

PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL THERAPY/FITNESS EXPANSION UPDATE



Paulding County Hospital is pleased to share with the community that our current Therapy/ Fitness Center Expansion project is well underway.

Once complete, the facility renovations will feature newly expanded state-of-the-art Cardiopulmonary, Physical, Occupational and Speech Rehabilitation facilities, along with an expanded fitness center. This expansion will enable PCH to better meet the needs of our patients and patrons.

We wanted to take this opportunity to let the community know of some changes that will be coming to the fitness center, once re-opened. These changes will affect the Paulding County Hospital Fitness Center, Antwerp Regional Fitness Center and Payne Fitness Center, once it

is complete. The structure for fitness center memberships will be as follows: 6-months will be \$150 for a single, and \$300 for a family. A year membership will be \$300 for a single, and \$600 for a family. There will no longer be 1-month or 3-month memberships offered.

A family membership will remain a family living in the same household with children under the age of 18. Once a child is 18 years of age they must get their own membership, the same process as followed previously.

You will find that our membership pricing only has a nominal increase per month. Amazingly for the past 15-years we have not had an increase in cost affect the public but the hospital has absorbed

(Continued on Page 6)

EMPLOYEES OF ANTWERP EXCHANGE BANK SPEAK TO KIWANIS



Pictured above are (l-r) Mark Ferris and Jeremy Dasher of Antwerp Exchange Bank, Kiwanian Judge Harvey Hyman, and Carina Meyer of Antwerp Exchange Bank.

The Kiwanis Club welcomed Mark Ferris (left), Jeremy Dasher, and Carina Meyer (right) of Antwerp Exchange Bank as guest presenters at a recent meeting. The speakers were introduced by fellow Kiwanis member Harvey Hyman.

During their presentation, Meyer, Dasher, and Ferris shared the history of Antwerp Exchange Bank and provided

an overview of the financial services the bank offers to individuals, families, businesses, and agricultural customers throughout the region.

The presenters also announced that Antwerp Exchange Bank will soon open a new branch in Paulding at 1099 N. Williams St. The new office will operate during the same business hours as the

bank's existing branches in Antwerp, Payne, and Harlan. Future plans for the Paulding location include the addition of a drive-thru and ATM to better serve customers.

As the only locally owned bank serving Paulding County, Antwerp Exchange Bank emphasized its commitment to providing personalized service and investing in the communities it serves.

SUMMER CRISIS PROGRAM STILL AVAILABLE

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and Northwestern Ohio Commu-

nity Action Commission continues to offer assistance to help Ohio's families stay cool during the hot summer months.

Now through September 30, income-eligible Ohioans can receive assistance in paying their electric bill, purchasing an air conditioner or fan, or making repairs to their cen-

(Continued on Page 3)

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

Community Calendar

- TUE & WED**
- Antwerp Comm. Food Pantry @ Antwerp GMC, 9a-12p
- August 8**
- Senior Saints Concert @ Headwaters Church, FW, 2p
- August 10**
- Senior Saints Concert @ Headwaters Church, FW, 2p
- August 11**
- 1,000 Books Celebration @ Defiance Library, 10:30-11:30a
 - Night at the Museum @ PC History Museum, Paulding, 6:30p
 - NSCC Board Meeting @ Archbold campus, 12p
 - DPLS Finance Committee Meeting @ Defiance, 4p
- August 12**
- Storytime @ Hicksville Rotary Pavilion, 10:30a
- August 13**
- Digital Navigation @ Van Wert Senior Center, 9a-3p
- August 14**
- Ice Cream Social @ Auglaize Chapel Church of God, Oakwood, 4-6:30p
- August 18**
- PC Democrat Party Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p
- August 19**
- Digital Navigation @ PATH Ctr., Defiance, 10:30-11:30a
 - WBESC Board Meeting @ Paulding Conf Rm, 5:30p
- August 20**
- Digital Navigation @ Paulding Co. Senior Center, 9a-3p



Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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OBITUARIES



PAYNE, OH:

Lori J. Sponseller, 68, of Payne, Ohio, went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on August 4, 1958, in Angola, Indiana, to Vance Boots and the late Donna Mae Boots.

Lori's life was marked by a deep and abiding love for Jesus.

Her faith was not something she simply spoke about; it was something she lived every day.

She desired for others to know and follow Jesus, and she used her time, talents, words, and actions to point people toward Him. She had a true servant's heart, giving generously of herself to her family, her church, her community, and anyone in need of encouragement, care, or a helping hand.

She was the beloved wife of Jim Sponseller, with whom she shared nearly 40 years of marriage. Together, they built a life centered on faith, family, service, and love. Until just a few weeks before her passing, Lori worked alongside her husband as a paralegal at Sponseller Law Office in Paulding, Ohio.

Lori poured her heart into her family. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, daughter, sister, and friend. Her home and her heart were open wide, and those who knew her were blessed by the care she gave so freely. Many will remember the warmth of her smile and her beautiful blue eyes, which reflected the kindness and love she carried within. If you encountered Lori, you likely experienced her cooking—especially her famous chocolate chip cookies and homemade pies like no other. Her kitchen was one of the many ways she loved people well and also where she displayed her ruthless, winning card playing skills.

Lori had many gifts and faithfully used them to serve others. She created handmade costumes for Wayne Trace productions for 14 years, including productions such as The Wizard of Oz and The Little Mermaid. She also supported Living Water Ministries and The Well Youth Ministry in Payne, Ohio. Whether through ministry, creativity, hospitality, or quiet acts of service, Lori reflected the love of Christ in practical and beautiful ways.

She found joy in gardening and in the beauty of flowers. She was talented in a wide variety of crafts, loved power tools and woodworking, and owned Casual Creations where she taught classes and shared her love of crafts with others. Lori's creativity, work ethic, and attention to detail were evident in everything she made and everything she did.

Most of all, Lori loved Jesus and loved her family. She was a beautiful example of a Proverbs 31 woman—faithful, strong, generous, hardworking, and clothed with dignity and grace.

Her legacy will live on in the lives of those she served, encouraged, fed, prayed for, and loved.

Lori is survived by her husband, Jim Sponseller; her father, Vance Boots; her sisters, Teresa Helton, Brenda (Richard) Smith, Pam (Jed) Miller; her children, Terra (Steve) Whitman of Payne, Ohio, Scott (Crystal) Tubbs of Mechanicsburg, Ohio, Kathleen (Derek) Linhart of Canton, Ohio, and Joseph (Emma) Sponseller of Maplewood, Ohio; her grandchildren, Colin (Madde) Doerr, Autumn Tubbs, Luke Tubbs, Grant Tubbs, Emma Whitman, Charlotte Linhart, Claire Linhart, Jeremiah Sponseller, Mary Sponseller, and Denise Sponseller; and her great-grandchild, Harrison Doerr.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Donna Mae Boots; her grandparents, Robert and Berdina Boots; and Donald and Bessie Boyer.

Viewing is Friday, August 7th from 3-7 PM at Dooley Funeral Home Payne.

Service is Saturday, August 8th at 10:30 AM with viewing one hour prior at the funeral home.

She will be laid to rest in Wiltsie Cemetery.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to The James Cancer Hospital, CHP Hospice and Visiting Angels for the exceptional care, compassion, and support they provided to Lori and her family.

For those who wish to make a contribution in lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Community Health Professionals.

Lori will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her. Her faith was sure, her love was steady, and her life was a testimony to the grace of God.



PAULDING, OH:

Ruth G. Eschbach, age 96, of Paulding, OH, passed away on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at CHP Inpatient Hospice, Defiance, OH.

She was born in Crane Township, Paulding County, OH on July 18, 1930 to her late parents Robert and Treva (Driver) Caryer. On July 23, 1949, she married Harold J. Eschbach who preceded her in death in 2010.

Ruth spent her life making a loving home for her family and was a proud farmer's wife. Over the years, Ruth also worked numerous jobs to help support her family. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Paulding, OH.

She is survived by her children: Larry Eschbach, Sandusky, OH; Marianne (Joe) Riley, Land O' Lakes, FL; Linda (Tom) Riley, Kalamazoo, MI; daughter-in-law, Marsha Eschbach, Fort Wayne, IN; 4 grandchildren: Megan (John)

Dill, Nathan Eschbach, Kim (Chris) Clemons, and Kari (Mark) Harris; 8 great grandchildren: Caitlin, Andrew, Chase, Karlie, Spencer, Madison, Hailey, and Hanna. 3 great-great grandchildren

Ruth is also preceded in death by her son, Ron Eschbach and siblings: Robert Caryer, Phyllis Dix, Bernice Spieser, and Carol Ray

Funeral service will be at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, OH with Pastor Steve Haddix officiating.

Burial will follow in St. Paul Cemetery, Paulding Township.

Visitation will be from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Tuesday at the funeral home.

The family requests no flowers or funeral memorabilia. Please consider a memorial contribution in Ruth's memory to the First Presbyterian Church of Paulding, 114 W Caroline St, Paulding, OH 45879 or to CHP Hospice, 1159 Westwood Drive, Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

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

PRMC AND AFFILIATES, PARKVIEW ORTHO HOSPITAL RECOGNIZED BY U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT



Parkview Regional Medical Center (PRMC) and Affiliates, which includes both PRMC and Parkview Hospital Randallia in Fort Wayne, and Parkview Ortho Hospital have once again been recognized in the Best Hospitals rankings by U.S. News and World Report.

PRMC and Randallia were ranked No. 5 overall in Indiana, ranked No. 46 overall in the nation for obstetrics and gynecology and were recognized as "high performing" in eight care categories. Parkview Ortho Hospital was named "high performing" for knee replacement surgery.

"Parkview Regional Medical Center and Parkview Hospital Randallia are our two largest hospitals and also two extremely high-quality hospitals," said Dr. Michael Yurkanin, chief physician executive, PRMC and Affiliates. "Our hospitals benefit from collaboration with the nearby Parkview Heart Institute, Parkview Packnett Family Cancer Institute, Parkview Women's and Children Hospital, Parkview Ortho Hospital and specialty service lines to address the unique needs of every patient."

"Parkview Ortho Hospital is proud to once again be recognized by U.S. News and World for the quality of our joint replacement procedures," said Dr. Alan McGee, president, Parkview Health Orthopedics, and physician executive of Parkview's orthopedic service line. "Whether it's a new knee, hip or shoulder, our team of expert physicians and surgeons from Parkview and Ortho Northeast are here to help our patients do more."

Parkview's No. 46 ranking for OB/GYN care is the first time the system has been nationally ranked for a specialty. U.S. News and World Report evaluated 306 hospitals for OB/GYN care but provides numerical rankings for only the Top 50 in the nation. Parkview was the only Indiana hospital system to be ranked for its OB/GYN care.

Family birthing centers at PRMC and Randallia welcomed nearly 3,800 babies in 2025, accounting for approximately 73% of all births across Parkview last year. Earlier this year, Parkview launched a \$10.8 million family birthing center expansion at Randallia, including a Level II Special Care Nursery featuring 12 rooms with 14 beds as well as

six additional postpartum rooms, each of which can support up to 100 additional deliveries per year. "Parkview's OB/GYN providers are here to support women before, during and after pregnancy," said Dr. Andrea Hoover, physician executive, women's service line. "Whether patients are choosing our birthing centers at PRMC or Randallia or any of our community hospitals, they can trust that they'll be getting care among the best anywhere in the nation."

PRMC and Affiliates was also recognized for eight "high performing" procedures this year, including abdominal aortic aneurysm repair; heart bypass surgery; pacemaker implantation; prostate cancer surgery; ear, nose and throat surgery; leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma; diabetes; and stroke.

Parkview Ortho Hospital was recognized as "high performing" for knee replacement procedures, marking the third consecutive year it's received that distinction.

All three hospitals have been frequently recognized for their outstanding quality of care. PRMC has received "A" grades for safety from The Leapfrog Group for 24 of 26 reports dating back to 2013, while Randallia has received "A" grades since first being evaluated separately from PRMC, starting in fall 2025. PRMC was recently named among Newsweek's "World's Best Hospitals."

Parkview Ortho Hospital has been selected among Becker's Hospitals with Great Orthopedic Programs for three consecutive years from 2023-2025.

Visit U.S. News and World Report's website to see more information about ratings and methodology on the profile pages for PRMC and Parkview Ortho Hospital.

STATE PATROL INVESTIGATING FATAL CRASH

Jackson Township - The Ohio State Highway Patrol's Defiance Post is investigating a two-vehicle fatal crash that occurred on July 31, 2026, at approximately 6:29 P.M. on US-127 near mile post 8 in Paulding County.

A 2020 Chevrolet Traverse was being driven southbound on US-127 by Guadalupe Amaro Martinez II, age 28, of Paulding, Ohio. A 2024 Dodge Ram 3500 was being driven

Scripture of the Week

"(For the Lord is our Judge, The Lord is our Lawgiver, The Lord is our King; He will save us);"

— Isaiah 33:22

BE DOERS OF THE WORD



James 1:22-25 (NIV):

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

"Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

"But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do."

In these verses, James emphasizes the importance of not just hearing God's Word but actively putting it into practice. It's a call to action, urging believers to be doers of the Word rather than passive

listeners. The metaphor of looking in a mirror illustrates how forgetfulness can lead to a disconnect between what one knows and how one behaves. By continuously reflecting on and applying God's teachings, believers can experience true freedom and blessings in their lives. This passage serves as a reminder that genuine faith is demonstrated through actions.

We attend services regularly, and in many instances, we say to ourselves or others, "That was a good word today." But more often than not, we fail to put that word into action. We then place that sermon on the mental shelf of good sermons, where it stays until we forget the shelf exists. Then the wheels of life go round and round, along with another failed opportunity to experience the fulfillment of putting God's word into practice.

You will never know the fullness of God unless you put His words into practice. This Scripture clearly tells us in verse 25 that if we hear God's word and do what it says, we will be blessed in all we do. So don't forget to put His word into practice this week and experience God's blessings. God bless you!

Peace & Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

northbound on US-127 by Judd Charles Spencer, age 56, of Cecil, OH. Martinez crossed the center line and was struck head-on by Spencer. Martinez and his passenger, Guadalupe

A Martinez Jr, age 55, of Paulding were pronounced deceased at the scene.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted on scene by the Paulding County Sheriff's Office, Paulding Fire Department and Gideon's Towing.

Speed is suspected to be a factor in the crash. The crash remains under investigation.



VETERANS MEMORIAL UNVEILS AGENT ORANGE MEMORIAL FOR VETERANS WHO HAVE DIED AND ARE SUFFERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE DURING THE WAR

The Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum has completed their proposed design for a new memorial at O'Day Road in Fort Wayne. Eric Johnson 1st

Vice Commander, says" too many soldiers have suffered and died from the effects of Agent Orange chemical exposure while serving in Vietnam."

"Since August 10th is National Agent Orange Awareness Day we thought it was fitting to unveil our design to all of Fort Wayne and northeast Indiana veterans and their families." Johnson said.

Agent Orange Awareness Day is observed annually on August 10th. It marks the date in 1961 when the U.S. military first began aerial spraying of the toxic herbicide Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. The day honors impacted veterans and brings attention to long-term health issues like cancer and diabetes caused by exposure. Estimates are 300,000 veterans have died due to Agent Orange since the Vietnam war.

Fund raising for the memorial has already started. The Veterans Memorial is selling "The Battle Never Ends" patches with artwork depicting aircraft spraying jungle foliage with the deadly toxin. The memorial is made of black granite stands 6 feet tall by 7 feet wide and consists of the Agent Orange logo in color with dedication copy in the center. Two side lasered panels feature a combat soldier on the left and grieving family members on the right.

The memorial is planned

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ON A HILL FAR AWAY

Penny For Your Thoughts By: Nancy Whitaker

If someone approached you, asking you to name America's most popular hymn, no doubt many of you would respond with "The Old Rugged Cross." It has been the most favored of the approximately 300 songs written by George Bennard. He also wrote many plays, pamphlets and books.

When I play piano at various places, I wind the show down with gospel music. One of the favorite melodies I play is "The Old Rugged Cross." You can hear the voices ring out with this gospel hymn.

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; seen as "the emblem of suffering and shame."

George Bennard was born into a very modest family in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1873. George Sr. (his father) was not very successful and lived on disability money. He passed away during George's teen years leaving him to help provide for the family.

He became a coal miner, the same as his father before him. He held many jobs during those years. In 1912 he and his wife got saved at a Salvation Church and then worked for the Salvation's Army. They changed to the Methodist faith and George served as an itinerant preacher.

George had a favorite scripture verse, John 3:16. The verse was, "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son so, that

whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

George always seemed to always have a vision of a cross, an old crude Roman instrument of death.

It was stained with the blood of Christ, who gave his life in order that we might become Christians.

On one occasion, as he was thinking of Christ's crucifixion, an original melody ran through his mind. Although it was a complete melody, very few words came with it. He struggled to write some good lyrics, but all that came was the passage, "I'll cherish the old rugged cross."



One night in Sturgis, Michigan there was a revival. George and his friend who traveled with him sang "The Old Rugged Cross". The song became a hit song and was used by Billy Sunday in his revivals.

Many artists including Elvis Presley has recorded this gospel song. And it has been ranked as one of the top gospel songs. You just start the melody to "The Old Rugged Cross" and people will join in.

Do you sing any old gospel songs? Do you know the Old Rugged Cross? Wouldn't you have loved to have been at Billy Sunday's revival? Let me know and I will give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

TERRY MELTON SUPPORTS 2026 DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GALA AS ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR



Pictured are Ted Penner - DAF Board Secretary and Terry Melton.

The Defiance Area Foundation is pleased to recognize Terry Melton as an Entertainment Sponsor of the 2026 Gala, Bow Ties & Boas, through a generous \$5,000 contribution.

A longtime member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees and its current Secretary, Terry has supported the Foundation in countless ways over the years. His latest gift will help bring the Bluewater Kings Band to this year's Gala, creating an unforgettable

evening while supporting the Defiance Area Foundation Community Fund.

"We are incredibly grateful for Terry's continued leadership and generosity," said Chris Yoder, Executive Director of the Defiance Area Foundation. "His commitment to our mission has made a lasting impact on the Foundation and the community we serve."

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

isting advocacy efforts and continue to reach people across the nearly three dozen counties they serve."

LAWO serves individuals and families who demonstrate financial need and require legal advocacy, consultation, or representation. In 2022 alone, the organization closed 4,252 cases to protect and stabilize more than 12,000 low-income individuals in Northwest and Western Ohio. The cases ranged from housing and consumer issues to bankruptcy and education equity. LAWO offers specialized programs for domestic violence survivors and seniors. One DOJ award will specifically address the intersection of these two groups, training criminal justice professionals and other professionals who work with older victims of abuse to cre-

ate safer communities. The funds will target investigation, prosecution, and victim support services for domestic violence, sexual assault, economic abuse, neglect, stalking, and abandonment against individuals aged 50 or older.

LAWO's disability program will use its award to provide training, consultation, and information on domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, and abuse by caregivers against individuals with disabilities and Deaf people. People with disabilities are three times as likely to be sexually assaulted than people without disabilities, and there can be many barriers to receiving legal assistance. Increased funding will enhance direct services already provided to these individuals.

(Continued from Page 1)

tral air conditioning unit through the Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program (HEAP).

The Summer Crisis Program assists low-income households or those that have a disconnection notice, have been shut off, are trying to establish new service on their electric bill, require air conditioning, or those with a household member age 60 or older and/or a household member with a documented medical condition. Qualifying medical conditions can include lung disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, asthma, and others.

To qualify for assistance, Ohioans must have a gross income at or below 175 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a family of up to seven members, and 60 percent of the State Median Income for a family of eight or more members. For a family of four, the annual income must be at or below \$57,750.

To apply for the program, clients are required to schedule an appointment with Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 419-219-4641.

Clients will need to bring copies of the following documents to their appointment:

- Copies of their most recent energy bills.
- A list of all household members and proof of income for the last 30 days or 12 months for each member.
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Proof of disability (if applicable).
- Physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member's health.

For more information about the Summer Crisis Program, and what is needed to apply, contact Northwestern Ohio Community Actions Commission's 24-hour appointment hotline at 419-219-4641.

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

Earl Tracy Vena was born on March 25, 1897, in Latty, Ohio, the son of Andrew Vena, who was born in Ohio in 1868, and Maude Edna "Minnie" Goings, who was born in Indiana in March 1869. The couple married on January 26, 1890, in Paulding, Ohio.

By 1900, the family was living in Center Township, Delaware County, Indiana, where Andrew worked as an iron worker. Andrew and Minnie were the parents of Russell A. (born 1890), Lola V. (1892), Ethel (1894), and Earl T. (1897).

By 1910, the family had returned to Paulding, where Andrew was employed as a teamster. Earl was living on Caroline Street in Paulding with his grandmother and several cousins.

On June 5, 1917, Earl traveled to Paulding's North Precinct to register for the World War I draft. At the time, he was employed by J. O. Jones, a ditching contractor. His draft registration described him as being of medium height and build, with dark brown eyes and black hair.

On July 18, 1918, Earl was inducted into the National Army. He served in Company D, 802nd Pioneer Infantry. During that same year, Earl's father, Andrew, passed away and was buried in Mound View Cemetery in Knox County, Ohio.

Earl departed from New York aboard the Carmania on September 1, 1918. He served in the Meuse-Argonne sector and was promoted to Private First Class on February 17, 1919. Earl

received an honorable discharge on July 17, 1919.

By 1920, Earl's mother, Minnie, had remarried. Her new husband was George Salsbury, and together they operated a junk shop. Earl had moved to North Water Street in Paulding, where he boarded with Michael and Ida Simons while working various odd jobs.

Later, Earl relocated to 918 Brady Whitley Street in Muncie, Indiana, where he worked as a wireworker. Around 1925, he married Jessie Anderson. They made their home at 1401 North Penn Street in Muncie.

On June 6, 1928, Jessie gave birth to their daughter, Norma Jean Vena. She would later graduate from Ball State University, move to California, and establish a celebrated career.

Sometime afterward, Earl and Jessie apparently divorced. By 1930, Earl was living at 1800 Hines Street in Muncie as a boarder in the home of Miles and Corrine Green. He was employed as a stocker at a wire mill. During this period, Earl also became a member of the Leonard Nichols Post No. 165 Colored American Legion, where he was elected service officer.

By 1940, Earl had returned to Latty, Ohio. In 1942, he registered for the World War II draft. At 46 years of age, he was not selected for military service.

By 1950, Earl was still living in Latty, residing in Apartment No. 10 along the railroad tracks. He was employed as a road worker for Rad Construction Company. Also living with him was his nephew, Ray Goings, a World War II veteran.

At 1:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 1964, Earl passed away at Paulding Memorial Hospital shortly after being admitted. Funeral services were held Friday at 2:00 p.m. at Zion Baptist Church in Latty, with the Rev. C. W. Buford officiating. Crowell-Den Herder Funeral Home handled the funeral arrangements. Earl was buried in Middle Creek Cemetery near Grover Hill, Ohio, where a flat granite marker identifies his grave.

for dedication in the spring of 2027. Donations can be made at the War History Museum 2122 O'Day Road in Fort Wayne or by sending your check to Veterans Memorial P.O. Box 26 Arcola, IN 46704. Donations are also accepted at the website honoringforever.org

KAPTUR ANNOUNCES \$1.3 MILLION IN DOJ AWARDS TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

Toledo, OH — Today, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09) announced \$1.3 Million in United States Department of Justice awards for Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO) based in Toledo. LAWO works to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our communities have the same access to legal resources as those who can hire an attorney. The non-profit's Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life will receive \$700,000 to support victims of

abuse over the age of 50 and for the professionals that serve them. The Disability Grant Program will receive \$600,000 to provide legal advocacy and consultations for abuse victims with disabilities. Both awards will be administered through the Office on Violence Against Women.

"For over a half century, legal aid organizations in our Northwest Ohio community have worked tirelessly to bring well-deserved justice and empowerment to those who need it most," said Congresswoman Kaptur (OH-09). "I am proud to have helped secure these funds for the Legal Aid of Western Ohio to support victims of abuse and violence. Older individuals and people with disabilities face a higher risk of abuse and often have difficulty finding the resources to get help. LAWO provides much-needed relief to these victims and the professionals who investigate crimes of abuse. They can now build upon ex-

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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

ANTWERP LOCAL SCHOOL

Home of the Archers

August/September 2026

SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE

Our staff looks forward to welcoming back all students and their families for the start of another school year with Open House Wednesday, August 19 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Our first day of classes for Gr. 1-12 will be Thursday, August 20th. Kindergarten students will have their first day of classes Tuesday, August 25th and Pre-School will start Tuesday, September 1st.

On the academic front, our staff will continue to receive professional development opportunities during this school year in order to increase their abilities and improve their skill set to provide instruction and engage student acquisition with respect to the state academic content standards. The district will also continue to provide training for staff with respect to the use of AI in instructional practices and student use, and multi-tiered systems of academic and behavioral support.

Prior to the start of the school, a few projects have or will be completed with respect to our building and grounds. The most visible project is the annual repairs and sealing of our asphalt parking lots, drives, and playground. Additionally, the new entrance to the elementary office will be ready for the start of school. You may also notice that our Field House has received a complete makeover of the exterior and interior. As for the new bus garage, construction will continue throughout the fall with a completion date in late October. Interior projects included our gymnasium floors and stage receiving their annual refurbishing.

Parents are reminded that we will once again utilize the number tag system for elementary student pick-up in the large circle drive at dismissal time. If you are unfamiliar with this system and need a number tag or forgot your family number, please call the District Office at extension 2300 or Elementary Office at extension 2200 or stop by the District Office entrance during Open House and staff will be available to assist you.

Community members are encouraged to frequently visit our school website and view happenings taking place at our school or better yet, download our school app by going to the App or Play Store, search “Antwerp Schools” and install the free Antwerp Local Schools App. The app has numerous features that will keep you updated on news, events, school delay and closings and more. Also choose what notifications and alerts you want to receive through MY ALERTS tile. Additionally, parents are reminded that the ONEVIEW parent portal is located in the PARENT tab and QUICK LINKS tab in the upper right-hand corner of the website. Parents may utilize the ONEVIEW parent portal to update student information such as change in address and/or contact numbers. The ONEVIEW Portal also serves as a location for parents to complete student forms (Emergency Medical Form/Transportation Form). The ONEVIEW parent portal is also the location parents may visit to complete the registration process for new students to our district.

We are excited to share that we have several new additions to our staff. Ms. Delilah Delgado Erhart will serve as our Foreign Language Arts teacher. Ms. Delgado is replacing Mrs. Lola Cortes who had served in the capacity the past three school years and has returned to Spain with her family. Mr. Keaton Altimus will serve as a physical education/health teacher. Mr. Keaton Altimus is replacing Ms. Marcy Miller who is furthering her education in the medical field. Mrs. Baylee Kauser will serve in a newly created agriculture science teacher position. Mrs. Della Tuttle will serve in a newly created STEAM/CTE teacher. Ms. Ali Reinhart has been hired by the Western Buckeye ESC to serve as one of our Gifted Education teachers for this upcoming school year.

We have several other employees who will serve in a different capacity this year in comparison to the previous school year. Ms. Jaclyn Jeffery has

moved from Kindergarten to Grade 1, Mrs. Ashley Malfait will move from Grade 3 to Grade 4, Mrs. Katie Scharr has moved from Grade 2 to Grade 1, Mrs. Kucera Thomas has moved from Special Education to Grade 3, and Mr. Kevin Snyder has moved from Grade 5 to CCP/Study Hall monitor.

As the new school year begins, please remember that the most meaningful factor in assisting students to have a successful school experience is our ongoing partnerships with parents and guardians. In order to help your children attain their goals, we need your involvement, whether through attending conferences, extra-curricular events, volunteering in your child’s school, or, perhaps most importantly, reinforcing the importance of education and on-time school attendance.

Through the range of experiences and emotions throughout a year, from celebrations to heart-break, we should always remember that we are all stronger – and our students’ experience better – when we work together as a team, extended family and community.

Remember to stay informed about your child’s school through our school app or by visiting our website at www.antwerpschools.org.

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer vacation and best wishes for a successful school year.

~ Martin A. Miller, Superintendent

HS/MS GUIDANCE NEWS

Beginning August 12th, students in grades 7-12 may pick up schedules in the MS/HS office or make changes by seeing Mrs. Hammer Monday -Friday from 8:00-2:00. Students may also email Mrs. Hammer for schedule changes. Students in grades 9-12 can make scheduling changes until the end of the school day on September 3rd.

Students taking classes at Northwest State Community College - your classes begin on August 19th. Check your NSCC email for important information regarding these classes.

Students taking classes online through The University of Findlay - your classes begin on August 17th. Check your UF email for important information regarding these classes.

ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE

As we begin our new school year, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Lichty with concerns/needs. As usual, she will visit each classroom once a month. You can contact her by phone or email.

CENTRAL EUROPE TRIP

Antwerp Local Schools and Kroger Community Rewards Program have partnered to establish a fundraiser for our student trip to Central Europe during the spring of 2028. Kroger will donate funds to our school based on purchases associated with customers who utilize their Kroger Rewards Cards that is linked to Antwerp Local Schools.

To participate, visit <http://www.kroger.com>. Once logged into their Kroger account, search for Antwerp Local Schools either by name or our non-profit organization number GU908 and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basis information, a valid email address and a rewards card. If a member does not yet have a Kroger rewards card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger store.

A reminder that purchases will not count for our organization until after participants register their rewards card. Participants must swipe their registered Kroger rewards card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count.

MS. ARNOLD - HS/MS

I hope you have enjoyed a fun and relaxing summer and are gearing up for the 2026-2027 school year. We are making the final preparations for the year, and I am excited to welcome our wonderful students and staff back this August for another successful school year.

The Academic and Athletic handbooks can be found on the school website.

Remember that hair must be a natural color and all clothing appropriate for an educational setting (more guidelines can be found in the student handbook).

At the middle school level we will once again be operating on a 7-period Academic day, with a 42 minute Academic Assist period at the end of the day. Encourage your child to use this time to complete assignments and seek help from teachers. At the high school level we have changed the schedule to reflect an 8-period day with students opting to be able to take a traditional study hall throughout the day. This is a change, so be mindful when scheduling appointments that your student potentially now has an academic class at the end of the school day.

Please monitor your child’s academic progress on Progressbook. Mrs. Lucas is available in the high school office to assist if you’ve forgotten your login info.

~ Ms. Jessie Arnold, MS/HS Principal

OHIO’S NEW ATTENDANCE LAW

A recently enacted Ohio state law requires changes to how schools previously tracked and reported student attendance. The new law will affect ALL students in regards to how schools must track “Chronic Absenteeism”. Starting with this school year, any absence, for any reason, will count towards a student’s “Chronic Absenteeism”. This includes full-day absences, medically excused absences, late arrivals, and early dismissals. Schools will continue to distinguish between excused and unexcused absences, but **both count** toward a student’s overall missed instructional time when determining chronic absenteeism. The state of Ohio has set the threshold for a student being “chronically absent” at 10% of total instructional time missed (107 hours/17 school days). School districts are also required to notify parents or guardians before a student’s missed instructional time reaches 5 percent of the school year (54 hours/9 school days), allowing families and schools to address concerns early. We want to be very transparent with you that it will not take much absence from school to reach the 10% threshold. Therefore, we want to make sure all of our parents are aware of this law change, and ask for your help as we navigate this new law and keep all students from reaching the “chronically absent” threshold.

The updated law does not change the expectation that students who are ill should remain home when appropriate. Rather, it reinforces the importance of communication, documentation, and understanding how missed instructional time can accumulate over the school year. Even occasional late arrivals, early dismissals, or excused absences can add up more quickly than many families realize. One specific way to limit student absences is to schedule appointments outside of school hours will be a tremendous help.

Families play an essential role in supporting strong attendance. Parents and guardians should continue to report absences promptly, follow their building’s attendance procedures, and provide appropriate documentation when needed, particularly for medical appointments, illness, or religious observances.

Ohio law also continues to provide for excused absences related to sincerely held religious beliefs. Families requesting time away from school for religious observances, instruction, or

MR. BILLMAN - ELEMENTARY

We hope everyone is enjoying a fun, relaxing, and well-deserved summer break! Although summer seems to fly by, the start of another exciting school year is just around the corner.

We will have a new elementary entrance for our parents to use during the school day. The entry is between the main entrance and the entrance near our kindergarten rooms. This entrance should be used by parents that need to pick up students, drop off students or any other needs pertaining to the Elementary building during school hours.

Please go into OneView and complete or update the Transportation form, Student demographics and EMA as soon as possible.

ATTENDANCE: (reminder this is based off of Ohio Law)

* 7 days absent: Note will be sent home notifying students and parents about approaching the 5% threshold.

* 9 days absent: (approximately 5% of hours missed)

* 17 days absent: 10% of hours missed: student has met a threshold and could require intervention for attendance.

Any questions or concerns, please reach out to us.

~ Mr. Doug Billman, Elementary Principal

activities must submit written notification to the building principal within 14 days of the start of the school year. This ensures students can receive excused absences and make arrangements to complete any missed work.

It is important to understand that chronic absenteeism and truancy are not the same. Chronic absenteeism measures all missed instructional time, whether absences are excused or unexcused. Habitual truancy, however, continues to be based solely on unexcused absences and is governed by separate legal thresholds established in Ohio law.

The purpose of these changes is not to increase penalties for students or families. Instead, they are intended to strengthen the partnership between schools and families by identifying attendance concerns early and providing support before they become barriers to learning. When attendance concerns arise, school staff will work collaboratively with families to understand the circumstances and connect students with appropriate resources and support. In some cases, this may include conversations about transportation, health concerns, anxiety, family circumstances, or other barriers affecting attendance.

Regular attendance remains one of the strongest predictors of student success. Students who are consistently present are better able to build strong academic foundations, develop meaningful relationships with teachers and classmates, participate in extracurricular opportunities, and fully engage in the educational experience.

Antwerp Local Schools are committed to working alongside families to ensure every student is present, engaged, and prepared for success. Together, we can help every child benefit from the opportunities available in our schools while continuing our tradition of excellence.

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

Questions Remain After Oakwood Volunteer Fire Department Association Meeting

I attended the Oakwood Volunteer Fire Department Association meeting on Sunday, August 2, and have watched the 3N livestream several times since. I am writing as the wife of Firefighter Miguel Nunez, although he is fully capable of

speaking for himself. These are my opinions and questions based on what I witnessed.

The meeting was presented as an opportunity for the public to learn what is happening within the department, why members are leaving, and what is needed to resolve the problems. Unfortunately, I left with more questions than answers.

The chief founded the association, yet his son and daughter appeared to lead most of the meeting. Why did the chief not directly explain the association's position, the department's investigation, and the decisions made under his leadership?

The discussion centered on the June 5 suspensions of two firefighters, allegations involving grant funds, and a missing rescue saw. If the saw was essential to public safety, why was there a delay in replacing it? Who is responsible for ensuring firefighters have the equipment needed to protect the community, and what purchasing process must be followed?

The mayor attempted to address the association's legal status and a prior conversation with the chief but was removed after interrupting. However, other attendees shouted, used profanity, and interrupted without receiving the same response. If the meeting was intended to be civil and fair, rules should have been applied consistently to everyone.

Several important questions were either unanswered or only partially addressed. What written bylaws govern investiga-

tions, suspensions, discipline, conflicts of interest, and appeals? Can those bylaws be made public? How does the department ensure disciplinary decisions are fair, consistent, and free from favoritism or conflicts of interest?

A third firefighter was described as a whistleblower because he gave text messages to the chief. Yet it was also stated that he participated in conversations about equipment and grant planning. Why was his involvement treated differently? Were all participants questioned under the same standard?

The central accusation against Firefighter Nunez appears to involve an alleged intent to pursue or spend grant funding. However, he stated that grants would require the chief's signature and council approval. Were any funds actually spent improperly? Are there bank records, grant documents, invoices, or financial statements supporting that claim, or were firefighters merely discussing future grant applications and equipment needs? Was the grant writer interviewed?

Council reportedly found insufficient support for the suspensions and hired an outside attorney after the chief questioned council's impartiality. What were the attorney's findings? Who was interviewed? Why was the attorney not present to explain the review? If an independent investigation did not support the suspensions, why is another investigation continuing through the association?

The public should also know how much grant funding OVFD applied for and received from 2020 through 2025, how it was spent, and what financial controls are in place.

The meeting was also supposed to address why firefighters are leaving and what can be done to improve recruitment and retention. Those subjects were never meaningfully discussed. The association appeared ready to adjourn after less than an hour, even though the meeting began late and many residents still had questions.

What training, mentoring, equipment, and educational support are being provided to current recruits? How many active firefighters serve today compared with previous years? Is it true that

another firefighter recently resigned because of the department's internal conflict? If the department is short on volunteers, why have two experienced firefighters remained unavailable for service for nearly two months?

Firefighter Nunez has advanced certifications and technical training. If the original allegations were withdrawn or unsupported and he was permitted to return, why has the chief not contacted him about resuming service? Public safety should be the department's highest priority.

The meeting also raised concerns about whether public or association funds may be used to hire an attorney. Near the beginning, the chief's son referred to needing public support and funding. Near the end, the chief's wife said it was time for the department to hire a lawyer. Does the association intend to use donated or public funds for legal representation? If so, for what purpose, under whose authority, and with what financial oversight?

I support our volunteer firefighters. They perform dangerous work and may someday save my life or the lives of my children. That is precisely why leadership, accountability, professionalism, and trust matter.

This matter has created division among firefighters, village officials, families, and residents.

Social-media accusations and personal attacks have made that division worse. Some individuals have spoken publicly while others remained quiet because they believed an investigation was ongoing. Silence should not be interpreted as guilt.

The community deserves another meeting that is organized, impartial, and long enough for all parties to speak. Residents should be given access to the relevant bylaws, financial records, investigation findings, meeting minutes, and supporting documents, subject to lawful privacy restrictions.

What were the findings of the investigations, and will those findings be made available to department members or the public?

Given the department's

stated need for volunteers, how does withholding department-issued equipment or delaying the return of an experienced firefighter align with the department's mission of protecting the community?

The public does not need another one-sided confrontation. We need facts, transparency, consistent standards, and a clear plan to restore trust and ensure the community remains protected.

—Keisha Nunez
Oakwood, OH

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Evil At Our Door

Do you believe in God? Did you just say yes? I thought you did but just answer this to help me understand. When did you do or know this. I accepted Jesus in the fall of 1949.

I will bet many just passed off my suggestion about going to church and getting closer to God. Churches were pretty much full until about 1960. This started showing up after Democrats forbid God and prayer in school.

As Heathens, their greatest enemy was God and those who believed in Him. As for me, at 90, I have never spoken a single swear word. I also accepted Jesus in 1949. Our churches were full back then, not half empty like today.

What you might discover, is the Bible us that it speaks of what is happening today, 2000 years later. Just remember this, the Bible is God's word and God knows all and doesn't like.

I don't know what it's going to take to make you believe what I say and that today's Communist Democrat leaders plan to destroy Christian America in their drive to control us as they do in Russia and China. Their goal is total control and being top dog.

I've spoken many times about today's evil Democrat leaders. Too many out there don't believe me. Just wait

then until it's too late. Too late could start with November's election. If Democrats win the House or Senate, Trump's goals for America will be shot down.

Should that happen their "dirty tricks" would probably give us a full blown Communist president in two years. I plan on living and writing to continue speaking against them.

Take a long honest look at our large cities and many states from California to New York. California has had a Communist loving leader for too long and New York City has a mayor who admits being a Communist and his actions prove he is.

I hope the following on top of these anti-American Democrats isn't too much to handle. These Democrats have Communist ones planted all across America. They want total control but they have some tough and evil competition.

We have radical Islamic terrorists all across America. their plans don't stop with total control of America. They're after the whole world. They first attacked us 2 to 3 hundred years ago. They then tried again on 9-11. Most of you know nothing of those first attacks thanks to your loving Democrats change what and how you were taught.

I don't see any to match the evil group, radical Islamists. Their evil dates back to 2000 years. Evil is the only thing they know. Read the Bible and pray for America. We will not survive without much prayer.

—Richard Mastin
Hicksville, OH

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 NAPA, 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: Cooper Comm. Library, Dollar General, Landing Strip, Oakwood Market, Oakleaf Diner

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 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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NSCC CELEBRATES BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR OHIO STUDENTS AND WORKERS



*We are ER nurses.
NSCC didn't just give us
a degree-they changed
our lives.*

- Ashlee & Caitlyn Lyons

Now Enrolling!
NorthwestState.edu



Northwest State
Community College

#ForeverNSCC

For many Ohioans, “back to school” no longer means a traditional college experience. As students head to campus and classrooms this fall, Northwest State Community College is highlighting the innovative ways that community colleges are helping learners of all ages gain new skills, earn valuable credentials, and prepare for in-demand careers in Ohio’s rapidly evolving economy.

More than ever, community colleges are built for today’s students and today’s economy, said Dr. Todd Hernandez, NSCC President.

“Whether someone is just beginning college, returning to school to advance their career, or learning new skills for an entirely different field, we provide affordable, flexible, and workforce-focused pathways that help students move forward quickly,” Hernandez said.

Each year, Ohio’s 22 com-

munity colleges serve approximately 250,000 students, including high school students earning college credit through Ohio’s College Credit Plus program, recent high school graduates, working adults, veterans, career changers, and adults seeking short-term training to quickly gain new skills or advance in their careers.

Students are learning online, on campus, and even at work through flexible programs designed to fit busy lives and changing career goals. Students may be earning a short-term certificate, an associate degree, or even a bachelor’s degree in an applied field while balancing jobs and family responsibilities.

For many students, “back to school” begins while they are still in high school. Through Ohio’s College Credit Plus program, students can earn college cred-

its tuition-free and, in some cases, even complete an associate degree before graduating from high school. More than 60,000 Ohio students participate in College Credit Plus annually through Ohio’s community colleges.

For traditional college students, community colleges also provide affordable pathways to bachelor’s degrees through “2+2” and “3+1” transfer agreements with four-year institutions, allowing students to complete a significant portion of their education at lower cost before transferring to a university.

At the same time, Ohio’s community colleges are seeing strong demand from working adults and career changers looking to “upskill” or pivot into new industries. Programs in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, information technology, logis-

tics, engineering technologies, and the skilled trades are increasingly aligned with Ohio’s growing 21st-century economy and workforce needs.

Ohio’s community colleges are more important than ever as the transformation of the state’s economy continues, said Avi Zaffini, president and CEO of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges.

“As Ohio’s economy evolves and new technology-driven industries continue to grow, community colleges are helping students and employers adapt together,” Zaffini said. “Our colleges are Ohio’s top workforce partner and the best value in higher education because they offer connected, flexible, and affordable education aligned directly with employer needs.”

More than 1,000 employer partnerships across Ohio help guide program development and create opportunities for internships, apprenticeships, and work-based learning experiences that connect students directly to jobs, Zaffini added.

For many students, “back to school” does not mean stepping away from work. Through work-based learning and earn-and-learn partnerships, students can gain classroom instruction while also earning income and building real-world experience with employers in their chosen fields.

Before the fall term begins, Northwest State will hold orientation programs to help students prepare for classes, connect with campus resources, and start the semester with confidence.

Throughout the fall semester, Northwest State will also host student welcome events, career exploration opportunities, and additional activities designed to support student success and connect learners with new opportunities.

To learn more about programs at Northwest State Community College, visit NorthwestState.edu.

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ENDORSES ALLISON RUSSO FOR OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE

COLUMBUS - Allison Russo, candidate for Ohio Secretary of State, has been endorsed by the Ohio Association of the Professional Fire Fighters.

“The Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters is proud to officially endorse Allison Russo for Ohio Secretary of State. This decision reflects candidate Russo’s demonstrated leadership and alignment with our core legislative priorities, including Post Traumatic Stress Injury funding, Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund reform, and the strong protection of collective bargaining rights for all of our members,” said John Harvey, President of OAPFF.

“I am so grateful for the endorsement of OAPFF and the support of over 14,000 professional fire fighters across Ohio. Much like Ohio’s dedicated first responders who work everyday to protect our families and state, I promise to do the same when elected Ohio’s next Secretary of State,” Russo said.

Ohio Secretary of State

KIWANIS WELCOME PHS COACH MENZIE



This week’s Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce Spotlight featured Coach Jim Menzie of the Paulding High School Panthers football team. Invited by Kiwanis member Jill Strahley, Coach Menzie spoke about his personal journey, his passion for football, and his commitment to developing student-athletes both on and off the field.

A proud Paulding graduate, Menzie reflected on his experience as a member of the Panthers’ undefeated 1988 team, which finished the season with a 10-0 record. He shared how those experiences helped shape his coaching philosophy and inspired him to return to his alma mater to lead the next generation of Panthers.

While balancing his full-time career at Midwest Tile in Indiana, Menzie remains dedicated to mentoring his players and building a program centered on character, accountability, and teamwork. He and his coaching staff place a strong emphasis on respect, teaching players the importance of simple but mean-

ingful gestures such as offering a firm handshake, making eye contact, helping in the community and working together toward a common goal.

Menzie’s coaching philosophy is built on three core values: Faith, Family, and Football. He also stresses the importance of academics, reminding his players that success in the classroom is just as important as success on the field.

One tradition that reflects the program’s family atmosphere is the Thursday evening meal before each game, when players, cheerleaders, and coaches gather to enjoy dinner prepared by football and cheer parents. Coach Menzie also offers a voluntary Bible study for players who wish to participate, providing another opportunity for personal growth and fellowship.

Paulding Kiwanis and the Paulding Chamber of Commerce thanks Coach Jim Menzie for sharing his inspiring message and for his dedication to the young people of the Paulding community.

candidate Allison Russo has been actively campaigning across the state following her announcement last year that she is running to restore trust, integrity, and transparency in elections and to fight so every voter feels confident their vote matters. Ohio voters selected Russo as the Democratic candidate for Secretary of State in the May 5 primary election.

State Rep. Russo has served four terms in the Ohio House of Representatives

protecting one person one vote, advocating for reproductive rights, and fighting for labor protections. During her time in the House of Representatives, Russo served as House Minority Leader for the Ohio House Democratic Caucus--a position she stepped down from earlier this year--and before that served as Ranking Member on the House Health Committee. Russo lives in Upper Arlington with her husband, and their three children.

(Continued from Page 1)

the increases. Now in 2026, it was time to increase it \$5 more dollars per month to help cover the growing expenses that are incurred from having multiple facilities throughout the county.

Memberships still cannot be purchased at this time, once the project is completed

and ready to re-open, we will happily welcome members back. Until then stay tuned for more updates.

Paulding County Hospital would like to thank in advance the communities we proudly serve for your support. “TOGETHER WE ARE ADVANCING HEALTH CARE, CLOSE TO HOME!”

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| ☒ Order invitations | ☒ Design Dinner Seating Chart Signage |
| ☒ Address envelopes | ☒ Design Thank You Cards |
| ☐ Get stamps | ☒ Order Thank You cards |
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PAULDING PUTNAM WELCOMES STATE AND REGIONAL LEADERS TO CELEBRATE HISTORIC INDIANA BROADBAND INVESTMENT, WILL RECEIVE \$13.1 MILLION IN BEAD FUNDING



July 27th celebration at Paulding Putnam (pictured L-R): Paulding Putnam CFO Renee Hull, IEC CEO John Cassady, Paulding Putnam COO Nick Eltzroth, IBO Chief Broadband Officer Megan Minor, Trustee John Saxton, Paulding Putnam CEO Randy Price, Trustee Tim Derck, Greater Fort Wayne CEO John Urbahns, Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership's Davis Macke, IEC's Ryan Hadley, New Haven Mayor Steve McMichael, and Trustee Joe Kohnen.

Paulding Putnam welcomed state, regional, and community leaders to its headquarters on July 27 to celebrate the cooperative's recently received Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program contract — announcing \$13.1 million in federal funding to deploy fiber-to-the-home broadband to thousands of unserved and underserved locations across northeast Indiana.

Joining Paulding Putnam leadership for the celebration were Indiana Broadband Office Chief Broadband Officer Megan Minor and Communications Director Devan Penn; Indiana Electric Cooperatives CEO John Cassady; Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership's Davis Macke; City of New Haven Mayor Steve McMichael; and Greater Fort Wayne CEO John Urbahns. Representing the cooperative were CEO Randy Price, COO Nick Eltzroth, and CFO Renee Hull, along with board trustees Tim Derck, Joe Kohnen, and John Saxton.

"This milestone marks meaningful progress in bringing BEAD investments to communities across Indiana," said Megan Minor, chief broadband officer for the Indiana Broadband Office. "Paulding Putnam has shown it is prepared to deliver reliable broadband while maintaining a strong commitment to the communities they serve. Their work reflects the goals of the

BEAD program and helps move Indiana closer to universal connectivity."

Price traced the milestone back to the cooperative's founding nearly 90 years ago, when rural communities banded together to bring electricity to areas investor-owned utilities had passed over.

"High-speed internet isn't a luxury anymore," Price told attendees. "It's as essential to daily life as the electricity we've delivered since 1935."

He noted that Paulding Putnam is among the first cooperatives in Indiana to receive a BEAD contract, and is one of the highest non-national recipients.

Eltzroth walked guests through the scope of the build: 1,464 eligible locations across Allen, Adams, DeKalb, and Noble counties, with more than 8,900 network passings identified in Indiana and over 18,600 combined across the cooperative's Ohio and Indiana buildout. Pending unexpected delays, construction is expected to begin in spring 2027, with most Indiana locations connected by spring 2029. Construction is already underway in Ohio, delivering residential speeds up to 1 gig to member-consumers.

He also highlighted that the same fiber backbone will strengthen Paulding Putnam's electric grid, giving crews faster, more reliable communication with substations and field equipment for all 14,000 electric members — whether or not they subscribe to inter-

net service.

Hull closed the formal remarks by detailing the project's financing: \$13,174,476 in federal BEAD funding matched by \$10,350,060 in cooperative investment. She tied the commitment to one of the cooperative's seven guiding principles, Concern for Community, noting that as a not-for-profit, member-owned utility, every dollar invested goes back into the communities and members Paulding Putnam serves.

Community and regional leaders echoed that message throughout the event. New Haven Mayor Steve McMichael recalled that between 2014 and 2019, one of the most common questions asked by new residents moving to the city was simply whether internet was available.

"It shouldn't be the haves versus the have-nots," McMichael said. "This is critical work for our rural and suburban communities."

Greater Fort Wayne CEO John Urbahns framed the investment in economic development terms.

"The why of it is people and capital," Urbahns said. "Broadband is a need, not a want," he added, noting that Allen County is currently the fastest-growing metro area in the country.

Paulding Putnam board trustees brought the conversation back to members. Trustee John Saxton shared that he

personally knows college students who choose not to visit home because of unreliable internet access. Trustee Joe Kohnen said the most common question co-op staff fielded at Member Appreciation Day at the Fort Wayne Zoo this past weekend was, "When will internet be available at my house?" "Our members have had to put up with some pretty rotten internet over the years," Kohnen said, "and that's why they're so excited."

Representatives from the Indiana Broadband Office and Indiana Electric Cooperatives also lent their support at the event, reinforcing the state's commitment to closing Indiana's rural digital divide alongside electric cooperatives.

Following the program, Eltzroth led guests on a tour of Paulding Putnam's 5,000-square-foot headquarters expansion project, showcasing space built to support the cooperative's growth — including new cubicle workspace, an upgraded dispatch center, a stand-up work area for technicians and linemen, and an interactive training room for ongoing staff development.

WESTBOUND LANES TO CLOSE IN SECTION OF S.R. 930/COLISEUM BLVD. OVER WEEKEND

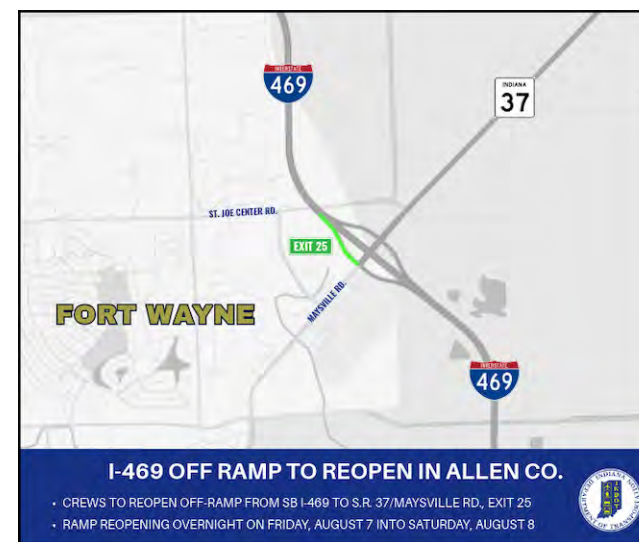
Note: This closure was originally scheduled for the week-end of 7/31 but was postponed due to weather.

ALLEN COUNTY, IN – The Indiana Department of Transportation announces a weekend closure on State Road 930/Coliseum Boulevard in Fort Wayne as part of ongoing construction.

Starting at 9:00 p.m. on Friday, August 7, crews will close the westbound lanes of S.R. 930/Coliseum Boulevard between E. State Boulevard and Vance Avenue to complete pipe construction and asphalt patching. The westbound lanes are scheduled to reopen by 6 a.m. on Monday, August 10. All work is weather-dependent and schedules are subject to change.

During the closure, drivers needing to head west on S.R. 930 through this area should seek an alternate route. The eastbound lanes of S.R. 930 will remain open.

I-469 OFF RAMP TO REOPEN AT S.R. 37



I-469 OFF RAMP TO REOPEN IN ALLEN CO.
• CREWS TO REOPEN OFF-RAMP FROM SB I-469 TO S.R. 37/MAYSVILLE RD., EXIT 25
• RAMP REOPENING OVERNIGHT ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 INTO SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

ALLEN COUNTY, IN –

The Indiana Department of Transportation announces the reopening of an I-469 off-ramp.

During the overnight hours of Friday, August 7, crews will reopen the off-ramp from southbound I-469 to State Road 37/Maysville Road, Exit 25. The ramp is scheduled to be open to traffic by the morning hours of Saturday, August 8. All work is

weather-dependent and schedules are subject to change.

The ramp was closed earlier this year as part of a pavement replacement project.

Construction will still continue in the area and INDOT encourages drivers to consider safety for all by slowing down, using extra caution and driving distraction-free when travelling in and around all work zones.

Work on the S.R. 930 roadway improvement project began in mid-March of this year and stretches from I-69 to East Washington Boulevard. Read the original release here.

INDOT encourages drivers to consider safety for all by slowing down, using extra caution and driving distraction-free when travelling in and around all work zones.

PAULDING FINISHES THIRD AT HOME INVITE BEHIND STRONG TEAM EFFORT

The Paulding boys golf team turned in another solid performance Thursday, August 6th, placing third at the Paulding Invitational held at Auglaize Golf Club with a team score of 312.

Montpelier claimed the team championship with a 305, while Swanton finished second at 303. Paulding edged Tinora (317) and Antwerp (331) to round out the top five in the 11-team field.

Leading the Panthers was Brody Rosswurm, who earned medalist honors for Paulding with a round of 73,

placing third overall among individual golfers. Jack Daeger followed with a 77, while Gannon Parrett added an 80. Tyler Goyings carded an 82, and Cameron Williams rounded out the scoring with an 88. Also competing for the Panthers were Sawyer Hunt (87) and Nolan Schlatter (108).

Montpelier's Kade Stewart captured individual medalist honors with an outstanding round of 72, while Swanton's Dylan Smigelski finished second with a 68.

Paulding's balanced scoring helped the Panthers secure a top-three finish against a competitive field that included Swanton, Montpelier, Tinora, Antwerp, Bryan, Wayne Trace, Wauseon, Defiance, Holgate, and Fairview.

Team Standings:

1. Swanton – 303
2. Montpelier – 305
3. Paulding – 312
4. Tinora – 317
5. Antwerp – 331
6. Bryan – 331
7. Wayne Trace – 337
8. Wauseon – 342
9. Defiance – 366
10. Holgate – 370
11. Fairview – 378

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THE LEFT TURN



Kyle Cummins 2026 USAC Indiana Sprint Week Champion
Photo by Christopher Pedersen.

By: Ron Burt

Before I get into racing. Football fans, The Ohio Sports Blitz Scoreboard starts Thursday, August 20th and continues every Friday night after starting at 10:20PM. It's the largest Scoreboard in N.W. Ohio, covering the area teams and expanding out to 28 Ohio High School Football Conferences. State and National Top 10 scores will be announced. You can access the Scoreboard on the Ohio Sports Blitz Facebook page www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz and on youtube. Last year the Scoreboard averaged over 8,000 views every Friday night.

Friday, July 31, Limaland Motorsports Park-The 2026 regular racing season came to an end at Limaland. It was a weather shortened spring and summer season. Season Champions were crowned and season points are over, but the track still has one more Friday night of racing. Congratulations to the 2026 Track Champions, UMP Modifieds Jeff Koz and Thunderstocks Jordan Conover.

Friday night Limaland Podiums: UMP Modifieds 1st Jeff Koz, 2nd Drew Charlson and 3rd Eric Kinney II. Thunderstocks 1st Todd Sherman, 2nd Jeff Matheny, and 3rd Jordan Conover. Dirt Track Trucks Feature winner was Chris Hicks led wire to wire in the Series 100th Feature event.

Attica Raceway Park 410 Winged Sprints, Feature Winner, Cap Henry, DIRTcar Late

Models Kyle Moore, 305 Winged Sprints Bryan Sebetto. Attica Raceway Park will have no racing on Friday, August 14th because of the County Fair. Many of their 410 Winged Sprint Car drivers will also be at the 65th Annual Knoxville Nationals, August 12th-15th. Racing will return to Attica Raceway Park Friday, August 21st (same night high school football starts).

On Saturday, August 1st, Flat Rock Speedway dodged the weather and help their racing program. Feature winners: Figure 8 Jeremy Vanderhoof, Outlaw Super Later Models Conner, and ARCA Menards East Sunbelt Rentals 150, Max Reaves.

Saturday, August 1st, Tri-State Speedway-Kyle Cummins won the 2026 USAC Indiana Sprint Week Championship by 7 points over Justin Grant. Six drivers reached Victory Lane in the 9 track series. Grant had 3 wins and Kyle Cummins had 2. Prize money was increased from \$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00 this year for Feature wins and Cummins was awarded \$25,000.00 for winning the Championship. How big was the 2026 Indiana Sprint Week. 97 drivers participated. The most since 2004. Drivers hailing from 16 different states Indiana (55), California (11), Arizona (4), Texas (4), Illinois (3), Missouri (3), Ohio (3), Colorado (2), Pennsylvania (2), Alabama (1), Kansas (1), Kentucky (1), Michigan (1),

New Mexico (1), Oklahoma (1), and Washington (1), plus three more from Australia: Victoria (2) and New South Wales (1).

This week I was asked to help with the announcing duties at Oakshade Raceway in Wauseon. I look forward to seeing some of you and talk racing. The DIRTcar Late Models, Sportsmen, Dominator Stocks and Compacts will all be in action Saturday. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out!



LIFE AFTER THE WAR

Mountain woman. The Civil War. No sooner had Bertha buried her son and her husband, when she discovered that she was pregnant. Now she would have two children to support. She somehow acquired a cow and kept it hidden up in the mountains. She kept a bag of potatoes hidden under the floorboards. Raiders came through constantly taking her chickens and everything she had.

"Yay though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil for thou art with me."

Bertha was able to sustain life by hunting and fishing. That fall she had a baby girl and two children now to support. In the spring of '65 the war ended, and she found herself with a broken down farm and two children to raise. Most people thought she would find a new husband but not Bertha. It almost seemed like destiny had prepared her entire life, just for this moment.

Bertha stayed busy doing anything she could. She sold honey from her beehives, served as a midwife birthing scores of babies. Made medicines of herbs gathered from the forest. She cured colds using Pennyroyal tea. She raised her two daughters to adulthood. The community depended upon her for all types of tasks.

When someone would die she would prepare the body for burial, and often she would preach the funeral. She knew the Bible from cover to cover. She became one of the most legendary women of American history. No one had any money so they paid her with apples and food.

She tanned leather and made her children's shoes. There was no end to the things that she did but she became known as an expert basket weaver. She sold her baskets at the local store. She took orders for men's suits for which she had grown the wool and made her own fabric. Her coats sold for 50¢ and her shirts for 25¢.

By 1900 she was 60 years old and going strong. She received an \$8 a month pension from the federal government. With this she bought coffee and salt. But soon the town of Gatlinburg began to grow. Hotels, visitors from all over

breathing the mountain air. Civilization began pressing closer and closer. She remained in her cabin never seeing a doctor her entire life.

Bertha had memorized most of the Bible. She began lobbying for a school in Gatlinburg. In 1912 she saw the fruit of her labor. She taught basket weaving in the school the remainder of her life. Today her baskets can be seen in museums all across the Appalachians.

Bertha passed away at age 86 in the same cabin she had been her entire life. Many people made the pilgrimage to visit her and buy her baskets. If you ever get to Gatlinburg, take Ski Mountain road past Wolf Creek and you will see the spot where Bertha's cabin stood.

For years on my way to Newnan Georgia on interstate 24 from Nashville to Chattanooga, I had wanted to drive up into the mountains. But just today I realize I have been in the mountains. On I-24 there is a sign calling for a mile grade and then for a long time you're going back down. I have visited Pigeon Forge, where I saw the funniest program I have ever seen in the Comedy Barn. Taking a ski lift across the interstate, across the river, and straight up to the top of the mountain.

At the top you visit a souvenir shop and back down. Taking a 2 hour trip through the Black Hills, were all you see is trees and you go 10 miles an hour the entire time, in a procession of cars. seriously I would like to meet the mountain people if any are still there.

—James Neuhouser

ACPL CELEBRATES NATIONAL BOOK LOVERS DAY WITH A LITTLE – NO, A LOT OF - ROMANCE

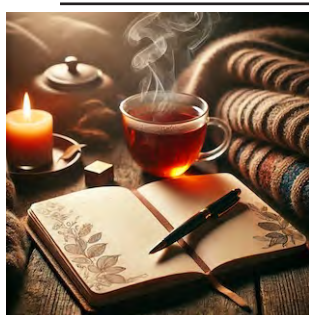
Some people are looking for love in all the wrong places. At the Allen County Public Library, they're finding it right on the shelves.

In honor of National Book Lovers Day on Aug. 9, the ACPL celebrated one of its most popular collections: romance novels. From slow burns and second chances to cowboys, vampires, hockey players, and happily-ever-afters, the library's romance collection has become a favorite destination for readers looking to fall head over heels for a good book.

National Book Lovers Day celebrates the joy of reading — and few genres are devoured quite as enthusiastically as romance. The ACPL's collection includes more than 76,000 romance titles, accounting for nearly 20 percent of the library's adult fiction collection. Readers have checked out romance books more than 5.6 million times over the years, proving once and for all that love stories never go out of style. Those stats check out when compared to demand for romance novels — they make up nearly 20% of the total fiction market.

Among the library's most checked-out romance books are titles by beloved romance authors Nicholas Sparks and Colleen Hoover. Frequent favorites also include works by Debbie Macomber, Danielle Steel, and Nora Roberts.

Readers can browse romance titles in print, eBook, and audiobook formats at all ACPL locations and online through www.acpl.info.



NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Dotting My Teas By: Marlene Oxender

Do you suppose there is anyone from my generation who doesn't own at least one newspaper clipping? Anyone who doesn't know what it's like to use a pair of scissors to cut around the borders of the article they'd like to keep?

My mother's collection of old newspaper clippings is a big one. It came in handy at times when my brother Stevie, who had Down syndrome, spent weekends with me. It gave him something to do as he sat on the floor and sorted through boxes.

Mom had saved entire newspapers as well as individual stories she'd written about the people in her hometown. She interviewed her friends and neighbors, then wrote human-interest stories about the lives they'd lived.

In one of the boxes was an article she'd written back in 1978 when Cleo Slesman's car was stolen. By the time Cleo told the story to my mother, he could tell her the end of the story — his car was unharmed and back in Edgerton.

Mom wrote that Cleo had started his day by stopping at the school to check the furnace before heading uptown to pay his utility bill. Standing in front of the school in the rain were two boys, ages thirteen and fourteen. Cleo asked them what they were doing. They said they were from Hicksville, and they were "waiting on a ride."

Cleo didn't know they meant what they said. They really were waiting on a ride — which ended up being Cleo's 1977 burgundy Mercury.

After Cleo checked the furnace, he walked out of the school, and his car was nowhere to be found. He'd left the car keys in the ignition. The young boys were no longer there. His car was no longer there.

Mom wrote: "Area police were alerted. Cleo and Ellen knew there was not as much gas in the car as there usually is and they were hoping the boys would not wreck the car before it ran out of gas."

At 4 p.m., the Slesmans received a call. Their car had been located on State Line Road near Newville, Indiana. The keys were missing from the car, so the police needed to arrange for it to be towed back to Ohio.

Before I had an appreciation for my mother's collection of newspapers, I had jokingly felt sorry for myself. I really did wonder whether

anyone else in the history of the world had inherited too many newspaper articles. Too many greeting cards. Too many papers.

As time allowed, I began reading those old stories. My feelings shifted from "Woe is me" to "Woe is you" if you did not inherit newspaper clippings.

What do you have to read at your house if you don't have old newspaper clippings? I've almost forgotten what life was like prior to my newspaper-clipping days.

It's comical to think about the ways our estates tell our story. We live a good life on earth, and we leave a house full of stuff to prove it.

The youngsters who took off with Cleo and Ellen's car back in 1978 are now senior citizens. Do you suppose they have a collection of photos and newspaper clippings that would tell us how their lives turned out? Did they eventually learn to give instead of take away?

My mother's last earthly task was baking a birthday cake for Stevie. It was chocolate. She baked the cake but didn't have time to clean her kitchen before she experienced a stroke. It still makes me smile when I think of the fact that she'd left this earth with a sink full of dirty dishes.

It made me wonder if there is a final lesson to be learned. Mom was 92 years old when she made one last birthday cake for the son she'd taken care of for 50 years.

Maybe the dirty dishes were her way of reminding us that life gets messy at times, but here is one last cake. Here is Stevie. It'll be tough. But you can do it.

Kind of like those newspaper clippings she left behind. She did a lot of writing and a lot of work. Now someone else needs to take over.

When I sit at my desk in the early morning hours, I can see the moon through the west window. And the sunrise is making an appearance in the east window. Perhaps the morning moon is nodding at the sun on the other side of the sky, letting it know its shift is over.

And so it is with us. We come to the end of our shift. We leave our stories and newspaper clippings behind. We leave our greeting cards and memories. We leave our loved ones on earth to finish the work we started — knowing they'll do a good job. And knowing we'll catch up with each other sometime soon.

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

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U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins today signed a proclamation (PDF, 365 KB) recognizing National Farmers Market Week, August 2-8, 2026, calling on Americans to make the week a nationwide celebration by visiting and supporting their local farmers markets.

Observed annually during the first full week of August, National Farmers Market Week recognizes the important role farmers markets play in strengthening rural communities, creating new market opportunities for producers, and connecting consumers with fresh, American-grown food.

“National Farmers Market Week is about celebrating the farmers and ranchers who produce the safest, highest-quality food in the world and making sure Americans have every opportunity to support them,” said Secretary Rollins. “Every purchase at a farmers market is an investment in American agriculture, our rural communities, and our country’s future. As we celebrate America’s 250th year, I encourage every family to visit their local farmers market, meet the producers who feed our Nation, and experience firsthand the pride, tradition, and hard work that make American agriculture the greatest in the world. Together, we’re putting Farmers First and advancing President Trump’s Make America Healthy Again agenda by making American-grown food more accessible to families across the country.”

Secretary Rollins’ proclamation recognizes farmers markets as an essential part of American agriculture, creating new market opportunities for farmers and ranchers while helping consumers better understand where their food comes from. Farmers markets strengthen local economies, support family farms and ranches, and make it easier for families to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy products, baked goods, and countless other products proudly grown and raised by American producers.

As America marks its 250th year, USDA is celebrating the farmers, ranchers, and producers whose hard work has helped build and sustain our Nation since its founding. As USDA’s flagship celebration of National Farmers Market Week, the Great American Farmers Market returned this year as part of USDA’s exhibit at the Great American State Fair, bringing together farmers, ranchers, and producers from across the country to showcase the diversity, abundance, and excellence of American agriculture during America’s 250th anniversary celebration. Building on the success of last year’s inaugural Great American Farmers Market in Washington, D.C., this year’s event continued USDA’s commitment to celebrating American producers and strengthening the connection between consumers and the people who grow, raise, and produce our food.

National Farmers Market

Week is an opportunity to celebrate the producers whose hard work sustains our Nation every day. USDA encourages Americans to visit their local farmers markets this week, thank the farmers and ranchers who feed our country, and support the communities that keep American agriculture thriving for generations to come.

PAULDING FINISHES FIFTH AT WAUSEON GOLF INVITATIONAL

WAUSEON — The Paulding boys golf team turned in a strong performance Tuesday, Aug. 4, placing fifth out of 14 teams at the Wauseon Invitational held at Ironwood Golf Course.

The Panthers posted a team score of 331, earning a top-five finish against a competitive field.

Leading the way for Paulding was Jack Daeger, who carded a team-best 78. Gannon Parrett followed closely with an 80, while Tyler Goyings added an 85. Cameron Williams finished with an 88, Tim Font III shot a 90, and Sawyer Hunt rounded out the Panthers’ lineup with a score of 100.

Paulding Individual Scores:

Jack Daeger — 78
Gannon Parrett — 80
Tyler Goyings — 85
Cameron Williams — 88
Tim Font III — 90
Sawyer Hunt — 10

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Shawn J. Fox, Antwerp, was found guilty of domestic violence. He was ordered to pay \$205 in fines and costs and sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 170 days suspended. He was placed on standard probation, ordered to undergo an evaluation and complete any recommended treatment, have no contact with the victim, perform 20 hours of community service, complete online classes, undergo a risk assessment, and complete the Hands Down book. On a second count of domestic violence he was found guilty and ordered to pay \$243 in fines and costs and sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 167 days suspended. He was placed on standard probation, ordered to have no contact with the victim, use third-party contact for matters involving minor children, undergo a risk assessment, complete 10 hours of community service, and maintain general good behavior. He was also found guilty of telecommunications harassment. He was ordered to pay \$106 in fines and costs and sentenced to 180 days in jail, with all 180 days suspended. He was placed on standard probation, ordered to have no contact with the victim, complete 10 hours of community service, complete online classes, undergo a risk assessment, and any jail time imposed is to be served consecutively.

Scott A. Miller, Grover Hill, OH, nonsupport of dependents against was dismissed with prejudice at the state’s request. Court costs were waived.

Jean C. Calderon Garcia, Hackensack, NJ, was found guilty of driving without a valid operator’s license. He was ordered to pay \$105 plus court costs. A charge of unsafe vehicle was dismissed.

Marc E. Forestal, Whitestown, IN, was found guilty of operating an unsafe vehicle. He was ordered to pay \$105 plus court costs.

Paul V. Holt, Wollcottville, IN, was found guilty of failure to yield to an emergency vehicle. He was fined \$100 plus court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Bailey L. Cline, Hicksville, OH, was found guilty of failure to stop at a stop sign. He was fined \$95 plus court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Jeremy D. Walton, Cecil, OH, entered a no contest plea to disorderly conduct. He was found guilty and ordered to pay \$118 in fines and costs. The \$50 fine was suspended, and he was ordered to maintain general good behavior.

Alan L. Tustison, Antwerp, OH, was found guilty of disorderly conduct. He was ordered to pay \$153 in fines and costs and was ordered to maintain general good behavior.

Preston L. Williams, Warren, MI, was found guilty of operating an unsafe vehicle. He was ordered to pay \$105 plus court costs.

Jason A. Holloway, Fort Wayne, IN, was found guilty of failure to stop at a stop sign. He was ordered to pay \$100 plus court costs.

Teress S. Rogers, Clinton Township, MI, entered a no contest plea to operating a vehicle under the influence. She was found guilty and ordered to pay \$105 plus court costs. She was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 174 days suspended, and her operator’s license was suspended from June 21, 2026, through June 21, 2028. She may attend a Driver Intervention Program in lieu of three days in jail. Proof of insurance was not provided, and fines and costs were ordered to be taken from bond. An OVI refusal charge and an driving under a non-compliance suspension were dismissed. She entered a no contest plea to a marked lanes violation and was found guilty.

Richard L. Hartman, Oakwood, OH, was found guilty of driving under a non-compliance suspension. He was ordered to pay \$105 plus court costs and was ordered to provide proof of insurance by Aug. 5, 2026. A charge of fictitious registration was dismissed.

Dewayne J. Grunden II, Antwerp, OH, was found guilty of disorderly conduct. He was ordered to pay \$537.50 in fines and costs and sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 29 days suspended. He was ordered to have no contact with the victim or the victim’s residence and to have no cause for arrest.

Wilbur Pina, Lima, OH, was found guilty of hit-skip involving property damage. He was ordered to pay \$97 plus court costs and was ordered not to operate a motor vehicle. He was also found guilty of driving without a valid operator’s license and guilty of failure to maintain reasonable control.

The West Bend News Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to “Sudoku puzzle on Page 11”

Rolland L. Little, Paulding, OH, was found guilty of failure to maintain reasonable control. He was fined \$100 plus court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Larry L. Gubbins, Antwerp, OH, was found guilty of failure to maintain reasonable control. He was fined \$100 plus court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Shane E. Keller, Oakwood, OH, was found guilty of a seat belt violation. He was fined \$57 plus court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Burnett Adams, Paulding, OH, was found guilty of disorderly conduct. He was ordered to pay \$125 in fines and costs and sentenced to 30 days in jail, with all 30 days suspended. He was ordered to maintain general good behavior.

Neil D. Hoffman, Defiance, OH, was found guilty of criminal trespass. He was ordered to pay \$300 in fines and costs and sentenced to 10 days in jail, with one day

of jail credit. He was ordered to have no contact with Mercer Landmark Properties and to maintain general good behavior.

Wyatt Wolfle, Paulding, OH, was found guilty of operating a vehicle under the influence. He was ordered to pay \$105 plus court costs and sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 174 days suspended. His operator’s license was suspended from July 11, 2026, through July 11, 2027. He may attend a six-day Driver Intervention Program in lieu of jail and may have an ignition interlock device installed for unlimited driving privileges, but is not eligible for the six-month reduced license suspension. Charges for low breath alcohol OVI, ATV prohibition, seat belt violation, and registration violation were dismissed.

Thomas D. Semla, Paulding, OH, was found guilty of driving without a valid operator’s license. He was ordered to pay \$97 plus court costs.

Business Slow?

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NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF APPLICATION TO PROBATE WILL

PROBATE COURT OF
PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
HARVEY D. HYMAN, JUDGE

ESTATE OF SANDRA JO STAHL,
DECEASED

Case No. 20261060

TO: **Robert Bilderback**, Next-of-Kin of **Sandra Jo Stahl**, Deceased, whose address is unknown

You are notified as a next of kin of Sandra Jo Stahl, deceased, that an Application for Authority to Administer Estate has been filed with the Paulding County Probate Court on June 5, 2026, being Case No. 20261060.

A hearing on said Application will be held on **Monday, August 24, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.** at the Paulding County Probate Court, 115 N. Williams Street, Suite 202, Paulding, OH 45879.

You are one of the persons entitled to administer decedent’s estate, and if you wish to be

considered for appointment to do so you must apply to this Court. If you do not apply, it will be considered that you renounce your right to administer the estate. The Court may appoint any suitable and competent person to administer the estate, giving due weight to relative priority of right to do so. Even if you decline appointment yourself, if you know of any reason why the above applicant is not suitable or competent, you should appear and inform the Court.

Brianne Stahl, Applicant
c/o Glenn H. Troth, Esq.
(#0008420)

125 N. Water St., P.O. Box 84
Paulding, OH 45879

PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages

1st Weekend- Paulding , Fair Grounds

2nd Weekend- Grover Hill , VFW

3rd Weekend- Payne ,

(Paved lot east of Homier’s)

4th Weekend- Antwerp ,

(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)

New Schedule For Smaller Villages

3rd Wednesday of each month

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

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

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

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

**For Questions Call : 419-399-3630
or Visit : www.pauldingcountywmea.com**

DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE DONATES \$2,000 TO OHIO AREA BIKERS



The Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 recently presented a \$2,000 grant to Ohio Area Bikers (NWO Division), an organization dedicated to filling the gaps for our active duty, veterans, and first responders when other resources fall short. Presenting the check are Moose Lodge Trustees Don Hall and Mark White, along with Lodge Chaplain Marilyn Clay. Members accepting the grant are Ohio Area Bikers (L-R) Denny Ussery, Jeff Gee, assistant chaplain and Scott Dutton, Chaplain.

FIELD REPORTS FROM OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OFFICERS

Central Ohio - Wildlife District One

State Wildlife Officer Nick Oliver, assigned to Champaign County, received a report of an individual shooting a raccoon from a roadway. Officer Oliver located two bullet casings at the scene. A suspect was identified and issued two summonses for shooting from a public road and hunting a raccoon during the closed season. The individual paid \$138 in court costs and was ordered to serve 10 days of suspended jail time, 12 months of probation, and

20 hours of community service.

In June, State Wildlife Officer Brian Motsinger, assigned to Union County, assisted the Union County Sheriff's Office with their first Cops and Bobbers event at their training complex. Sixty children were taught how to fish and about fishing safety and spent time fishing. Everyone had a great time and the event was a success!

Northwest Ohio - Wildlife District Two

State Wildlife Officer Michele Butler, assigned to Erie County, received a phone call from a hiker who observed a juvenile bald eagle on the ground at Dupont

Nature Preserve. The eagle appeared to be injured and could only fly a short distance. The hiker stayed in the area to assist Officer Butler and a wildlife rehabilitator in locating the eagle. Thanks to the teamwork of all involved parties, the eagle was safely captured and transported to Back to the Wild for evaluation and care. After a brief rehabilitation, the eagle was released near where it was found.

State Wildlife Officer Austin Dickinson, assigned to Defiance County, received a Turn In a Poacher complaint of multiple individuals snagging fish below the Power Dam on the Auglaize River. Officer Dickinson responded to the area and observed two individuals snagging and keeping channel catfish. Upon contacting the individuals, Officer Dickinson determined the anglers did not have valid fishing licenses. The catfish was seized as evidence. Multiple summonses were issued for fishing without a license as well as snagging and keeping sport fish. Both individuals were found guilty and paid a combined \$300 in fines and court costs.

Northeast Ohio - Wildlife District Three

In July, State Wildlife Officers Cory Burroughs, Mike Greer, and Zach Hillman, assigned to Lorain, Cuyahoga, and Summit counties, respectively, participated in the Badges and Bobbers fishing event hosted by the Ohio State Highway Patrol at Findley State Park. This free, family-friendly event brought together children for a day of outdoor fun while families engaged with officers from multiple law enforcement agencies. Officers from the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Wellington Police Department, Streetsboro Police Department, ODNr Division of Parks and Watercraft, and Ohio Division of Wildlife participated in the festivities. In addition to fishing, the children learned basic archery skills and enjoyed lunch alongside officers. This event provided a great opportunity for everyone to enjoy the outdoors, learn new skills, and spend time together in a fun, welcoming environment.

Southeast Ohio - Wildlife District Four

State Wildlife Officer An-

thony Lemle, assigned to Noble County, worked litter enforcement at Mohawk Dam over the July 4th weekend. Officer Lemle observed an individual throw a glass bottle on the rocks along the Walhonding River and then leave the area. Officer Lemle conducted a traffic stop on the suspect and issued a citation for stream litter. The subject pleaded guilty in Coshocton County Court and was ordered to pay \$185 in fines and court costs.

Southwest Ohio - Wildlife District Five

Last fall, Law Operations Manager Jason Keller and K-9 Officer Scout were asked to assist the Warren County Sheriff's Office with locating evidence connected to a shooting. During the search, K-9 Scout successfully located 12 rifle rounds in a tree line. The case recently concluded in court, where the suspect was found guilty on two counts of attempted murder and sentenced to more than 32 years in prison.

State Wildlife Officer Micah Collier, assigned to Brown County, recently attended the Mobile Hunter Expo in Wilmington. Officer Collier engaged with attendees on general wildlife information and answered questions about hunting and fishing regulations.

NSCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Northwest State Community College will meet on Tuesday, August 11 in room C211 at the Archbold campus at 12:00 noon for discussion and review of agenda items in preparation for their regular Board of Trustees meeting on Friday, August 28, 2026.

HUSTED DISCUSSES AFFORDABLE HOUSING, VISITS OHIO STATE FAIR IN CENTRAL OHIO

Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio) today convened Ohio leaders for a roundtable discussion on affordable housing before visiting the Ohio State Fair to meet with Ohio's agricultural leaders.

"For many Ohioans, owning a home is part of their American dream and we have an obligation to make sure that goal is in reach and affordable. When I was growing up here in Ohio, people were leaving, and we didn't have this housing problem. Our population was in decline. Now we are growing, and people are finding work here. And unless you want your kids and grandkids living with you, we need to build homes for our future generations!" said Husted.

Husted hosted housing leaders from across the state to discuss the recently passed 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, which he supported. The law addresses the root causes of rising housing costs by cutting red tape, increasing housing supply, lowering costs for families, protecting taxpayers and preserving local control.

"Ohio's food and agriculture industry is a cornerstone of our state's economy, contributing \$124 billion every year. At the Ohio State Fair, I had the opportunity to see firsthand the hardwork-

LOCAL BROTHERS TURN LEMONADE STAND INTO COMMUNITY GIVING



Pictured above are (l-r) Gabe, Cam and Ty Dickinson.

Three local brothers are proving that even a simple lemonade stand can make a big difference.

After raising \$157 selling lemonade, Gabe, Ty, and Cam Dickinson chose to donate their earnings through the Defiance Area Foundation's Piggy Bank Philanthropy initiative. The brothers filled their Piggy Bank Philanthropy pigs before bringing them to the Foundation to make their gift.

"We chose the Defiance Area Foundation because they do a lot for the community," Gabe said. "The community needs the money more than we do."

Ty added, "We like all the work the Foundation has done for the parks in Defiance."

ing farmers, producers and families who make this industry foundational to Ohio's success," said Husted.

Husted also visited the Ohio State Fair to meet with agricultural leaders and learn more about the issues impacting Ohio's farming community. As Ohio's lieutenant governor, Husted helped oversee a \$456 million investment in the Ohio Expo Center and State Fairgrounds. In the Senate, he is continuing to support Ohio agriculture through efforts such as the Farm Bill.

REP. KLOPFENSTEIN INTRODUCES NEW BROADBAND LEGISLATION

State Representative Roy Klopfenstein (R-Haviland) recently introduced House Bill 979, which works to establish or clarify rules governing broadband providers' use of public spaces in communities, ultimately protecting Ohioans.

"This bill addresses a very critical public safety concern and is incredibly important for local authorities that are not only essential for handling abandoned

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ANOTHER GORRELL BROS AUCTION

Large Antique and Household Auction Contents of House and Buildings

AUCTION LOCATION: 1878 State Route 18 Hicksville, Ohio 43526. Head North on State Route 49, Turn Right onto E High St in Hicksville and then Turn Left onto N Main Street (SR-18) to Auction Location... **Watch for Auction Signs!**

Sat. August 15th, 2026 @ 10AM

Farm Equipment... 1954 John Deere Model 60 with power steering and three-point hitch, restored 12 years ago, newer clutch, newer radiator, fuel system has been cleaned, new paint and decals, all new tires, very nice tractor, runs and drives as it should, very sharp tractor... John Deere Four Row Cultivator, older restoration... John Deere 3-Point 3-Bottom Plow (restored)... Older John Deere Plow... Mounted Cultivators for John Deere Tractor...

Lawn & Garden, etc... Shovels... Rakes... Hoes... Woodworking equipment... Table Saws... Gas Cans... Pressure Washer... Sprayers... Jacks... Nice Two-Wheel Trailer with Sideboards... Bicycles... Step Ladders... Lawn Chairs... Portable Air Compressor Tanks... Extensions Cords... Nuts... Bolts... Screws... Nails... etc etc etc Contents of Two Buildings...

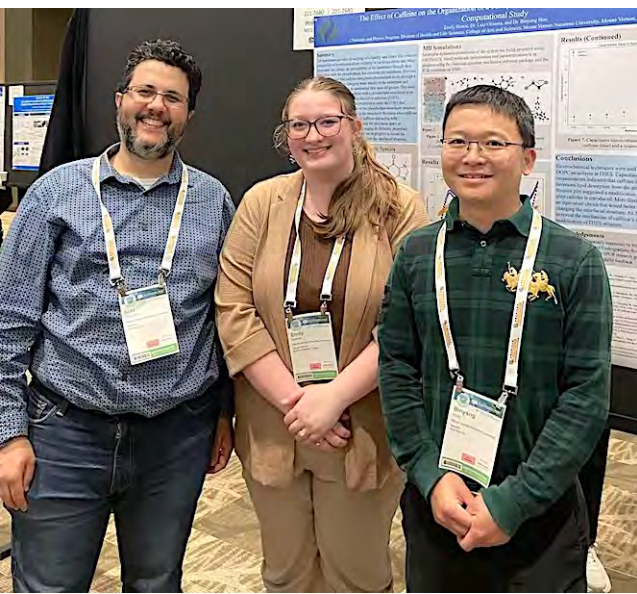
Household & Antiques... Plates... Bowls... Cups... Saucers... Fans... Flashlights... Picture Frames... Lamps... Porcelain Pots and Containers... Several Nice, Unique Glassware Items... Old Country Store Advertising Items... Old Salt and Pepper Shakers... Carnival Glass... Compression Glass... Milk Glass... Several Oil Lamps... Vintage Child's Toys... Very Partial Listing... etc etc etc...

Furniture... Roll-Top Desk... Old Chairs... Several Nice End Tables... Curio Cabinets... Dining Room Table and Chairs... Many Shelving Units... etc etc etc...

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: This is a very large auction. We will be selling in two rings on auction day so bring a friend and plan to spend the day with us! These are very nice, clean antique items. Don't miss out of this opportunity to bid and buy on these items. Gorrell Brothers will be offering the real estate at public auction on Saturday, August 29 at 10:00AM. The Farm will be offered in 3 parcels. Visit our website at www.gorrellbrothers.com or Gorrell Brothers Facebook Page for updates and pictures. Pictures can also be viewed on AuctionZip

WATCH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DETAILS, PICTURES, AND UPDATES... INSPECTION FOR ALL ITEMS WILL BE THURSDAY, AUGUST 13 FROM 5-6PM AND FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 FROM 3-6PM AND BEGINNING AT 8:30AM DAY OF THE AUCTION... TERMS: CASH, GOOD CHECK, OR CREDIT CARDS (with a 4% convenience fee) AT THE DAY OF THE AUCTION.

Gorrell Bros. Auctioneers LLC 112½ N Water St Paulding, Ohio 45879
AUCTIONEERS: Kenneth D. Thomas, Chris Aufrance, Zach Gorrell
Call Today to Reserve Your Auction Date!



MVNU SPUR student Emily Howie (center) presents her research at the 249th Electrochemical Society Meeting in Seattle, Washington, with MVNU professors Dr. Binyang Hou (right) and Dr. Luiz Oliveira (left). Photo courtesy of Mount Vernon Nazarene University

MOUNT VERNON, Ohio — Emily Howie, a student researcher in Mount Vernon Nazarene University's Summer Program for Undergraduate Research (SPUR), has achieved a remarkable milestone: she was accepted to all five graduate schools to which she applied, each offering full financial assistance. This fall, Howie will begin her doctorate in chemistry at Ohio State University.

She credits her success to the intensive research training and professional development she received through SPUR, which she participated in from 2024 to 2026.

SPUR provides undergraduates with an intensive, paid research experience under the mentorship of faculty members. Participants work alongside their faculty mentors, gaining hands-on experience that mirrors graduate-level training.

During her time in the program, Howie worked under the mentorship of Dr. Binyang Hou, professor of physics and director of SPUR, on electrochemical studies investigating how ions and caffeine interact with phospholipids, the primary building blocks of cell membranes. She also worked with Dr. Luiz Oliveira on computational modeling of the same system, gaining expertise in both experimental and theoretical approaches — a combination that significantly strengthened her graduate applications.

Howie distinguished herself further through her scholarly output. She has presented her research at prestigious international conferences such

as the American Chemical Society (ACS) Meeting and the Electrochemical Society (ECS) Meeting and co-authored a peer-reviewed publication in ACS Omega — achievements that demonstrated her readiness for graduate-level work.

"Presenting at conferences and publishing as an undergraduate gave me a glimpse into what it's like to be a professional researcher," Howie explained. "SPUR gave me the foundation to pursue those opportunities."

The SPUR program is designed to bridge the gap between undergraduate and graduate education. Participants develop essential skills including:

- Hands-on research experience with faculty mentorship
- Conference presentation and scientific communication skills
- Professional networking with researchers and peers
- Graduate school preparation through workshops and seminars

The program offers opportunities for SPUR participants to present their work on campus as well as at professional conferences, further strengthening their graduate school applications.

"SPUR is not just about learning how to do experiments," said Dr. Hou. "It provides a foundation for students to develop their careers as researchers, learning from faculty about what graduate programs are looking for and how to navigate the application process."

For more information about the program, visit mvnu.edu/SPUR.

above-ground structures but also for managing the installation of below-ground ones," said Klopfenstein.

If enacted, this legislation would do the following:

- Address broadband infrastructure in public rights-of-way and the rules governing how broadband facilities

are installed in local communities

- Streamline broadband deployment by establishing clear requirements for broadband providers working within public rights-of-way
- Reduce potential barriers to broadband expansion

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BARN SALE: Aug. 13&14, 8-4; Aug 15, 8-12. Bruder toys, misc. construction toys, dinosaurs, Thomas the Train track & engines, Vintage milk bottles, Wire chickens w/eggs, 12pc set Pfahzgraff Winterberry dishes & many accessories. Fisher Price wagons, kids picnic tables, Little Tykes kitchen and accessories. 3337 Rd162 Antwerp, OH p

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

RAIN TECH SEAMLESS GUTTERS, 419-258-1818 30-32

while maintaining appropriate oversight

This bill awaits a committee assignment.

ODOT ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Northwest Ohio/District1 - Weekly traffic impacts Week of August 10, 2026.

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 between Latchaw Drive and Anthony Wayne Boulevard in the city of Defiance closed 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)
- 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 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 over the St. Joseph River, just east of the Indiana state line, is OPEN as of July 30 following a closure for bridge painting.

PAULDING COUNTY:

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

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

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

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U.S. 24 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.

Township Road 33 just south of State Route 500 over Flat Rock Creek closed July 13 for approximately 120 days (Nov. 9) for a bridge replacement. No detour will be posted.

PUTNAM COUNTY:

- State Route 114 and State Route 115 in the village of Kalida may have temporary traffic impacts July 27-Oct. 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 between Road R and Road Q closed July 27 for approximately 60 days to extend two culverts and reconstruct and raise the profile of the roadway. Detour: SR 634 to U.S. 224, back to SR 190

- State Route 694 between State Route 114 and State Route 115 closed July 27 for approximately 27 days for full-width resurfacing. Detour: SR 114 to U.S. 224, back to SR 694

VAN WERT COUNTY:

U.S 30 Restricted Crossing U-turn, U.S. 224, & Lincoln Highway Roundabout, and U.S. 224 bridge rehabilitation project

- U.S. 30/John Brown Road restricted crossing U-turn (RCUT) construction
- U.S. 30 is restricted to one lane in each direction.
- U.S. 30/John Brown Rd access is restricted to right-in/right-out movements only.
- U.S. 224/Lincoln Highway roundabout construction

* The intersection of U.S. 224 and Lincoln Highway closed July 30 for approximately 60 days for construction of a roundabout. Check

back for detour information:
* U.S. 224 detour: U.S. 30 to SR 49, back to U.S. 224
— U.S. 224 bridge rehabilitation construction
— U.S. 224 between U.S. 30 and Lincoln Highway closed July 30 for approximately 120 days for rehabilitation of the bridge over the railroad.
* U.S. 224 detour: U.S. 30 to SR 49, back to U.S. 224

State Route 116/State Route 117 between Venedocia St. Marys Road and Biner Road (between the Allen County line and the Mercer County line) including the State Route 116 overlap will close Tuesday, Aug. 11, for full-width paving.

State Route 697 between the city of Delphos and State Route 116 closed July 27 - Aug. 10 for full-width paving. Access to all properties will

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

be maintained with flaggers. Detour: SR 66 to U.S. 30 to U.S. 127 to SR 116, back to SR 697

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

ANOTHER GORRELL BROS

AUCTION

REAL ESTATE AND LAND AUCTION

PROPERTY & AUCTION LOCATION: 1878 State Route 18 Hicksville, Ohio 43526. Head North on State Route 49, Turn Right onto E High St in Hicksville and then Turn Left onto N Main Street (SR-18) to Auction Location... **Watch for Auction Signs!**

INSPECTION DATES: Wed, August 19 • 5:00–6:00 PM; Sat, August 22 • 10:00 AM–12:00PM; Wed, August 26 • 5:00–6:00 PM

Sat. August 29th, 2026 @ 10AM



PROPERTY DESCRIPTION... Welcome to 1878 State Route 18 Hicksville, Ohio! This property will be offered at public auction, presenting an outstanding opportunity to purchase a home and land in a desirable rural setting in Defiance County.

Parcel No. 1: Consists of approximately 10.184 acres, with the majority of the acreage being productive tillable farmland. The parcel features Glynwood Loam and Blount Loam soils, offers valuable frontage along State Route 18, and includes an established tree line that provides natural character and definition to the property.

Parcel No. 2: Consists of approximately 6.243 acres and is improved with a charming vintage-style two-story farmhouse, originally constructed in 1900 and remodeled in 1965. Offering approximately 1,892 square feet of living space, the home features four bedrooms, one bathroom, a spacious country kitchen, a cellar, natural gas heat, and a large deck/porch. Beautiful original woodwork throughout the home highlights the timeless craftsmanship and character of this classic farmhouse.

Additional improvements include a 16' x 30' detached garage, a 48' x 30' pole building, a 30' x 20' lean-to, and a 30' x 24' outbuilding, providing abundant storage and workspace for a variety of agricultural, hobby, or recreational uses.

The property is further enhanced by a scenic pond and mature shade trees, creating an attractive rural setting with both beauty and functionality.

Parcel No. 3: Consists of approximately 11.466 acres, with the majority of the acreage being productive tillable farmland. The parcel features Glynwood Loam and Blount Loam soils and is enhanced by established tree lines, providing natural boundaries and added privacy.

Real Estate Terms: \$5,000.00 earnest money on each parcel with closing in approximately 35 days. Possession at closing and as the 2026 crops are harvested.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Here is a great opportunity to "Buy Dirt!" All three parcels feature frontage along State Route 18 and offer excellent potential. Attend one of the scheduled open houses or contact our office for additional information or to arrange an inspection. Don't miss this opportunity and come prepared to bid and buy! Visit our website for more pictures and updates! www.gorrellbrothers.com

SELLERS: Terry L Middaugh, et al

AUCTIONEERS: Zach Gorrell, Broker; Kenneth Thomas, Auction Manager; Chris Aufrance, Auctioneer

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BAILEY'S BOOK SIGNING DRAWS RECORD CROWD AT ANTWERP LIBRARY



Community members filled the Antwerp Branch Library Thursday evening to celebrate the release of *The Rings of Saturn: A Game Warden's View of the Universe*, the first book by retired Ohio Wildlife Officer Duane A. Bailey.

The event attracted one of the largest crowds ever for an author program at the library. Library Director Cory Walker attended the signing himself after hearing about the outstanding attendance at previous author events and wanted to see the community response firsthand. He was delighted by the turnout as readers, family, friends, former colleagues, outdoor enthusiasts, and members of the community gathered throughout the evening. Visitors continued to arrive during the event as Bailey shared stories from his more than 32-year career

with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, answered questions from the audience, and signed books.

Among those in attendance were Bailey's wife, Sharon, along with his children, and grandchildren, who came to celebrate the publication of his first book. Their support added a special family atmosphere to an evening that marked the realization of a lifelong dream. Following Bailey's presentation, guests visited with the author, shared stories of their own, and lined up to have books personally signed.

Published by West Bend Printing & Publishing, *The Rings of Saturn* is a collection of true stories spanning Bailey's career in conservation law enforcement. Filled with humor, adventure, and thoughtful reflections, the book offers readers an authen-

tic look at life as a game warden and the many memorable people and situations Bailey encountered while serving northwest Ohio.

The evening also became a celebration of local authorship. Fellow West Bend Printing & Publishing author George Forrest attended the signing, along with several aspiring authors interested in publishing their own books. Guests visited about writing, publishing, and preserving local history and personal experiences, highlighting the growing interest in books written by local authors.

By the end of the evening, nearly all of the books brought for the signing had been sold, making a second printing likely in the near future. Bailey expressed his appreciation to everyone who attended and supported the project, while many visitors remarked how

much they enjoyed hearing the stories behind the book.

West Bend Printing & Publishing extends its appreciation to Cory Walker and the staff of the Antwerp Branch Library for hosting another outstanding author event. The record-setting attendance and enthusiastic community support demonstrated that locally written books continue to resonate with readers and highlighted the growing success of West Bend Printing & Publishing's mission to bring the stories of local authors to life.

WT GROVER HILL ELEMENTARY CLASS LIST 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

TK - MRS. HOVEST:

Dalilah Denny, Vanessa Preamble, Gabriel Selzer, Dallas Stoller, Magnolia Vibbert, Camila Itzel Sandate Mexicano

KA - MRS. MILLER:

Niklaus Critten, Carson Geren, Ethan Gordon, Hudson Greear, James McIntosh, Julianne Moore, Emmalee Motycka, Olivia Parrish, Abbey Proctor, Sabashton Sanchez, Navy Sinn, Taryn Stoller

KB - MISS HAUTER:

Torren Ackerman, Kallie Andrist, Brinlee Bennett, Jellen Kamila Luna Ceron, Avalynn Drew, Brexlyn Gabrio, Indiya Ingol, Chase Keeran, Luke Knuth, Mason Noffsinger, Carsyn Parrett, Aven Rice, Levey Showalter

1A - MRS. SHORT:

Brody Boyer, Bowan Edwards, Kenley Gabrio, Jaxson Kittrell, Jensen Ludwig, Quincy Merriman, Charlotte Miller, Tessa Miller, Miguel Morales, Alexander Rojas Palma, Lydia Reichert, Brooks Ruble, Ronin Span-

PRAYER NIGHT AT DEFIANCE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



On Thursday, July 30th, members of the Defiance Christian Academy board, staff, families, Defiance Christian Church leadership, and community members gathered at the school campus to dedicate the school year to the Lord in prayer.

The group split into smaller groups and walked between the classrooms and office, led by the school staff in guided prayer. Adults and children alike were part of the event.

The evening opened with a meditation from board member, Pastor Sam Andres and a song. The evening ended with a song and a time of fellowship and snacks beside the school playground.

Later in the evening, after the Prayer Night, the board

made a social media announcement that funding has reached the level that families will not need to pay the "bridge fee" while they wait for state funding to come into effect. This makes the school very affordable for all families to enjoy.

Defiance Christian Academy will begin the school year on August 19th and has a principal and 5 teachers on staff for grades K-6. Defiance Christian Academy is still accepting enrollment for the 26/27 school year.

The school will gather in the rear part of Defiance Christian Church, 955 Standley Rd, Defiance. Learn more at DefianceChristianAcademy.com or by calling (419) 770-4874.

gler, Violet Vibbert

1B - MRS. MILLER:

Watson Blume, Hendrix Ebel, Amelia Flint, Kaiden Harris, Huntleigh Hurley, Zeke Ingol, Huxley Miller, Rome Nieto, James Priest, Atticus Stoller, Teagan Stoller, Leelyn Wilcox, Miley Zelin-ski

2A - MRS. STUCKEY:

Ryker Angel, Paislee Bissell, Lillian Bradford, Gabriel Dunderman, Seth Hurd, Iris-Dante Linton, Ryker McGough, Bentley Mihalaki, Hudson Millwood, Shaelyn Plummer, Kashton Sanchez, Evangeline Scott, Bowen Sinn, Presley Treece

2B - MRS. MEAD:

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Dexter Adkins, Rosaleen Burns, Marlie Clutter, Jacob Hartwig, Bryn Hershberger, Alyssa Hicks, Sophie Kessler, Nessa Kline, Landyn Miller, Makenna Miller, Abby Nickols, Clara Porter, Kollin Reichert, Emmett Roberts, Bode Roth, Aden Stoller, Shannel Wright

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