist.

Congratulations to the Defiance Society of Artists for receiving a \$3,000 grant from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. The Moose Lodge

holds a fund under the Defiance Area Foundation. This grant will be used to help the Society of Artists get a new roof on their building.



community in America, where students realize their promise, faculty advance knowledge, staff achieve excellence, and alumni become global leaders. Our Athens Campus offers students a residential learning experience in one of the nation's most picturesque academic settings. Additional campuses and centers serve students across the state, and online programs further advance the University's commitment to providing educational access and opportunity. Visit www.ohio.edu for more information.

NO DOGS IN HEAVEN

By: James Neuhouser

Today my mind wonders. I wonder why people get so attached to pets. At this point my wife and I don't have any pets, but we have had them in the past. Thinking about, "Mary Had A Little Lamb," makes me wonder, will there be animals in heaven?

The answer is that no one knows for sure, but I like to think of what heaven might be. I used to think that there would be no animals in heaven, but a lot of my ideas have changed. God originally

created mankind in a garden with no sin, no weeds or obstructions. God also created animals, so Adam and Eve probably had contact them. The Bible specifically talks about a snake. Perhaps heaven can be somewhat like our life now, without the bad stuff

Perhaps heaven will be right here on earth. When we pray the Lord's prayer, "Thy Kingdom come on earth like it is in heaven," perhaps heaven will be right here. Perhaps we will be able to travel from this heaven to where heaven is now. There is one other verse that indicates animals will be in heaven. "The lion will lie down with the lamb." I don't know what this is talking about but the animals are not going to eat each other in heaven and the snakes will not be poisonous, nor will they try to deceive.

Life as we have it now would be enjoyable if we didn't have the pain, the suffering, and the weeds. The only thing we really know is that God and Jesus will be there and we will see them and talk to them.

Yesterday, we made our yearly trip to Antwerp, and were greeted cordially by the staff of West Bend News. Also the footlong Coney Dog hit the spot, and the girl that served us was quite personable. I hadn't seen the high school before, it appears somewhat like the Hicksville campus. We got to see the football team practicing on a hot day. Seems like the only new buildings are the bank and the school. Wonder why that is?

This time we were able to see Paulding and Payne. Hunkering for a cinnamon roll but the bakery street in Paulding was closed. The road between Paulding and Payne was probably the curviest I have ever seen. I love driving through the Black Swamp with the deep ditches.

I told you before I envy you folks living in an area of small

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HUGE MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE: 13775 Rd. 154 (Johnson Rd) Paulding, Ohio. July 29-Aug 1. 10-6, Sat. 10-2. Pokemon, MTGO Sports Cards, collectibles, clothes, home décor, kitchenware, spreader sets, cookie with Anchor Hocking / Fire-King glassware, baking accessories, candles & lots more!

towns and rural areas. The smaller classes allow you to bond more easily than a huge school. I'm still amazed where all the children come from. Driving the road from Paulding to Payne you see very few houses. Seems like Grabill is in a much more urban community even though it is Amish country.

Someday please take the 22 minute trip and come visit us, especially the Grabill Secret Garden and the Grabill Prairie. The beautiful wild flowers are in full bloom, the

(Continued from Page 1)

its share of the investment in roughly six years through avoided electricity purchases — with the equipment expected to operate for decades beyond that.

The solar installation also reflects Paulding County's longstanding commitment to renewable energy. After Ohio enacted Amended Substitute Senate Bill 232 in 2010, the county's commissioners adopted the Alternative Energy Zone designation early, paving the way for the wind farms that now define much of the local landscape.

Edward Straley, who served on the board that approved the designation, is part of the project's legacy. His grandson, Dylan Worden

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

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

Purple Coneflowers and the Bee Balm. Say hi to Beth and Sasha at the Candy Store.

Putting Mary to bed. Mrs Google tells me that Mary Sawyer reared 14 younguns. John Boy's name was actually John Rulestone. Henry Ford was so fascinated by the story that he published an 80s book about it, and purchased the original Redstone schoolhouse and moved it to Sudbury, Massachusetts. This poem was the first thing recorded on Edison's photograph.

of Standard Fintech LLC in Payne, serves as the owner's representative for the jail solar project. "They made that decision when it wasn't popular, and it helped identify this county on the map," Worden said. "What's going up at the jail is the next chapter. Paulding County generating its own power, on its own terms. Powered by Paulding."

As construction continues, the rows of steel rising beside the jail are already catching the attention of passing motorists. Soon, they will stand as a visible reminder that one of Ohio's smallest counties has once again achieved a statewide first — and is charting its own course toward long-term, locally generated clean energy.



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ILSE ZIJLSTRA OF ANTWERP NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Ilse Zijlstra of Antwerp, Ohio, majoring in Theatre - Musical Theatre track, has been named to the Dean's List at Youngstown State University for Spring Semester 2026.

Dean's List recognition is awarded to full-time undergraduate students who have earned at least a 3.4 grade point average for not less than 12 semester hours of credit in the Fall semester.

Youngstown State University, a comprehensive, public, not-for-profit institution, is a major driver of the region's economy and plays an enormous role in the educational, financial, and social well-being of Northeast Ohio, Western Pennsylvania and beyond.

The beautiful 161-acre campus includes high-tech classrooms, state-of-the-art labs and performance facilities, a variety of on-campus housing options and recreational facilities among the best in the nation. For more information, visit www.ysu.edu.

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

HELP WANTED:

Innovative Assembly Services, LLC
109 Victory Lane, Antwerp, OH 45813
Phone: 419-399-3886
Email: InnovativeAssemblySvcs@outlook.com

Family owned business located in Antwerp, Ohio looking for general labor associates to do light manufacturing and assembly. Will provide on the job training. Hours are Monday-Friday from 5:00 am-1:30 pm. Competitive wages, vacation and personal leave after probationary period.

To apply contact us via phone or email

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Village of Scott
is hiring for a
Maintenance position
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SEND RESUME TO:
PO Box 155,
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Apply by August 31, 2026

HELP WANTED

POSITION: Second or Third Shift Sweeper at Wayne Trace Jr./Sr. High School (Classified)

REQUIREMENTS: High School diploma or equivalent and completed or able to complete BCI/FBI background checks

START DATE: Immediately

DAYS/HOURS IN CONTRACT: 260 days/8 hrs per day, negotiable schedule between 2nd and 3rd shift, potential for overtime.

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CONTACT: Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest, resume application for employment and any other pertinent materials that may be applicable to:

Mrs. Jennifer Rust, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Wayne Trace Local Schools
4915 US Route 127
Haviland, OH 45851
Email: rustj@waynetrace.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Until filled

Wayne Trace Jr/Sr High School is an equal-opportunity provider.

HELP WANTED

Family Nurse Practitioner School Based Health Center

Position Description:

Family Health Care of Northwest Ohio, in partnership with Paulding Exempted Village Schools, is in the process of opening a NEW School Based Health Center (SBHC) under a grant issued by the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Education. We are recruiting an experienced Nurse Practitioner to serve as the primary care provider at the SBHC and as needed at the main office for Family Health Care in Van Wert, Ohio.

During the construction phase of the clinic at PEVS, the Nurse Practitioner will work in the existing health center in Van Wert to gain efficiency in workflows and documentation within Veradigm EMR.

The ideal candidate has an interest in leading the launch of the new service site and building a comprehensive care model to support the health of the students and general public.

Our Nurse Practitioners provide a wide-array of services including:

- Physicals, Preventative Care, Wellness exams, & Health Screenings
- Management of long-term health conditions
- Diagnostic and Routine screenings
- Immunizations
- Same-day Acute visits
- Referrals for specialized care
- Collaboration with Behavioral Health Providers

Benefits:

- Health, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance
- Flexible schedule
- Retirement contribution
- Paid time off
- Continuing Education reimbursement

Experience:

- >1 year as an independent provider

License/Certification:

- Ohio Family Nurse Practitioner license (required or able to obtain)

Additional information on School Based Health Centers can be found at www.osbha.com

Interested Applicants may send resumes to:
jsmith@familyhealthnwo.org



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Call Nancy Miller, 419-605-8201, to put your sale on the map.

PAULDING COUNTY AREA FOUNDATION RECEIVES FIRST MAJOR GIFT FOR NEW FAIRGROUNDS CATTLE BARN CAMPAIGN



Pictured (left to right): Dean German, Alumni Member; Mike Kauser, Building Committee Member; Colton Howell, Alumni Member; Riley Noffsinger, Alumni Vice President; Dan Howell, Senior Fair Board President; and Kaylie Tressler, Alumni Treasurer.

The campaign to build a new cattle barn at the Paulding County Fairgrounds is officially underway, thanks to the first major donation toward the project. The Paulding County Area Foundation is proud to announce a generous \$10,000 contribution from the Paulding FFA Alumni, marking an exciting milestone in the fundraising effort.

The new cattle barn will replace the existing aging facility and provide a safer, more functional space for exhibitors and livestock during the Paulding County Fair. Planned improvements include upgraded electrical service to better support fans and cooling equipment during the summer heat and a larger space to better accommodate exhibitors.

The Cattle Barn Commit-

tee, working in partnership with the Paulding County Area Foundation, has established an ambitious goal of completing fundraising and construction in time for the 2027 Paulding County Fair. To help make that vision a reality, the Paulding County Area Foundation/Marshall Memorial Supporting Foundation have committed \$150,000 in matching funds, providing donors the opportunity to double the impact of their gifts.

"The Paulding FFA Alumni have set the tone for this campaign with their incredible generosity," said Lisa McClure, Executive Director of the Paulding County Area Foundation. "Agriculture has always been at the heart of our community, and this new facility will benefit generations of

youth who participate in the fair. We hope this first gift inspires others to join us in building something that will serve Paulding County for decades to come."

Community members, businesses, organizations, and agricultural supporters are encouraged to participate in the campaign. Every contribution helps move the project closer to completion while taking advantage of the Foundation's matching commitment.

For additional information about the campaign or to discuss donation opportunities, contact Lisa McClure, Executive Director of the Paulding County Area Foundation, at 419-399-8296 or visit the website at <https://www.pauldingcount-yareafoundation.com/cattle-barn>



BIRDEE'S SUGAR SHACK ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING IN CHARLOE

Birdee's Sugar Shack, formerly Charloe Sno-Cone, is excited to announce its establishment in Paulding County under the ownership of Jeff and Nickie Chapman. Located at 10768 Rd 171 in Paulding, Ohio, the business officially launches on July 22, 2026, with a Grand Opening and ribbon-cutting celebration scheduled for July 31 at 11:00 a.m.

Named after their granddaughter Alayna, affectionately known as "Birdee", the Chapmans are eager to serve the community with a refreshed menu featuring homemade burgers made with meat from Jacob's Meats, smoked pulled pork, BLTs, smoked fried bologna sandwiches, hand-cut fries, homemade macaroni and cheese, homemade potato salad, and a variety of additional homemade entrées and treats. Birdee's Sugar Shack will also offer bulk sweet corn from Grammy & Grampy's Sweet Corn.

The new owners plan to bring enthusiasm, hometown pride, and a commitment to serving high-quality, homemade food to Paulding County and surrounding communities. Visiting the business may be via vehicle

U.S. SENATOR HUSTED RECOGNIZES PAULDING VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION



The dedication of the new Paulding Veterans Memorial received recognition from the United States Senate through a commemorative certificate presented by U.S. Senator Jon Husted.

In the certificate, Senator Husted praised the memorial as a "meaningful and lasting tribute" honoring the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. He noted that the memorial, located in downtown Paulding, recognizes all branches of the military, Gold Star families, Wounded Veterans, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the nation.

The senator also commended John Paulding VFW Post #587, the Memorial Committee, volunteers, community partners, and everyone who contributed to making the project a reality. He recognized their dedication to preserving the legacy of local veterans and described the memorial as a reflection of the Paulding community's commitment to honoring those who have served.

Senator Husted concluded by extending his sincere congratulations on the memorial's dedication and his best wishes for its continued role in remembering and honoring veterans for generations to come.

drive up access from County Roads 171 or 138 or docking a boat on the Auglaize River.

For more info, Birdee's Sugar Shack can be reached at 419-594-3549, with Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok accounts launching soon.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULED AUG. 6 IN HICKSVILLE

The American Red Cross will host a community blood drive on Thursday, August 6, from 1:00-6:00 p.m. at the First Church of Christ in

Hicksville.

Community members are encouraged to donate blood to help ensure a stable supply for patients in need. Blood donations are used every day to treat accident victims, surgical patients, individuals battling cancer, and those with chronic illnesses.

Appointments are encouraged to help minimize wait times. To schedule a donation, call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

The First Church of Christ is located in Hicksville, and all eligible donors are invited to participate.

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