



# OBITUARIES



**ELKHART, IN:**  
**Howard Kent Mawer**, age 84, of Elkhart, IN, formerly of Paulding, OH, passed away on Thursday, August 6, 2026 at The Harmony of Elkhart surrounded by his family.

He was born in Toledo, OH on July 22, 1942 to his late parents Howard and Vera Alice (Pope) Mawer. On July 8, 1989, he married Jacqueline (Bevins) Mawer who survives.

Kent was an entrepreneur at heart, having many businesses over the years, including the Paulding Sears Store in 1970s, Mawer Glass in Paulding in the 1980s and 1990s, followed by being a sales manager for Paragon Glass, formerly Temp-Pace Glass for 21 years, retiring in 2013.

He proudly served his country in the United States Army where he was part of the Berlin Brigade during the Cold War in the 1960s. Kent was a member of the Paulding VFW Post #587. He had an attention to detail in many things and enjoyed fishing, visiting with family, traveling, especially to the mountains, and spending time with his grandchildren.

Kent will be lovingly missed by his wife, Jackie Mawer, children: Steve (Lena) Mawer, Annamaya (Roberto) Acosta, Jon (Monette) Mawer, Tony Bevins, Ruben Branham, and Tyannya Anglemyer; grandchildren: Shawn (Amber) Bevins, James (Katie) Adkins, Roberto A. Acosta, Alexis Branham, J Branham, Shayla Branham, Anastasia Bevins, Logan Bevins, Veronica (Andrew) Ostrander, Seth Mawer, Troy Mawer, Owen Mawer, Emma (Trent) Greene, Hunter Warner; 6 great grandchildren; siblings: Larry Mawer, Mark (Lisa) Mawer, and Marcia (James) Simcox.

He was preceded in death by a son, Johnny Ray Branham.

Funeral service was 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 14, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, OH with Pastor Bud Larimore officiating. Burial followed in St. Paul Cemetery, Paulding Township where military rites were accorded by the Paulding VFW Post #587.

Visitation was from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made in Kent's memory to Elara Hospice.

Online condolences may be shared at [www.denherderfh.com](http://www.denherderfh.com).



**PAULDING, OH:**  
**Helen "Kay" Doster**, 87, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at Van Crest Nursing Home in Payne, Ohio surrounded by her family.

Helen was born on May 7, 1939 to Mary Elizabeth "Betty" and Edward Tinlin, both of whom preceded her in death. On August 13, 1955, she married Dennis Lee Doster, who preceded her in death on Sept 14, 2025.

Kay attended Blue Creek High School. She was a homemaker and took wonderful care of her family. She loved to cook, garden, and listen to her music. Kay had a deep love for her family. Her greatest joy came from watching her children and grandchildren in events. She rarely missed and was always their biggest fan. Throughout her life, she enjoyed traveling. One of her annual destinations was Nashville, TN. She and her husband, Dennis, enjoyed traveling with her brother-in-law, sister-in-law and friends. One of the highlights of her life was her trip to Hawaii.

She is survived by her four children: Jean (George) Porter of Paulding, Kimberly Pitser of Antwerp, Dennis "Denny" (Kimberly) Doster of Paulding, and Dawn (Joey) Meza of Santa Rosa, FL; nine grandchildren: Michelle (Shane) Sidle, Eric (Jessica) Armstrong, Ashley (Bill) Kindle, Melissa Scott, Logan (Danielle) Doster, Cameron Doster, Sean (Melissa), Jared, and Brandon Meza; and twelve great-grandchildren: Jacob Sidle, Delaney and Devin Scott, Dylan, Corbyn, and Elizabeth Armstrong, Liam and Charlotte Kindle, Chloe and Jackson Doster, Andrew and Aaron Meza. She is also survived by his sister-in-law, Margaret Williamson.

Kay was preceded in death by an infant son, Gary Allen.

Funeral service will be held at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, August 15, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Hedges Cemetery, Jackson Township, OH.

Visitation will be from 11:00 A.M. until time of services on Saturday at the funeral home.

The family requests no flowers or funeral memorabilia. Please direct any contributions in Kay's memory to Vancrest of Payne Activity Fund.

Online condolences may be shared at [www.denherderfh.com](http://www.denherderfh.com).

## FOUR PARKVIEW HOSPITALS RECOGNIZED BY AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION FOR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENT STROKE CARE

Four Parkview Hospitals were recently recognized for dedication to excellent stroke care through the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® program.

Parkview Regional Medical Center (PRMC), Parkview Hospital Randallia, Parkview Kosciusko Hospital and Parkview Whitley Hospital all received Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Gold Plus ratings, the highest award level, this year. Parkview Kosciusko and Whitley hospitals also both earned the Get With The Guidelines - Rural Stroke Gold award, with Kosciusko improving from a Silver Plus rating last year.

The Get With The Guidelines quality achievement awards recognize hospitals' commitment to ensuring people experiencing stroke receive timely, appropriate treatment based on nationally recognized, research-based guidelines, ultimately helping to save lives and reduce disability.

"Time is critical for a patient experiencing a stroke, so getting the right intervention at the right time is key to achieving the best outcomes and a smoother recovery," said Dr. Shamir Haji, neuroscience service line director, Parkview Health. "This recognition reflects the commitment of our physicians, nurses, EMS partners, and support teams to deliver rapid stroke evaluation, treatment, and coordination of care. When every minute counts, it is critical that high-quality stroke care remains available close to home for the communities we serve."

Stroke is the No. 4 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the U.S, according to the American Heart Association's 2026 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics Report. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel supplying the brain is blocked by a clot or ruptures, preventing blood and oxygen from reaching brain tissue. When this happens, brain cells begin to die. Early detection and rapid treatment are critical to improving survival, minimizing disability and supporting faster recovery.

Each year, participating hospitals qualify for the award by demonstrating how their organization has committed to providing quality stroke care. In addition to following clinical treatment guidelines, Get With The Guidelines participants also provide education to help people manage their recovery and ongoing health at home.

PRMC was recognized with the Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite status and the Target: Stroke Advanced Therapy award - representing the highest level of performance nationally - while Randallia, Kosciusko and Whitley each received Target: Stroke Honor Roll designations. All four hospitals also received the Target: Type 2 Diabetes™ Honor Roll designation this year.

The Target: Stroke awards received by PRMC are given to hospitals reaching the highest level of performance to reduce the time between an eligible patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment to remove the clot causing the stroke. To qualify, hospitals must

demonstrate their ability to provide clot-busting thrombolysis treatment to more than 50% of patients within 30 minutes and more than 75% within 45 minutes and ability to beat time targets for thrombectomy procedures for both direct arrival and transfer patients.

To qualify for the Target: Stroke Honor Roll, hospitals must meet specific criteria that reduce the time between an eligible patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment with thrombolytic therapy.

And the Target: Type 2 Diabetes recognition aims to ensure patients with Type 2 diabetes, who might be at higher risk for complications, receive the most up-to-date, evidence-based care when hospitalized due to stroke.

Parkview not only provides high-quality stroke care in emergency situations but also preventative procedures such as being the only provider in the region conducting transcarotid artery revascularization surgery (TCAR). The innovative surgical procedure can greatly reduce the risk of stroke for patients diagnosed with carotid artery disease, a contributing cause in about one third of strokes in the U.S.

About Get With The Guidelines®

Get With The Guidelines® is the American Heart Association's hospital-based quality improvement program that provides hospitals with the latest research-based guidelines. Developed with the goal of saving lives and hastening recovery, Get With The Guidelines has touched the lives of more than 18 million patients since 2001. For more information, visit [heart.org](http://heart.org).

## WESTERN BUCKEYE ESC INTRODUCES NEW WORKFORCE NAVIGATOR

The Paulding County Business Advisory Council (BAC) Steering Committee recently convened its regular meeting, bringing together school leaders, business representatives, and community partners to deepen collaboration around workforce development. The meeting opened with Western Buckeye Educational Service Center (WBESC) Superintendent Christy McClurg introducing Christine Grothaus as the new Workforce Navigator. Grothaus was hired following a \$100,000 grant award from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. The navigator position will assist schools and employers with job-shadowing coordination and related career-connected programs throughout Paulding and Van Wert Counties.

Council members also discussed Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings for the 2026-2027 school year and the opportunities being developed within each county school district.

PCED staff shared that they will soon begin high school visits with county seniors to discuss their future plans and collect senior shirt sizes. This year's #Paulding-CountyStrong t-shirts will again be created in each school's colors and will be sponsored by Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative, with their logo embossed on the shirts.

The county school districts then provided updates on current workforce development initiatives:

## Scripture of the Week

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God.'"

— Revelation 3:14,20

## THE HIGH COST OF LOW LIVING



1 Corinthians 10:23 (Berean Standard Bible): "All things are permissible, but not all things are beneficial. All things are permissible, but not all things edify."

From a Christian standpoint, the phrase "There's a high cost to low living" can be interpreted as a reflection on the consequences of choosing to live beneath the values and standards set forth in the bible.

Living a life contrary to Biblical teachings—engaging in sinful behaviors, forsaking moral integrity, or neglecting one's spiritual growth—can lead to significant repercussions. This may manifest as a sense of emptiness, guilt, or distance from God. The "cost" is the loss of peace, joy, and fulfillment.

Low living often affects personal relationships. Disre-

garding Christian values can lead to broken relationships, damaged trust, and a lack of true happiness.

Living low may lead to missed opportunities to serve God, fulfill one's purpose, and ultimately have a less meaningful impact on your eternal life. Short-term pleasures can lead to long-term spiritual losses.

We have a call to Higher Living because we seek higher grounds and rewards. We seek eternity with Christ in heaven. Christians are called to live with purpose, embodying values such as love, compassion, and righteousness. While there may be temptations to engage in sin and low living, the cost is the loss of a life filled with God's presence and guidance.

I encourage you to reflect on your life choices and make decisions that bring good rewards; there are consequences to every choice. Consequences that lead to either a high life or a miserable low life here and in eternity.

This scripture serves as a guiding principle for decision-making in the Christian life. It invites believers to think critically about their choices, asking whether those choices promote spiritual growth and well-being or self-destruction and death. You choose, but choose wisely. God bless you.

Peace & Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

• Antwerp Local Schools: Curriculum Advisor Elyse Boyer announced the addition of new agriculture teacher Bailey March and highlighted their "Lead the Way" program.

• Paulding Exempted Village Schools: New high school principal Hunger Bosen introduced himself and shared progress on the welding program, which will now be offered during the school day, along with construction training taking place at the Paulding County

Opportunity Center.

• Wayne Trace Local Schools: Curriculum Advisor Tim Manz updated the council on the new 6,400-square-foot STEAM building project expected to be completed over Christmas break. The facility will provide space for engineering design, printmaking, and other hands-on learning programs.

College representatives from Bowling Green State University, Northwest State Custom Training Solutions,

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to approximately 300 engaged members and helped develop future volunteers, community advocates and nonprofit leaders.

As she begins her work with the Paulding Area Chamber, Rosebrook says her first priority will be listening and learning. She plans to spend time visiting businesses throughout Paulding County, meeting Chamber members and community partners, and learning more about the opportunities and challenges facing the local business community.

Rosebrook holds a Bachelor of Science in Business

with a concentration in Marketing from Miami University.

The Chamber looks forward to introducing Jen throughout the community in the coming weeks and continuing its work to connect, support and promote businesses across Paulding County.

About the Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce

The Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce works to connect, represent and promote the local business community while building relationships and partnerships that contribute to a strong and vibrant Paulding County.

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## THE M&M'S AND ME

### Penny For Your Thoughts

By: Nancy Whitaker

I admit it, I am a chocolate lover. If there is any chocolate in the house, I will usually eat it all. I remember some of the old candies that aren't around anymore.

It was always fun to go into the dime store and look at their different candy and nuts. Today, chocolate has went up in price and what used to be a nickel candy bar is selling for close to \$2.

There is a candy that has been around since 1941. That is M and M's and they have upgraded thru the years and offer a wide variety of those little red, blue, green, yellow and brown candies.

You know they say "They melt in your mouth not in your hand."

Two men, Forest Mar, son of Frank Mar (another candy man) and Bruce Murrie (who was the son of a Hershey's executive, noticed soldiers eating hard pieces of chocolate in WW2. Putting their heads together, they made a candy coating to go over the chocolate to prevent it from getting hard. This was in 1941 and the M&M candy was sent over seas to the military.

Following WW2 M&M's were sold in the United States and became a candy that has been around and still being produced.

M&M has ventured into different flavors which includes the peanut butter ones, mint, caramel and the M&M nuts.

I recently got some of the peanut butter ones, in fact a big bag. They were so delicious that I ate 3 bags in a

week (and gained 4 pounds)

M&M's also makes engraved candies and I would love to get some for family and friends. The chocolate company also does wedding M&M's, sells in bulk, and their flavors makes everyone want to eat M&M's.

What I think would be fun is to use the different colors to represent something. Such as yellow reminds me of sunshine, red could represent love, blue is like the ocean and the green ones? It was told to me that eating green M&M's is



like an aphrodisiac.

In the year 2000, M&M's decided they were to be the candy of the millennium.

Since M&M printed on the candy meant 2000. A 'choose the color' contest was also held and included the whole world. Votes were counted and the winning color at that time was purple.

Now some friends of mine love M&M peanuts. They keep a big bowl out all the time. We have discussed getting together and playing poker for M and M's.

And yes, if that candy company needs a candy taster I am available. (Bryce and Angel) may miss me a little bit.

Do you love chocolate? Do you ever use M and M's in your baking? Are you going to eat all of the red ones or those green ones? Let me know and I may give you a red M and M for your thoughts. On second thought I will just give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

tial for long-term success. The meeting will be held on September 9 at 12:00 p.m. at the Paulding Eagles, where lunch will be provided.

### HUSTED, GOP COLLEAGUES LEAD EFFORT TO REJECT RADICAL CALIFORNIA VEHICLE STANDARDS

WASHINGTON - Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio) joined Sens. Pete Ricketts (R-Neb.), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.) and Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.) in introducing multiple Congressional Review Act resolutions to overturn regulations that limits consumer choice and increases vehicle prices.

Husted is leading a resolution to overturn a Biden administration waiver that allows California to require other states to adopt its Advanced Clean Cars II standards, including stricter greenhouse gas emissions requirements and a phaseout of new gas-powered vehicle sales.

"Ohioans shouldn't be forced to follow California's lead when it comes to policies that make everyday life more expensive and less convenient. These resolutions are part of our work to make life more affordable for working families, restore common sense, cut unnecessary red tape and put consumers back in control. I'm proud to support this effort to lower costs and protect consumer choice," said Husted.

"California's climate zealots have run roughshod over the rest of the country for too long. Under Governor Newsom, Sacramento has decided it can dictate what Wyoming families drive and what equipment our small businesses use. That ends today. I'm proud to lead this fight to reclaim Congress's authority and stop California from legislating for the entire nation," said Lummis.

"Biden's overregulation and red tape regime cost Nebraskans millions of dollars. They used California policies as a backdoor EV mandate and even tried to control how we cut our grass. I am proud to lead the effort to overturn these restrictions and restore commonsense. I will continue to fight for policies that empower our families, farmers, and ranchers," said Ricketts.

"California's burdensome emissions requirements continue to punish American manufacturers, reduce consumer choice, and raise prices for American families. One state should not have the

power to set national policy and dictate what products Americans use far beyond its borders. Overturning these climate alarmist rules will not only restore common sense, but also prevent a future administration from attempting to grant similar waivers. I'm proud to lead the Congressional Review Act resolution to repeal the EPA-California State Motor Vehicle Control Standards Waiver and join Senators Ricketts, Husted, and Lummis in our effort to help make life more affordable for American families," said Schmitt.

"Ohio's franchised auto dealers commend Sen. Husted for introducing this important pro-consumer legislation. California's unnecessary fuel economy regulations have increased vehicle costs while decreasing vehicle choice. Congress, not an unaccountable California board, is the only body that should set national fuel economy regulations," said Zach Doran, President, Ohio Auto Dealers Association.

"For over a decade, California has tried to abuse the Clean Air Act waiver process to set national policy that Congress never approved, unilaterally deciding what cars Americans can buy and what equipment they can own in their own garages. These four CRAs, led by Senators Ricketts, Husted, Schmitt, and Lummis, undo that end-run and restore a single national standard set by Congress instead of CARB regulators. We urge the full Senate to pass all four and give American consumers back the final say over the vehicles and equipment they choose. Affordability should be top-of-mind for Congress into the fall," said Brent Gardner, Chief Government Affairs Officer, Americans for Prosperity.

"Affordability is the number one issue for Latinos and Americans, and it should be top-of-mind issue for Congress. For years, California has leveraged the Clean Air Act waiver process to set burdensome regulations on everything from vehicles, gas-powered equipment, and other products. The four Congressional Review Act resolutions led by Senators Ricketts, Husted, Schmitt, and Lummis restore Congressional oversight of this process. And we urge the Senate to pass all four to give American consumers the

(Continued from Page 1)

"I was drawn to this role at Caring & Sharing because it gives me an opportunity to use my background and skills to make a community impact in my home town," she said.

Dan Bulau, board president added, "We're thrilled to be able to add an executive director to our team. The number of neighbors we serve at the pantry has increased significantly every year since 2021, and we are seeing additional opportunities to reach even more people. Ashley's skills are well suited to help us do that."

For more information about Caring & Sharing, follow the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry on Facebook at www.facebook.com/caring-sharingfoodpantry. Or for more information, visit www.caresharepantry.org, call (419) 399-9562 or email to info@caresharepantry.org.

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 An Interesting Letter

Corporal Royce E. Smith wrote the following to his parents Mr. And Mrs. Altie Smith, Broughton, Ohio.

Dear Folks, With all the turmoil and excitement, I have finally found a little time this morning to send a line.

You probably read of the terrific artillery barrage laid down preceding the attack on D-Day. I had a ringside seat. I've been reading all those places you have been reading about in the papers. You can't imagine how completely demolished these places are after they have underwent these terrific bombardments. Rubble is certainly an adequate term.

I have either found or had in possession a lot of things you would prize highly as souvenirs.

Some of the German equipment shows great ingenuity.

flexibility they deserve when purchasing goods," said Sandra Benitez, Executive Director, The LIBRE Initiative.

Husted is also co-leading three additional resolutions that would:

- Overturn a waiver allowing California to impose vehicle emissions standards that are stricter than federal requirements, accelerating a nationwide shift toward electric vehicles.

- Reverse a rule imposing costly emissions requirements on small off-road engines, protecting small businesses, landscapers and homeowners from being forced to purchase expensive and impractical electric lawn

For instance, they have a flexible cleaning rod. I have one and using it. That is an improvement over our steel rod, since ours is more difficult to carry. When you move so rapidly, it is your advantage to carry as little as possible.

There is a story behind the story on mines but I suppose that will have to wait until the war is won, to be told.

Can you picture me escorting those Nazi supermen? I've had some odd experiences in doing just that. The Germans are quite docile when they are stripped of their armament. They still maintain their military discipline however, and their obedience to commands is really something to observe. When they snap to attention they literally freeze. These visible evidences of their severe training and discipline bears out the many articles I've read. Articles which stress that the German is fanatically imbued with Nazi doctrines and military creeds.

However, it is difficult for most of us to condemn the German just because he is our enemy, because we know that without the evil leadership, these men would probably be simple peace loving citizens living a normal happy life in their own country. Nevertheless it is quite evident that their beliefs are firmly rooted in their minds and it is going to be quite a problem even after the war expires.

Until Next Time, stay tuned to the rest of story next week!

and garden equipment.

- Overturn a waiver allowing California to enforce stricter greenhouse gas emissions standards for heavy-duty vehicles, reducing unnecessary costs for manufacturers and helping keep vehicles more affordable for consumers.

These resolutions build on Husted's work to lower costs for American families. Last year Husted's Congressional Review Act resolution was signed into law, overturning a Biden-era energy regulation that imposed burdensome energy efficiency standards on a wide range of household and commercial appliances.

## 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

(Continued from Page 2)

and Northwest State Community College (NSCC) reported on their upcoming school-year plans. Jon Tomlinson, Dean of Students at the NSCC Van Wert campus, shared that more than 80 students are already enrolled for this first ever fall semester, with a goal of 100 students.

Business representatives from Judge Harvey Hyman's office, Baughman Tile,

Paulding County Hospital, Midwest Community Credit Union, Rockhold Consulting, and the offices of Ohio Senator Rob McColley and Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted shared updates on increased activity and workforce needs across the county.

The council remains focused on expanding career-ready opportunities and equipping Paulding County students with the skills and experiences essen-

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# NEW PAULDING EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS TEACHERS FOR 2026



New teachers at Paulding Exempted Village Schools are pictured above (l-r): Christine Spencer – Oakwood Elementary School Intervention Specialist; Alyssa Taylor – Paulding JH Intervention Specialist; Sydney Kill – Paulding JH/HS Ag Education; Jessica Riggs – Paulding 7th Grade Writing; Megan Hahn – Paulding 8th Grade Social Studies; Brady Karzynow – Paulding Elemenary School 4th Grade; Andrew Hoeffel – Paulding HS Social Studies; and Tyler Hines – Paulding JH Intervention Specialist.

## BIOCHAR SOIL BENEFITS

Biochar is a fine-grained, porous, charcoal-like substance produced by heating organic plant or animal matter (biomass) in a zero- or low-oxygen environment. This chemical decomposition process is called pyrolysis. Unlike regular charcoal, which is primarily produced to be burned as fuel; biochar is created for agricultural enhancement and long-term carbon storage.

Biochar is made from wood chips, crop residues (like corn cobs), forestry waste, and animal manure. The biomass is sealed inside a container and heated to high temperatures, usually between 750°F and 1300°F. Because oxygen is absent, the material cannot catch fire or turn to ash. Instead, it breaks down into energy-rich gases and a highly stable, solid carbon structure.

Biochar is great for enhancing soil. The microscopic, sponge-like structure of biochar acts as a physical filter that catches and holds moisture in the soil. For nutrient storage, biochar prevents fertilizer runoff by trapping essential minerals and makes them readily plant available to roots.

The tiny pores provide a safe shelter for beneficial soil microbes and fungi to thrive. Biochar is generally alkaline (similar to lime), which helps neutralize overly acidic soils.

Biochar improves soil

health by enhancing its physical structure, retaining water and nutrients, and fostering a thriving microbial ecosystem. Because biochar is incredibly porous and stable, it does not decompose quickly like traditional soil organic matter, providing benefits that can last for centuries.

Making biochar is a practice that is thousands of years old. Ancient communities in the Amazon Basin mixed charcoal, organic waste, and bones into the nutrient-poor rainforest soil. This created exceptionally fertile patches of dark earth known as Terra Preta ("black earth"), which remain highly productive to this day.

Biochar may significantly improve corn and soybean soil health, nutrient efficiency, and crop performance, especially when fields consist of sandy, acidic, or low-organic-matter soils.

Biochar acts like a sponge to increase soil water-holding capacity and porosity. Its high Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) holds onto vital positive cations (iron, zinc, potassium, manganese, copper, nickel,) that are plant-available nutrients. Biochar also traps nitrogen and phosphorus in the rooting zone and maximizes the use of applied fertilizer. Biochar also raises the pH of highly acidic (low pH soils) to promote optimal growing conditions.

Direct benefits for corn include synergistic growth with yields jump up to 14-35%

(15.7% average) when biochar is applied alongside standard fertilizers. Biochar allows farmers to sustainably harvest 50% of corn stover without losing soil organic matter. Biochar accelerates structural root growth and deep biomass expansion.

Direct benefits for soybeans include greater shoot nitrogen concentration and overall protein accumulation. Biochar suppresses soybean pathogens and modifies the rhizosphere (root zone) microbial communities to naturally battle root rot and sudden death syndrome. Biochar also absorbs and neutralizes leftover atrazine toxicity in the soil profile.

Some vegetable growers are using biochar to improve production. Continuous cultivation and tillage of the same vegetable crop can gradually damage soil health, increase disease pressure and reduce yields. Biochar helps address these challenges in solanaceous vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and potatoes. Problems may include nutrient imbalances, deteriorating soil structure, the accumulation of toxic root-secreted compounds and changes in microbial communities that favor soil-borne pathogens. These problems reduce crop yields.

Biochar may improve water retention, soil aggregation, organic matter levels, pH and nutrient availability. These changes can create a healthier rhizosphere, the narrow zone of soil surrounding plant roots where important plant-microbe interactions occur. Biochar may also help reduce the effects of harmful compounds released by plant roots which interfere with root growth and plant development. Biochar can adsorb or support the degradation of these compounds, potentially reducing their harmful effects.

Continuous cropping can reduce populations of beneficial bacteria while encouraging pathogenic fungi. Biochar may provide habitat and nutrients for beneficial microorganisms, improve the balance between bacteria and fungi and suppress some soil-borne pathogens. Studies using biochar show stronger plant growth, higher yields and lower disease incidence in several solanaceous vegetable production systems following

biochar application. Biochar does not simply add nutrients. It can improve soil structure, influence microbial communities, and reduce the build-up of harmful chemicals. This makes it a promising tool for sustainable vegetable production.

Biochar effectiveness depends on the biomass used to produce it, pyrolysis temperature, application rate, soil conditions and vegetable species. Excessive or poorly selected applications could increase salinity (increase soil salt content), alter soil porosity or create nutrient imbalances. Biochar should help vegetable growers maintain soil productivity, reduce disease pressure and limit reliance on more chemically intensive soil treatments. Overall, biochar is a natural soil health amendment that improves crop growing conditions, helps with erosion control, and long-term carbon storage.

—James J. Hoorman  
Hoorman Soil Health Services

## PAULDING COUNCIL HEARS CONCERNS OVER LAFOUNTAIN PARK, DISCUSSES UTV ORDINANCE

PAULDING — Concerns over the condition of LaFountain Park, continued progress on the village’s water meter replacement project and discussion of a possible ordinance allowing UTVs in the village were among the topics before Paulding Village Council during its June 8 meeting.

Several residents attended the meeting in person and by Zoom to discuss Paulding’s parks, with particular concern expressed over deterioration at LaFountain Park. Staci Manette, Nichole Den Herder and Kara Relyea discussed the condition of the park and asked what the village could do to make improvements.

Village Administrator Jason Vance explained that money generated by the village levy goes directly to the pool fund and is used by the pool. As a result, general fund money must be used for maintenance of the village parks. Vance noted that more than \$40,000 had been spent on repairs at Reservoir Park during the past year.

Residents discussed the possibility of reestablishing a parks committee, although Vance suggested that a “friends of the park” organization might be a better fit. He said volunteers and fundraising will be needed to help replace playground equipment, improve landscaping at LaFountain Park and address repairs and maintenance throughout the village park system.

Vance said he would be willing to meet with residents to discuss ideas and renderings for improvements at LaFountain Park.

Andrea Schlueter, who participated through Zoom, asked whether the village would be interested in assistance with writing grant applications for park improvements. Julie Anna Densmore, representing Friends of the Paulding Park District, said the organization is a 501(c)(3) and would be interested in helping the village with its parks.

Vance also updated council on the village’s water meter upgrade project. A total of 727 new meters had been in-

## SHORT PEOPLE



I enjoy Nancy’s writing. When you write you feel like you are exposing your soul. You put it out there for everyone to see and it never goes away. If you tell somebody something there is no way of proving what you said without witnesses.

“Short people got no reason to

“Short people got no reason

“To live.”

This was a song which was popular in the 70s. I have always felt self-conscious because I’ve always been big. I reached my growth early and I was always the tallest person in our class. I remember a fifth grade teacher told me that I was big and clumsy. I think when you’re big you tend to wish you were smaller.

This fits into the category that we all have different talents, we all have different size bodies. And no two of us are the same in any way. In the hospital I feel sorry for the little nurses that have to handle a big person.

“They got little hands, and little eyes

“Little noses, and little feet

“You got to pick them up just to say hello

“Don't want no short people around here.”

I wish God hadn’t made me with a desire to write. I would stop if I could.

It is the most fun thing for me to sit down when I am free and just write something. I am excited about West Bend having a bookstore. I have a few copies left of two books, but I would like to work with West Bend on a third which has already been written.

I would like to give one more shout out. For some time I have thought about building a ramp to my front porch. We have four steps. Suddenly one appears at my neighbor’s house. A volunteer group that works in conjunction with Habitat For Humanity was responsible. I finally find who to contact and in a couple weeks I have a ramp.

Seven volunteers came and after 6½ hours I have a ramp which is the highest quality. Seems this is all they do and did; they work hard. I felt somewhat sorry for older people to work that hard. I think many of us has lost this desire. A major obstacle was a huge Silver Maple in the front yard but they worked a miracle.

—James Neuhouser

stalled, representing approximately 42% of the project. Another 333 meters were scheduled for installation, with 671 remaining to be completed.

Council unanimously approved Resolution 1456-26, authorizing a contract for village solicitor and declaring an emergency.

During council comments, Dave Burtch distributed information about the Paulding Summer Blast scheduled for July 10-11. The two-day event is part of the 250-year celebration and is expected to include a Friday night parade and fireworks, food trucks and a performance by the high school band on the courthouse lawn.

Burtch also revisited concerns about building maintenance, including fire-related issues in buildings and restaurants, and stressed the need for the village to take action.

Vance raised the possibility of having a zoning inspector

who could enforce village ordinances, prompting council discussion about how such a position could be implemented.

Council also discussed UTV use within the village. Councilman Greg Reinhart noted that allowing UTVs would give the village the ability to cite operators for traffic violations. An ordinance meeting was scheduled for June 17 to discuss a possible UTV ordinance.

Council approved payment of the bills and accepted the financial reports as presented.

Mayor Greg White presided over the meeting. Council members Barb Rife, Lois Beamer, Greg Reinhart, Dave Burtch, Tim Boss and Dan Workman were present. Finance Director Cheryl Halter and Solicitor Andrew Kueve were absent.

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

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

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As we wrap up another 127 Yard Sale, the epic task would not be complete without a deluge of "thank yous" to various contributors who participated on behalf of the local Caring & Sharing Food Pantry. As of August 10, we had raised just over \$5,000, pretty close to last year's record. We're still waiting on the final few drops to dribble

in for a final total, but we're close once again to a new record.

First off, the dozen or so Food Pantry volunteers who loaded and sorted (sometimes very dirty and/or heavy) donations, who manned the stalls and kept the items sorted over four days, who donated fresh baked goods and jams (we have a repeat customer from Maine who comes just for the jam), and who sacrificed so much time over the last month when it was obvious a lot of them had many, many other community and familial obligations this summer.

The First Presbyterian Church. Who lets us take over its fellowship hall, hallways, garages, parking lots, bathrooms and kitchen for about a month. We make a pretty good mess, and often at least something belonging to the church gets accidentally sold (this year, it was the snow shovels).

Our booth space renters. They give us \$25 to rent space. A few do it every year (say, Holly and Suzie). 'Nuff said. They're awesome. You should do it next year.

Our media partners, especially The Paulding Progress and West Bend News. We promote the sale heavily online, but we are blessed to have community businesses give us so visible a push.

The community itself. There were so many donations this year, and our high sales total is a testament not only to the quantity but to the quality of the donated items. A couple local businessmen in particular donated some fantastic and

valuable items to our freewill sale. Each year, we debate about whether or not to sell clothes (as we usually have a lot left over), but each year, the number of those in need of not just food support grows, but also every other basic need. Many families will scoop up baskets and boxes of clothes, and we are happy that we can also provide this kind of assistance to those who have hit a rough patch. This kind of need is the new normal, and we are proud to be able to help out where we can. This sale could not happen without you, the person who is reading this right now. So, thanks.

And finally, co-conspirator and co-coordinator, Carol Razo. This would be impossible without her. No, really, impossible. She is already deeply involved in so many community activities and obligations... I'll just put it this way: I'm not getting up at 4 am to prep for the yard sale or trying to convince my husband (if I had one) to make four trips in a day to carry off the leftovers to Defiance. Crazy dedicated and wicked kind. At least Goodwill is coming to pick up our stuff this year.

Thank you all once again for all your support. There are many who still do not know about the resources available through the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry, and the members are eager to make known what they can do for you. Already this year, they've served almost twice the number of new families as in 2025. You can contact them at 318 N Walnut St, Paulding, OH and at (419) 399-9562.

—Brent Fishbaugh  
Caring & Sharing 127  
Yard Sale Coordinator

## PAULDING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES 7/21/26

This 21st day of July, 2026, the Board of County Commissioners met in special session via teleconference with Van Wert County with the following members present:

Mike Weible, Lisa McClure, and Heather Barnhouse, Clerk  
Absent: Mark Holtsberry

IN THE MATTER OF MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS FOR THE DUPLICATE YEAR 2026, COLLECTED IN 2027, ON JOINT DITCHES WITH VAN WERT COUNTY, ORC 6137.03

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PAULDING COUNTY – Mike Weible, Mark Holtsberry (absent), Lisa McClure  
VAN WERT COUNTY – Thad Lichtensteiger, Stan Owens, Todd Wolfrum

Ms. Lisa McClure moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Stacy Clemens, Paulding County SWCD Ditch Maintenance, has submitted the proposed maintenance collections for the 2026 duplicates with Paulding and Van Wert Counties, information sheets attached, and should be placed on the 2026 tax duplicate, to be collected in 2027, for maintenance; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Joint Board of County Commissioners of Paulding and Van Wert Counties, that in order to provide such maintenance funds, it is deemed necessary to run the attached listed ditches on the 2026 tax duplicate, to be collected in 2027, for collection for one (1) year only, at the percentage and the amount provided based on the benefits, and that the same be and is hereby levied upon such benefited areas as aforesaid, all in accordance with the provisions of Section 6137.03 of the Revised Code of Ohio; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Auditors of Paulding and Van Wert Counties are hereby ordered and directed to place such ditch maintenance assessments on the 2026 tax duplicate, to be collected in 2027, of the respective counties; and be it further

RESOLVED, that it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were so adopted in an open meeting via telephone conference of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

## Meeting Notes of Apointments:

— Joint Ditch Maintenance Assessment teleconference meeting with Van Wert County (see resolutions above)

## BUILDING YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION FUND, ONE BRICK AT A TIME

Every solid house starts with a good blueprint and a strong foundation. Saving for a child's education is very similar.

College costs can seem daunting. In addition to tuition, you'll need to account for housing and food, books and supplies, transportation and other expenses. The average annual budget at an in-state public university runs around \$30,990 today, and a private school is \$65,470 according to the College Board. While most families won't pay a college's list price, you'll still want to start saving as early as possible to be ready when your child is.

Lay the foundation early. You don't have to wait until you have the perfect set of plans to start building. There are specific accounts designed to save for education and some do not require a minimum opening deposit. Setting up automatic recurring contributions, even modest ones, lets you build steadily over time without requiring constant attention.

As your child ages, look for ways to redirect expenses you no longer have towards the build. For example, daycare costs, which can exceed \$1,000 a month, can be shifted into a college savings account once your child enters school. Tax refunds and annual bonuses make excellent additional contributions. And others can pitch in – instead of birthday or holiday toys, ask grandparents or relatives to contribute directly to a college savings account.

Know the size of the house you're building. Families saving for community college followed by two years at a public university might target around \$65,000. Those aiming for four years at a public school are looking at roughly \$100,000. Whatever the goal, plan for education inflation of about 4% annually, which can roughly double costs over 18 years.

You don't have to source all the building materials yourself. Scholarships, grants, student loans and income from part-time work are all legitimate ways to

help finish the structure. Don't let one project consume the whole budget. One risk for parents is pouring so much into the college fund that the retirement fund goes neglected. Remember, loans and grants exist for college, but not for retirement. Striking the right balance may mean targeting a more affordable school, planning to cover only a portion of costs or adjusting retirement timelines slightly.

Choose the right building materials. For many families, a 529 plan is the right foundation. Earnings grow tax-free, distributions are federally tax-free when used for qualified education expenses, and many states offer additional income tax deductions for contributions. Even better, anyone – such as grandparents or friends – can contribute.

Additionally, qualified expenses for a 529 plan go beyond tuition and cover books, computers, internet access, room and board, and more. Vocational and trade schools often qualify, too, opening the door to careers in skilled trades, healthcare and technology.

No contractor builds alone. A knowledgeable financial advisor can help you draw up a realistic blueprint and make sure the college project doesn't crowd out the rest of your financial future. The earlier you break ground on that conversation, the stronger the structure will be.

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

## READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

### OHIO LOCATIONS

**Antwerp:** Antwerp Library, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Antwerp Manor, Dollar General, Family Dollar, G-Mart, Genesis House, H2O Water Store, 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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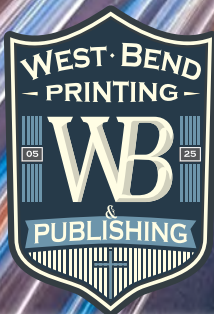
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## THREE INTERSECTIONS TO BE CONVERTED TO ALL-WAY STOP IN NORTHWEST OHIO



Over the next two months, three intersections across ODOT District 1 will be converted to all-way stops in a statewide effort to reduce serious injuries and fatal crashes.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) District 1 will convert three intersections to all-way stops to improve safety.

The changes, expected to begin in two weeks, is part of a statewide initiative that is implementing all-way stops at select intersections throughout Ohio.

The locations selected for conversion are where crash data found the most common type of crash was the result of a failure to stop or a failure to yield to cross-traffic that was not required to stop.

"Following the successful implementation of all-way stops at eight intersections in the spring, initial results are encouraging and well-received by local communities," said Chris Hughes, ODOT District 1 deputy director. "As we evaluate other intersections with low crash rates, but concerning safety trends, we are pleased to have this low-cost tool available where it is needed most."

The work will take place over the next two months; the locations and expected timing of the closures are detailed below:

**AUGUST 24:**  
Mercer County - State Route 119 (Defiance Avenue)/State Route 716 (Harrison Street), village of Maria Stein

**AUGUST 31:**  
Mercer County - State Route 118/State Route 707

**SEPTEMBER 7:**  
Paulding County - State Route 637/County Road 138  
Message boards to alert drivers of the changes will be placed approximately two weeks prior and remain on

site for approximately two weeks after the change to remind motorists of the new traffic pattern. All approaches of the intersections will be equipped with flashing stop-ahead signs.

ODOT will continue to monitor the intersections to ensure the all-way stop is operating as intended.

Throughout Ohio, ODOT is reviewing intersections to determine where all-way stops could make travel safer. The solution has been found to improve intersection safety in other states. Since 2018, the state of North Carolina converted over 500 intersections from a typical two-way to all-way stop control. Their analysis of 348 of these locations showed a 100% reduction in fatal crashes and 95% reduction in serious injury crashes. Similar results were also seen in the state of Delaware.

### PAULDING GOLFERS SPLIT PAIR OF MATCHES, DAEGER LEADS PANTHERS

The Paulding boys golf team picked up a victory and a runner-up finish in a pair of matches over the past week, with Jack Daeger leading the Panthers in both outings.

On Monday, August 10, Paulding traveled to Hickory Sticks Golf Course for a three-team match with Lincolnview and Crestview. Lincolnview narrowly took the team victory with a 166, followed by Paulding at 168 and Crestview at 198. Daeger earned medalist honors for the Panthers, firing a 38 over the nine-hole round.

Gannon Parrett followed

with a 46 for Paulding, while Tyler Goyings and Tim Font III each carded a 42. Cameron Williams finished with a 47 and Sawyer Hunt shot a 48. The Panthers' four scoring rounds combined for the 168 team total.

Three days later, on August 13th Paulding returned to action at Pleasant Valley Golf Course and came away with a 157-161 victory over Wayne Trace.

Daeger again paced Paulding, this time turning in an even-par 36. Gannon Parrett shot a 39, Goyings added a 40 and Font finished with a 42 to round out Paulding's scoring. Williams posted a 46, while Gavin Parrett added a 64.

Wayne Trace's Brody Ross-wurm captured medalist honors with a two-under-par 34. Maxton Williamson followed with a 44, Owen Welch shot a 41, Grayson Sutton finished with a 42 and Brock Knowles recorded a 50.

Nolan Schlatter also competed for Paulding at the junior varsity level and finished with a 54.

The two matches saw Paulding improve from a 168 at Hickory Sticks to a 157 at Pleasant Valley, an 11-stroke improvement in just three days.

### ANTWERP ELEMENTARY CLASS LIST 2026/27

#### Chad Cox (PS-A)

Serenity Cline, Declan Daugherty (DECK), Norah Hamrick, Jordyn Harris (JJ), Jackson Harvey, Judsyn Hermiller, Layla Johnson, Adelita Mendez, Juliet Muir, Elliana Mullins, Hadley Smalley, Josie Smith, Ruby Stalnaker (RUBY OR ROO), Odysseus Vachon, Adaline Zuber (ADDIE)

#### Shelly Billman (PS-B)

Lincoln Cash, Juliana Coleman, Larkin Denning, John DeVore (LEWIE), Hazel Farley, Emery Gaisford (EM-MIE), Harrison Headley (HARRY), Remington Hormann (REMI), Maddux Koenn, Maya Koppenhofer, Scarlett Michael, Kennedy Miller, Hazel Tunis, Theodore Zuber

#### Chad Cox (PS-C)

Baylor Compton, Finnegan Hughes, Kadence Keeran, Jaz-zalia Montgomery (JAZZ), Emmett Neace, Lucian Perez (L.J), Ayla Schaffer, Kyliah Schwartz, Maisey Shaffer, Maleah Shepherd, Cora Stiver

#### Shelly Billman (PS-D)

Hansen Bidlack, Weston Bute, Wesley Christo, Walker Copsey, Dexten Fox (DD), Kamari Gibson, Callahan Hughes, Mateo Husted, Quinn Peters, Everleigh Shepherd, Wyatt Walk

#### Courtenay McMichael (KA)

Logan Bowlin, Benjamin Derck (BEN OR BENNY), Amaya Fox, Marcus Friend, Lilah Gaisford, Nolan Gil (NOLIE OR MICHAEL), Kinslee Harvey (KINS/SUSIE), Beckyn Hormann (BECK), Jack Lane, Bryce McVay, Kyren Meglich, Fiona Now, Riley Scot, Sophia Walk

#### Tina Kennedy (KB)

Kinsley Cash, Averie Chrisman, Adalynn Copsey (ADDIE), Hazel Coressel, Leonidas Hernandez, Addison Jeffery, Henry Kemerer, Wesley Ladd, Isabella Rivera, Boone Rothenbuhler, Waylon Sanders, Bastion Scott, Emma Traxler, Savannah Yanez (SAV)

#### Julie Bok (KC)

Banks Dillon, Miles Engiehart, Edward Gordon (EDDY), Lilliana Hernandez, Ava Hobart, Adele Manella,

## PAULDING PUTNAM MEMBERS DONATE \$13,512 TO 17 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS



YMCA of Van Wert County received a \$500 donation from Paulding Putnam's Operation Round Up program to purchase new life jackets and safety harnesses.

Members of Paulding Putnam recently donated \$13,512 to seventeen local charities and community projects through the cooperative's Operation Round Up program.

Thanks to the 80% of members who round up their electric bill and donate to this fund, Paulding Putnam has provided more than \$814,835 to northwest Ohio and northeast Indiana communities since 2010.

Participating members round up their monthly electric bill to the next dollar, with the extra pennies being used to help fund charities and groups in their communities. Each quarter, the funds are dispensed to local causes that applied for funding.

The most recent donation recipients include:

- Children's Hunger Alliance; \$1,000 to provide weekend meal program for students in Paulding and Putnam counties
- Crestview Local Schools; \$500 to purchase make up supplies for Shrek the Musical
- Defiance Area Youth for Christ; \$1,000 to support the annual trip to Boundary Waters, Minnesota
- Delphos Jefferson Middle

School; \$264 to purchase "Pay it forward" t-shirts

- First United Methodist Church; \$350 to purchase back to school supplies for Van Wert County students in need

- Friends of the Paulding County Parks; \$1,000 to help with Port-a-John fees

- Lima Symphony Orchestra; \$1,500 to support the Young People's Concert

- Love, Inc. of Van Wert Co.; \$1,500 to fund essential electrical repairs for homeowners

- Miller City Volunteer Fire Department; \$1,770 to purchase an AED for an emergency response vehicle

- Ottawa Elementary; \$750 to purchase STEM lab materials

- Ottawa-Glandorf Band Boosters; \$750 to purchase a Baritone Saxophone

- Putnam County Council on Aging; \$750 to install ADA compliant doors for the new facility

- St. Johns The Evangelist Catholic School (Delphos); \$264 to help cover the cost of a speaker and prizes for the positive behavior program

- St. Rose of Lima Catholic School (Monroeville); \$264 to

purchase new drinking fountains

- Vantage Career Center; \$750 to support their Toss-a-Toy program where they purchase Christmas gifts for kids

- Van Wert Area Performing Arts Foundation; \$600 to support the cost of a free pre-show experience for kids and parents

- YMCA of Van Wert County; \$500 to purchase new life jackets and safety harnesses

Photos of each recipient can be found on Paulding Putnam's Facebook page.

Operation Round Up was started in 2010 as a way to give back to Paulding Putnam's communities. Groups in both Ohio and Indiana can apply.

Organizations can apply for Operation Round Up assistance by contacting Paulding Putnam's Marketing and Communications Manager, Samantha Kuhn, at skuhn@ppec.coop or visiting www.ppec.coop/operation-round. If you want to participate by rounding up your monthly bill, call Paulding Putnam's office at 800-686-2357. The average member's donation is about \$6 per year.

Vivienne Riley, Grayson Schwartz, Syllas Schwartz, Wyatt Smith, Ashlyn Thomas, Marshall Thompson (MARSH), Bristol Yoh, Everleigh Zuber (EVIE)

#### Katie Scharr (1A)

Bennett Barker (BEN-NETT), Gemma Bermejo, Bowen Billman, Cooper Bute, Elaina Coleman (ELLIE), Reid Cross, Aiah Derck, Kelbi Eicher, Mandolyn Forbes, Maddison Hahn, Lillyann Hughes (LILLY), Leona Klingler, Hayden May, Amenadiel Moore-Anthony (AJ), Mikayla Parisot, Lupe Strickland (ALESSIA), Grady Taylor, Thomas Vachon, Gwendolyn Yenser (GWEN)

#### Katrina Tonneas (1B)

Destiny Bradford, Adam Brandenburg, Dimitri Crow, Esme Farinacci, Isabella Hall, Sawyer Hamrick, Andersen Hughes, Wyatt Kesler, Adriana Kneebush, Cash Ladd, Lilliana McCoy, Summer Neace, Josiah Noya Machado (JOJO), Lily Schneider, Cora Shaffer, Phelix Slattman, Jasper Swain, Oaklynn Wells, Josie Wiesehan

#### Jaclyn Jeffery (1C)

Harper Bidlack, Revan Bidlack (REV), Kainen Bok (KAINEN JAMES), Knox Bragg, Colton Denning (COLTON), Maylen Griffiths, Emberlee Gross (EMI, EM), Gannon Harris, Everlee Hoersten, Hadley Johnson, Lynnora Kutzli (LYNNIE), Cooper Martenies, Henry Mowery (HANK), Roland Myers, Ivy

Thieme, Owen Treesh, Julian Young, Daniel Zuber, Oakley Zuber

#### Crystal Soto (2A)

Brynleigh Adams (BRYNN), Freya Chafin, Issabeaux Clevinger (BEAUX), Bryson Derck, Caspian Dillon, Jaxon Feehan (JAX), Elizabeth Gaisford (ELLIE), Isla Graham, Gracelynn Husted (GRACIE), Simon Laker, Adley Manella, Bostyn McVay, James Miller (JIM), Lukas Noya Machado, Koltyn Protsman, Barrett Rothenbuhler (BEAR), Ava Traxler, Oktavia Wells

#### Zacahry Lee (2B)

Mateo Ash, Landon Brandenburg, Arin Chafin (BUBS), Pete Dailey, Alexa De Vault (LEXI), Hadley DeVore, Perry Ganger, Georgia Kobee,

Theodore Koenn (THEO), Pierceton Kutzli, Skylah Lane (SKY), Amelia Otto, Logan Overman (LOGAN), Bryson Owens, Opal Pashova, Josephine Schwartz (JOJO), Vivian Sensabaugh (VIV), Amari Smith (MARI), Hank Soss, Jimmy Yanez (LITTLE JIMMY)

#### Sara Schaper (3A)

Darius Ash, Saylor Billman, Anthony Bowlin, Allura DeVault, Chance Dickess, Amelia Fidler, Camden Foust, Evelyn Gaisford, Sophia Griffiths, Maximus Hahn (MAX), Emerson Livingston (EM-MIE), Silver Miller, Johnny Muir, Davion Owens, Waylon Parisot, Eloise Scharr, Robin Swary

#### Jared Eklund (3B)

(Continued on Page 8)

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## THE LEFT TURN



**AJ Lesiecki Outlaw 350 Supermodified Sprint Feature winner at Toledo. Charlie Orns Photos.**

**By: Ron Burt**

Friday August 7, Lima-land Motorsports Park closed 2026 with Invitational and King of the Quarter Mile races and passed out season points awards, as drivers, crews and fans celebrated. Unfortunately, it was a short season because of several weather cancellations.

In the UMP Modified Division, a pair of Warsaw Indiana drivers split the wins. Dylan Woodling won the invitational race, and Dillon Nusbaum dominated the King of the Quarter Mile race. Thunderstock driver, Jordan Conover doubled up, winning the invitational feature and King of the Quarter Mile race, wrapping up his first Championship season. Chris Hick in the Dirt Track Truck Series also won the invitational feature and King of the Quarter Mile races. UMP Modified Champion, Shane O'Connor was named Sportsman of the Year, then gave a tearful racing retirement speech to the fans and fellow drivers.

Saturday, August 8, Oakshade Raceway Wauseon Ohio-I helped with the track announcing duties. The DIRTcar Late Models were the featured class. Twenty cars qualified. Sylvania's Casey Noonan picked up his first DIRTcar UMP Late Model win of the season. Noonan extended his slim point lead over Steve Kester to eight points with just two championship races remaining. Other Feature Winners, Late Model Sportsmen Dylan Jessen, Dominator Stocks Josh McNicol and Sport Compacts Ryan Okuley.

The Great Lakes 360 Super Sprints were at I-96 Speedway in Lake Odessa, MI on Friday. 24 cars registered and all ended up in the Feature. Leipsic's Chase Dunham currently 2nd in

points set the fast time 14.257. Max Stambaugh started on the pole and led most of the race until lap 24, when Zane DeVault made a pass on the leader and parked his car in Victory Lane for 4th time in 2026.

Feature Winners from Saturday around the Tri-State:

Fremont Speedway: 410 Winged Sprints Craig Mintz, Fremont Dirt Trucks Dave Golembiewski and 305 Winged Sprints Bryan Sebetto.

Flat Rock Speedway: Outlaw 350 Supermodified Kegan Weese, Street Stock Douglas Litogot, and Factory Stocks 500 Series Kyle Metdenpenning.

Montpelier Speedway: 410 Non-winged Sprints Zack Pretorius, USAC D2 Thunder Midgits Luke Hall, and UMP Modifieds Jordan Wever.

Butler Motor Speedway, American Late Model Iron Man Series Rusty Schlenk \$5000.00 Feature win 305 in his career.

The Great Lakes Super Sprints, traveled to Silver Bullet Speedway in Owendale MI. It's the state's oldest Stock Car Track but Saturday the Sprints ruled and Zane DeVault picked up his 2nd Feature win in two nights.

Sunday, August 9, Toledo Ohio-The Supermodifieds returned to the high banks of Toledo Speedway. This time it wasn't the ISMA MSS methanol powered big blocks, but the smaller gas powered Outlaw 350 Supermodified Sprint Series machines, and they put on a great show for the fans. AJ Lesiecki brought home the hardware and the big payday for his feature win. Chase Pinsonneault won the CRA Pro Series, House of Meats 100 for the Late Models. Mike Young was victorious in the

Late Model Sportsman Division and Josh Bunting won the Factory Stock A-Main.

Next week I will be covering events from the

Knoxville Nationals for the 410 Outlaw Winged Sprints. Until then, keep your wheels down. Ron Out! [www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz](http://www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz)

*(Continued from Page 7)*

Wyat Bassler, Melody Bidlack, Brynley Bissell, Emma Cross, Adelyn Feasby (AD-DYJO), Malachi Forbes, Anderson Foust, Canaan Gordon, Emmalynn Hoersten (EMMY), Rylan Limauro (RY), Braxton McVay, Landon Miller, Maia Mora, Gemma Myers, Freyja Mylek, Emma Smith, Amelia Zuber

**Kucera Thomas (3C)**

Harrison Barker, Claire Bechstein, August Carroll, Ruby Coressel, Juliet Dillon, Jensen Gill, Mila Gladieux (MIMI), Brady Howel, Rose Larson, Chloe Lavers, Micah Mendez, Kynsley Messman, Bryson Perry, Kaylynn Schwartz, Mackenzi Smith, Jasper Sweeney, Cassidy Treesh

**Betty Smazenko (4A)**

Emmagrace Baumert, Hayden Beachy, Channing Carroll, Zoey Dix, Amelia Dunham, Ethan Flanary, Thatcher Friend, Liam Gill (LIAM), Hadley Jackson, Abel Kauser, Deana Miller, Rowan Morrow, Landon Myers, Ashton Overly, Coralyn Smith, Lane Zuber

**Jassmine Reyes (4B)**

Easton Baumert, Emberly Dunderman-Hutchinson, Brooke Dzib, Jet Johnson, Ezekiel Laker, Lilah Martenies, Whitney Miller, Anya Moore, Tekota Putnam (KOTA), Starlette Ruffing, Grace Shull, Luna Sigman, Carley Snow, Ethan Taylor, Duke Wiesehan, Westin Winslow (DUBS)

**Ashley Malfait (4C)**

Evan Burelison, Lukas Custer, Stella Gaisford, August Gordon, Elise Graham, Riley Henschen, Greta Kobee, Owen Larson, Adalind Muir, Sawyer Parisot, Maxx Reith, Leah Ruffing, Cole Schneider, Owen Wells, Evelyn Yenser

**Derek Smalley (5A)**

Cambria Beregszazi, Adalynn Chrisman, Grace Dunderman-Hutchinson (GRACELYNN), Ava Fidler, Azlyn Foster, Hunter Gill, Everly Glenn, Alizae Gutierrez (ZAE), Payton Heine, Julian Karas, Sydnie Keeler, Blain Keith, David Kenner, Derric May, Deacon Miller, Thorin Mylek, Matias Rivera, Braxton Schneider, Kimber Weible, Kaydence Woolace

**Ashley Fidler (5B)**

Zachary Barker (Zac), Riley Budd, Maryn Cottrell, Kinley Gordon, Evangeline Graham (Eve), Adalyn Grubb (ADI), Irenia Hand, Casey Justinger, Jarron Leiter, Stella Neglich, Madison Muir, Tesla Overmyer (Pearl), Mariano Reyes (MO), Jaxton Schilt, Benson Slattman, Lyric Smith,

Elaine Treesh, Sarah Willson, Nash Zartman, Joanna Zuber

### ANTWERP NATIVE FEATURED IN NATIONAL COVERAGE OF RECORD CYCLOSPORA OUTBREAK



**Joel A. Kammeyer, MD, MPH, FACP, FIDSA**  
Division Chief, Div of Infectious Diseases  
Wayne State University School of Medicine / Detroit Medical Center

An Antwerp native and northwest Ohio physician was recently featured in national news coverage of the nation's largest recorded outbreak of cyclosporiasis.

Dr. Joel Kammeyer, the son of Bob and Patti Kammeyer of Antwerp, was interviewed by the Associated Press following the announcement that two Michigan residents had died after contracting cyclosporiasis. The illness, caused by the Cyclospora parasite, has sickened more than 20,000 people nationwide, making it the largest outbreak of its kind ever recorded in the United States. The Associated Press story was carried by media outlets across the country, including CBS News.

Kammeyer recently joined Wayne State University School of Medicine as Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Division Chief of Infectious Diseases, where he also serves patients through the Detroit Medical Center. Although based in Michigan, much of his clinical practice continues to include northwest Ohio through ProMedica hospitals, including Toledo, Defiance, Fostoria, Adrian and other communities.

In the Associated Press interview, Kammeyer described the deaths as "a tragedy," while noting that the illness is generally treatable in otherwise healthy individuals. He explained that patients with significant underlying medical conditions are more vulnerable to complications, particularly severe dehydration caused by prolonged diarrhea.

Cyclospora is a micro-

scopic parasite that causes an intestinal illness known as cyclosporiasis. Symptoms include prolonged watery diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea, fatigue and weight loss. Most people recover with proper treatment, but older adults and those with weakened immune systems face a greater risk of severe illness. Health officials continue to investigate the outbreak, with contaminated lettuce identified as a likely source for many of the cases.

For area residents, the story also serves as a reminder that one of Antwerp's own is playing a prominent role in addressing public health concerns affecting Michigan, Ohio and beyond.

### WT PAYNE ELEMENTARY CLASS LIST 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

**Mrs. Perkins (TK):** Allen Gerardot, Raegan Heck, Prez'Lee Love, Kingston Mullins, Boston Sherry, Jensen Snyder, Kane Speice

**Mrs. Buerkle (KA):** Rylee Danner, Archer Denning, Hudson Gouker, Bowen Hitchcock, Maxton Lothamer, Tatum Moore, Amelia Schoenauer, Oaklynn Smith, Ximena Solares Reyes, Auburn Stoller, Nathan Stoller, Brooklyn Vance, William Warnimont, Wyatt Wright, Emma Yenser

**Mrs. DeJarnett (KB):** Cattleya Carmona Molina, Madison England, Huxley Eversole, Kade Feasby, Raelle Foor, Charlie Hartzler, Brea Moore, Adriana Navarrio Perez, Hunter Reed, Jacob Rodriguez, Auburn Steffen, Oliver Swisher, Lyndon Temple, Xeydyx Wobler

**Miss Short (1A):** Theodore Alix, Declan Childs, Sophia Clay, Jaxon Danner, Kolton Eversole, Octavia House, Emmett Litzenberg, Adelita Perez, Adalynn Pierce, Grayson Puckett, Vincent Rothenbuhler, Brayden Schang, Arlin Solares Reyes, Colt Steffen, Juliet Wenzlick, Beau Wilcox

**Miss Miller (1B):**

Cannon Brown, Vincent Clay, Willow Cubbage, Navey Denning, Natalia Gambler, Thomas Holmes, Jaxon Hosler, Grady Huston, Colton Linder, Nolan Marker, Natalie McMichael, Chael O'Dell, Alice Scott, Crosby Taylor, Luke Valdez-Velazquez, Brody Young

**Mrs. Cox (2A):** Hailee Burkard, Harper Burkley, Ryker Carnahan, Emma Clay, Eli DeJarnett, Hayden Foor, Genesis Gambler, Aubrey Payne, Jayce Pierce, Madilynn Reed, Spencer Reeves, Haislea Speice, Avery Stalsberg, Charlotte Stoller, Finley Stoller, Samuel Wenninger

**Mrs. Coomer (2B):** Ella Carnahan, Paisley Coutts, Lincoln Dias, Sarah Gerardot, Kyiah Goings, Asher Griffith,

Coraline Mansfield, Giovanni Mullins, Brooke Philipot, Chase Seibert, Adryan Shaw, Easton Sherry, Beauden Strahley, Maxwell Wright, Whitley Yenser, Atlas Young

**Mrs. Bauer (3A):** Ella Danner, Kenley Eversole, Finn Feasby, Mylann Good, Benson Hitchcock, Kane Hosler, Loraayne Lipps, Gemma Merri-man, Ariella Ripke-Gee, Bentley Vance, Greyson Vogelpohl

**Ms. Morgan (3B):** Bennett Beaverson, Quentin Coutts, Theodore Hartzler, Ellie Helms, Maia Lotz, Teresa Monterroso, Josiah Perez Tello, Sawyer Stoller, Kameron Sunday, Laikynn Sweet, Miranda Valdez-Velazquez, Wynonna Vorndran, Luke Wilcox

**Miss Sinn (4A):** Joseph Dargenson, Aliyah Gerardot, Evan Kipfer, Amelia Mawer, Jasper McMillen, Gabriel Metcalfe, Lydia Osbun, Lena Perry, Liam Robertson, Paisley Schabbing, Landon Sherry, Andrew Stoller, Monroe Taylor, Elaine Temple, Chase Wright

**Mrs. Whitman (4B):** Demi Boyd, Ellie Burkley, Zaina Danner, Silas Dempsey, Allison Fairley, Miguel Gambler, Bennett Gerardot, Kinlee Lamb, Jayce Linder, Arya Litzenberg, Cali McBride, Londyn McMillan, Kristian Perry, River Stoller, Hunter Williams-Carnahan

**Mrs. Wilder / Miss Dyson (5A):** Atlas Allenbaugh, Lyra Cubbage, Aydenn Good, Sophia Gouker, Braiden Hitchcock, Thea Keys, Xander Mansfield, Braylin Miles, Brezlyn Mohr, Evalynn Pierce, Ayla Praul, Aleigha Puckett, Gunner Reeves, Brantley Roddy, Tannah Stephens, Waylon Stoller, Carter Whitehead, Locklen Yenser, Natalie Zartman

**Miss Posey (5B):** Titus Allenbaugh, Waylon Bono, Deacon Boyd, Gracelynn Coutts, Andrew Cox, Leetim Crites, Nimai Danner, Meryn Denning, Celeste Hollar, Noah Lazoff, Brayden McGary, Abigail Miles, Mckinley O'Dell, Emma Ringler, Remington Schilt, Emersyn Showalter, Connor Strahley, E'Aliyah Sullivan, Ethan Valdez

**Mrs. Wilhelm (6A):** Dodger Boyd, Faith Christener, Mason Clevenger, Layne Delgado, Peyton Hollar, Norah Mawer, Cassius McBride, Nellie McMillan, Jack Meyers, Aubree Philipot, Kelsie Riley, Jacob Roop, Kimberly Slone, Elise Steffen, Bryn Wassermann, Allie Wilcox

**Mrs. Stouffer (6B):** Henry Childs, Addilynn Danner, Aryah Delgado, Clara Dewaard, Makenna Eversole, Sawyer Flynn, Mary Gerardot, Kierstyn Lazoff, Megan McKinney, Peyton Osbun, Laylah Robertson, Aylen Schlegel, Jeremy Seibert, Maylee Stoller, Jeremiah Valdez, Kaden Wiechart

## The Left Turn

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(Continued from Page 1)

symbols have made visual the purpose of these places, reminding visitors of the values of the people who have lived in those spaces over the centuries as well as being a demonstration of geography, resources, wealth, connections, and aesthetic tastes.

Angie looks forward to taking these specific examples, and many more from her summer fellowship, into the classroom as a way to enhance her students' understanding of the form, function, materials, and historical context of art while inspiring them to think more deeply as they create their own works whether they are using traditional methods of drawing and painting in the studio or high tech visuals and sculptures the STEAM center.



These students will be sharing their work at both the high school's Fall Fine Arts Festival and the district's annual spring art show in addition to exhibiting at a number of regional shows throughout the school year.

## PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

### Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

**Burnett Adams**, Paulding, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$125 in court costs. Adams was sentenced to 30 days in jail, all of which were suspended. He was also ordered to maintain good behavior.

**Neil D. Hoffman**, Defiance, pleaded guilty to criminal trespass. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$300 in court costs. Hoffman was sentenced to 10 days in jail, with one day of credit. He was also ordered to have no contact with Mercer Landmark Properties and to maintain good behavior.

**Wyatt Wolfle**, Paulding, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle under the influence. He was fined \$565 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Wolfle was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 174 days suspended, and his driver'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. Charges of OVI with a prohibited breath alcohol concentration, an ATV viola-

tion, a seat belt violation and a registration violation were dismissed.

**Thomas D. Semla**, Paulding, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle without a valid operator's license. He was fined \$250 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

**Rodney E. Clevinger**, Antwerp, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

**Kimberly S. Demoss**, Haviland, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Jose P. Mendez**, Fort Wayne, Indiana, pleaded guilty to fishing without a license. He was fined \$83 and ordered to pay \$87 in court costs.

**Robert D. Davidson**, Indianapolis, Indiana, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$62 in court costs.

**Kimora N. Banks**, Detroit, Michigan, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$62 in court costs.

**Jeremy A. Tressler**, Continental, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

**Samantha J. Ward**, Fort Wayne, Indiana, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle without a valid opera-

tor's license and a seat belt violation. She was fined \$100 on the no operator's license charge and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

**Orman E. Goings II**, Latty, failure to register a dog and failure to confine a dog against were dismissed at the request of the state. Court costs of \$97 were assessed to the defendant on the failure to register charge.

**Demrick K. Soares**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty to operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

**Kevin L. Setser**, Decatur, Indiana, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Jennifer E. Holley**, Defiance, pleaded guilty to failure to yield the right-of-way from a private drive. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Joshua V. Garner**, Payne, pleaded guilty to criminal damaging. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$280 in court costs. Garner was sentenced to 60 days in jail, all of which were suspended. He was ordered to maintain good behavior and have no contact with Brookside North or the victim. A disorderly conduct charge was dismissed.

**Leslie A. Porter**, Cecil, pleaded guilty to soliciting. Porter was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$280 in court costs. Porter was sentenced to 90 days in jail, all of which were suspended, and was ordered to maintain good behavior.

**Ian M. Clevenger**, Payne, pleaded guilty to driving under suspension. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Clevenger was sentenced to 30 days in jail, all of which were suspended.

**Kyle J. Eggleston**, Van Wert, pleaded guilty to operating a motorcycle with a passenger in violation of passenger restrictions. He was fined \$50. No additional court costs were assessed on that charge.

**Brandon M. Cooper**, Oakwood, pleaded no contest and was found guilty of driving under a financial responsibility suspension. He was fined \$200 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. He also pleaded no contest and was found guilty of a registration violation. He was fined \$35. No additional court costs were assessed on that charge.

**Gabriel Gomez**, Paulding, pleaded guilty to driving under suspension. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

**Misty Dawn Owens**, Oakwood, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. She was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$280 in court costs. Owens was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 29 days suspended. She was also ordered to maintain good behavior.

**Gregory N. Hengstler**, Cridersville, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle under the influence. He was fined \$715 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Hengstler was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 170 days suspended, and his driver's license was suspended from April 11, 2026, through April 11, 2033. The jail days were served at ODRC. Charges of driving under suspension and failure to control were dismissed.

**Arnot B. Heller IV**,

Franklin, Michigan, pleaded guilty to driving while texting. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Kuldeep Singh**, Wilmington, Delaware, pleaded guilty to a traffic control device violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

**Yinder S. Ramierez** Ramierez, Teaneck, New Jersey, pleaded guilty to operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

**Justin R. Wilson**, Continental, pleaded guilty to reckless operation. He was fined \$250 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Wilson was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 27 days suspended, and his driver's license was suspended from June 14, 2026, through June 14, 2027. He may attend a Driver Intervention Program in lieu of three days in jail. A speeding charge was dismissed.

**Barton W. Taube Jr.**, Paulding, was found guilty following a bench trial of permitting operation. His \$75 fine was suspended, and he was ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

**Jesse A. Rosa**, Chicago, Illinois, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$62 in court costs.

**Shayne M. Chirinos**, Toledo, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30. No additional court costs were assessed on that charge.

**Elena J. Niese**, Continental, pleaded guilty to a display of license plates violation. She was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Mackqualyn D. English**, Eastpointe, Michigan, pleaded guilty to fleeing or eluding. English was fined \$500 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. English was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 178 days suspended, and his driver's license was suspended from September 1, 2026, through September 1, 2027. Fines and costs were ordered to be taken from bond money transferred from Paulding County Common Pleas Court.

## PAULDING COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Miller announced that the Paulding County Grand Jury indicted (7) persons on Thursday, August 13, 2026.

**Steven S. Waugh** (01/08/81), Bryan, OH; Breaking and Entering (3 counts), F5

**Robert L. Chatman** (01/26/05), Defiance, OH; Aggravated Robbery, F1, 3-Year Firearm Specification; Misdemeanor Theft, M1

**Kirsten Lynn Cox** (07/01/08), Defiance, OH; Complicity in the Commission of an Offense, F1, 3-Year Firearm Specification; Misdemeanor Theft, M1

**Ryan O'Neil Hurley** (02/16/95), Oakwood, OH; Failure to Provide Notice of Change of Address, F3

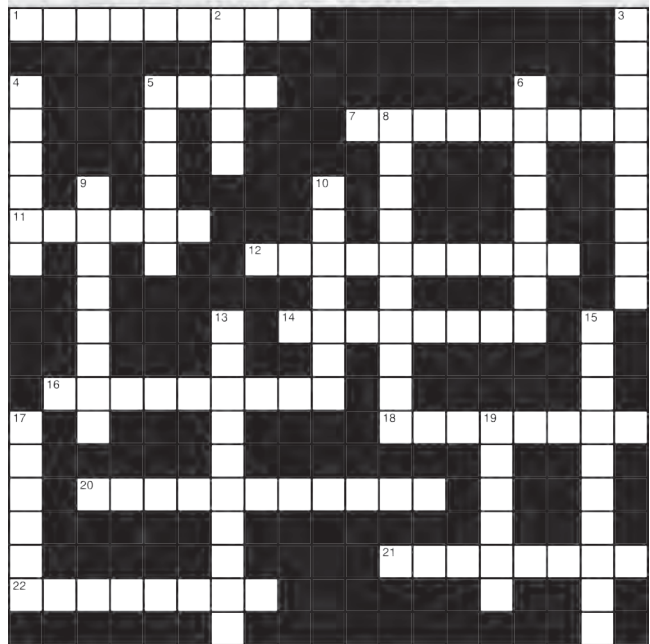
**Robert Andrew Scott** (05/28/83), Defiance, OH; Possession of L.S.D., F5; OVI, M1

**Daniel J. Miller** (08/12/69), Unknown; Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs, F2

**Ian Patterson** (04/07/92), Oakwood, OH; Grand Theft of a Motor Vehicle, F4a

# WEST BEND NEWS Crossword Puzzle

TIME FOR SCHOOL!



### Across

- Educational journey that takes a class away from the school building.
- Sound traditionally used to signal the beginning or end of a class period.
- School event giving families an opportunity to visit classrooms and meet educators.
- School supply used to remove pencil mistakes.
- Ceremony marking the successful completion of a level of education.
- Bound pages used for taking class notes and completing assignments.
- Familiar yellow vehicle that transports many American students to and from classes.
- Annual keepsake filled with photographs and memories from the school year.
- Bright marker used to emphasize important words or passages.
- Much-anticipated beginning of a new school year.
- Container used to carry a meal from home to school.

solution on page 11

### Down

- Measuring tool that also helps students draw straight lines.
- Place where students gather to eat lunch.
- Small storage compartment assigned to a student for books and belongings.
- Ringed organizer that holds loose-leaf paper and class materials.
- Schoolwork assigned to be completed outside regular classroom hours.
- Annual tradition when students have their school portraits taken.
- Bag students carry to hold books, supplies, and personal items throughout the school day.
- Colorful wax drawing tools commonly found in elementary school supply boxes.
- Electronic device that helps students solve mathematical problems.
- Periodic record showing a student's academic progress and grades.
- Classic writing tool that can be sharpened and erased.
- Break during the school day when younger students can play outside.

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## NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF APPLICATION TO PROBATE WILL & APPLICATION TO RELIEVE ESTATE FROM ADMINISTRATION

PROBATE COURT OF  
PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO  
HARVEY D. HYMAN, JUDGE  
ESTATE OF BARBARA A. BUSH,  
DECEASED

Case No. 20261078

TO: **Martin Wright Bush, Next-of-Kin of Barbara A. Bush, Deceased, whose address is unknown**

You are notified as a next of kin of Barbara A. Bush, deceased, that an Application to Probate Will and an Application to Relieve Estate from Administration has been filed with the Paulding County Probate Court on July 29, 2026, to wit Case No. 20261078.

A hearing on said Application will be held on **Monday, October 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Paulding County Probate Court, 115 N. Williams Street, Suite 202, Paulding, OH 45879.

This Notice is given to all persons who would be entitled to inherit from the Decedent had the

Decedent died intestate and to all legatees and devisees named in the Will who do not waive Notice.

The Notice is being published because you are one of the persons entitled to both the Notice of the Application to Probate Will and the Application to Relieve Estate from Administration.

If there are no objections filed with the Paulding County Probate Court by the scheduled hearing date, and no one attends the hearing to voice their objections, both the Application to Probate Will and the Application to Relieve Estate from Administration will be granted.

Terry Lee Bush, Applicant  
c/o Lutz Attorneys  
Lonnie R. Lutz (#0023871)  
4334 W. Central Avenue  
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Toledo, OH 43615

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AUG 12 2026

PROBATE COURT

PAULDING COUNTY, OH

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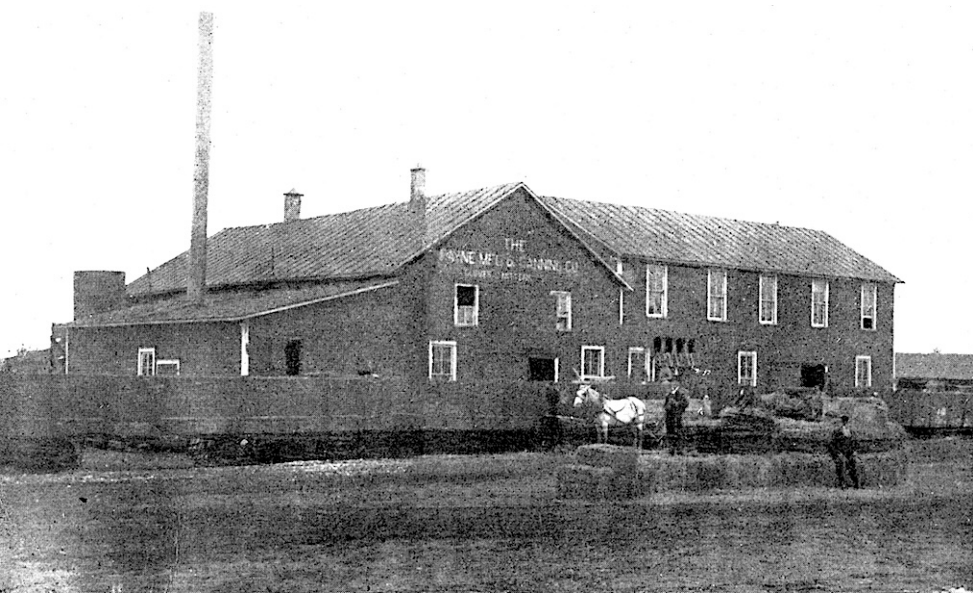
Red, Brown and Black

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# YEARS AGO IN PAULDING COUNTY



**August 1901: The Payne Canning & Preserving Co. opened August 1 and began canning tomatoes. The next year, the name was changed to Payne Manufacturing & Canning Co. and a glove factory added. This photo dates to the mid-1910s.**

**By: MELINDA KRICK**

**40 Years Ago**

*From the Paulding County Progress, Aug. 20, 1986:*

A Continental man is injured when his crop dusting plane crashed while he was spraying a soybean field near Ohio 613 and County Road 165 west of Melrose. The pilot sustained injuries and was taken to the hospital.

The Payne Post Office interior is being remodeled, including new doors, new equipment and updated and additional post office boxes.

Paulding Area Venture Corp. (PAVCO) is raising seed money to erect a shell industrial building to attract industry to Paulding. The site selected is on McDonald Pike at the old sugar beet factory site. Shares are selling as low as \$50.

James Smiley, owner of 637 Auto Repair, recently returned from a 17-day, 7,000-mile motorcycle trip west, highlighted by stops at Mt. Rushmore, the Badlands, Yellowstone and redwood forests in California. He also stopped at the annual motorcycle rally in Sturgis, S.D.

Clarence Adams of Scott is the county's oldest active fireman and EMT at age 77. He coordinated emergency services at this year's Farm Focus.

Dart leagues are now forming at The Rusty Nail.

**55 Years Ago**

*From the Paulding Progress, Aug. 18, 1971:*

A huge crane from Fort Wayne was in Paulding to set the white, pre-cast facing on the new Eagles Lodge building, tentatively set for completion in six weeks.

Native Son returns: Lt. Gen. Clare Gideon was the

biggest attraction in Payne's Pioneer Auto Show parade and was given the keys to the city. He is vice-commander of Air Force Logistics and second in command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. He graduated from Payne High School in 1934.

Paulding Chamber of Commerce members discuss whether John Paulding Days should be discontinued, after reviewing profit and loss reports for 1971 and 1970. A vote on "Do we want John Paulding Day next year?" passed by a vote of 12-1.

Paulding Exempted Village Schools will open with a full day's session on Sept. 3. Enrollment in grades K-12 is 2,844.

The Paulding County Fair is Aug. 28 to Sept. 2. The schedule includes countywide beauty contest, pony harness races, All American Hell Drivers thrill show and band night. Membership tickets are \$4.50. Gate admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children 12-16. Grandstand admission is \$1 for adults, 50 cents for kids 12-16 and 25 cents for kids 6-12.

The board of directors of the Paulding-Putnam Electric Co-operative helped Herbert Monroe celebrate his 30 years as manager of the cooperative with a dinner at Johnson's Restaurant.

**75 Years Ago**

*From the Paulding Progress, Aug. 16, 1951:*

One of the 39 entries in the Beauty Contest to be held at the Paulding County Fair, Friday Night, Aug. 31, will be chosen Paulding County Queen for 1951. The contestants come from the seven Paulding County high

schools.

James MacKew, proprietor of the Oliver Farm Machinery and Plymouth-DeSoto Sales and Service, announced this week that he is now located in his new building located on Main and Caroline streets. The new 55 by 98 foot structure was built by Bernard Workman, contractor, and is constructed of steel and concrete blocks.

Mrs. Harvey Hyman, of Paulding, received word that her husband is now stationed in Tokyo. Lt. Hyman, the prosecuting attorney of Paulding County, who was called to active service this spring, arrived in Japan and is serving as a special agent with the Counter Intelligence Corps.

Dr. W.H. Caine, county health commissioner, reports there have been no cases of polio in the county this season. This is in direct contract to the epidemic that swept the county last year, making it the hardest his area in the U.S. on a basis of population.

The old steam engine with its mellow whistle which has passed up and down the Wabash Railroad tracks for many years, has gone into the discard and on Aug. 1 was replaced with a diesel engine. The morning of Aug. 1 was the final run for the steam engine, pulling the passenger train from Toledo to Fort Wayne.

At the movies: The Ohio Theatre in Antwerp will have a big double feature, "Al Jennings of Oklahoma" plus Roy Rogers and Trigger and also Dale Evans in "The Golden Stallion" (in color).

**125 Years Ago**

*From the Paulding County Republican, Aug. 22, 1901:*

Fair ground improvements are being pushed along satisfactorily ahead of the fair, which will be held Sept. 17-20. The old stalls along the road are being torn down. With new fences, new art hall, new barn, new stock stalls and many other new conveniences, Paulding County will have as fine a place to hold a fair as any place in Ohio.

W.K. Schooley broke ground for a large brick store-room in Broughton.

*From the Paulding Democrat, Aug. 22, 1901:*

Two and a half blocks of new stone sidewalk is the latest improvement in Haviland.

There is strong talk of a party sinking 10 oil wells in the Melrose vicinity soon.

Ireton Bros. & Eikenbary's elevator at Tipton, together with a large amount of grain and seed, was destroyed by fire Tuesday morning. F.M. Bashore has a force at

work this week putting a new roof on the county jail. The old sheathing was found to be in bad condition.

*From the Payne Reflector, Aug. 22, 1901:*

Payne's new industry, the canning factory, was started Tuesday and is now running at full capacity. Recent rains ripened the tomato crop sooner than expected and growers began bring in their tomatoes. The management bought 600,000 cans last spring and these will either be filled with tomatoes or pumpkins. The factory gives employment to an army of boys and girls and will prove of great value to the community.

The new U.B. church at McGill was dedicated Sunday. In spite of the rain a large crowd was present at the ceremonies.

## ANTWERP SQUARE, UTILITY RATES DOMINATE COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Antwerp Village Council spent much of its August 12 meeting discussing potential zoning changes for the Antwerp Square development and a proposed restructuring of village water and sewer rates.

Council approved the July meeting minutes and financial report before hearing from Dustin Sensabaugh on behalf of ACDC concerning a proposed community event tentatively called the "Antwerp Autumn Kickoff."

The event is planned for Saturday, Sept. 26, on approximately five acres of village-owned property near the water treatment plant and east of the football field. Plans include a live band, a large television showing the Ohio State football game, food trucks, children's activities and alcohol sales through ACDC.

Sensabaugh said organizers would obtain the required insurance and alcohol permit. Organizers also asked about having one or two contained fire pits. Council indicated support for allowing organizers to move forward with planning, provided all village, insurance and state requirements are met. The fire pits would require additional review and approval.

Councilman Bill Boylan reported on a special zoning meeting held the previous evening concerning the Antwerp Square development near U.S. 24 and State Route 49.

According to Boylan, the investment group owning the Antwerp Square property has been contacted by another investor interested in locating a distribution center within the development. Current zoning does not specifically permit that use.

The zoning discussion centered on allowing distribution warehouses, wholesale outlets and potentially other light industrial uses as conditional uses within the B-2 zoning district.

Boylan said the zoning group recommended limiting the portion of Antwerp Square considered for such development to an area nearer U.S. 24, creating separation between potential industrial development and the planned residential portion of Antwerp Square.

Council members emphasized that making such uses conditional would not automatically approve a distribution center or other industrial development. Individual pro-

posals would still have to go through the zoning approval process, allowing the village to consider the size, type of operation, traffic, environmental concerns and other factors.

Officials said the potential distribution operation discussed with the property owners could create as many as 250 jobs, although no specific company or final development plan was identified during the meeting.

Council discussed concerns about maintaining the appearance of the U.S. 24 entrance to Antwerp and preserving areas for hotels, restaurants and retail development. Members also noted that access to Antwerp's existing industrial area has long been difficult for heavy truck traffic.

Village Solicitor Brandon Grigsby was asked to prepare

legislation addressing the proposed conditional use change for council consideration.

Councilman John Ganger gave an extensive Utility Committee report following two recent meetings concerning water and sewer rates for 2027.

The committee recommended what was identified as "Proposal 2," which would restructure rates while also moving village utility customers from quarterly to monthly billing.

Officials said monthly billing would make bills easier for residents to budget, allow the village to identify water leaks sooner and provide more consistent revenue to the utility funds.

The proposal would also eliminate the village's current homestead utility rate, leaving separate rates for customers

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](http://www.gorrellbrothers.com)

**SELLERS:** Terry L Middaugh, et al

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

**Gorrell Bros. Auctioneers LLC** 112½ N Water St Paulding, Ohio 45879 • 419-399-4066

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inside and outside the village corporation limits.

Ganger said the committee attempted to balance the increase between fixed monthly charges and charges based on actual water consumption so lower-volume users would not bear a disproportionate share of the increase.

A new \$10-per-month utility infrastructure improvement fee is also proposed. Based on the village's current number of customers, officials estimated the fee could generate nearly \$100,000 annually for future utility maintenance and improvements.

Council members said the village has not increased water and sewer rates since 2024 and cited inflation, operating expenses and construction of the new water treatment plant as reasons an adjustment is necessary. Despite the proposed increase, officials said Antwerp's rates would remain below those of many surrounding communities.

The proposed ordinance is also expected to include an annual inflation adjustment tied to the Consumer Price Index, capped at 4%. If the CPI increase were less than 4%, the lower percentage would be used.

The Utility Committee recommended the new rate structure, and Grigsby was asked to prepare a new ordinance for consideration at the September meeting.

Council adopted Ordinance 2026-12, increasing the golf cart and under speed vehicle inspection fee for non-village residents. The ordinance had previously been discussed as a way to compensate the village for police time and resources used to perform inspections for people who do not live within Antwerp.

Council also adopted Ordinance 2026-14, continuing to retain Grigsby as village solicitor.

Council suspended the rules and adopted Ordinance

2026-17 as an emergency measure, accepting a \$58,000 grant from the 136th Ohio General Assembly's biennial budget for reconstruction of the park pavilion.

Council spent considerable time discussing proposed Ordinance 2026-18, which would regulate unreasonable noise and public nuisances within the village.

The proposal was prompted in part by concerns about excessive noise affecting residential neighborhoods. Council members questioned language establishing restrictions between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., noting that excessive noise can create problems during daytime and evening hours as well.

Members also expressed concern that overly broad language could unintentionally apply to ordinary activities such as using chainsaws, completing home repairs or other legitimate daytime work.

Council discussed removing the specified hours and establishing a warning before a violation becomes a minor misdemeanor. Members said the ordinance needs to address genuine nuisance situations without allowing the law to be unnecessarily used against residents engaged in reasonable activities.

Rather than adopting the ordinance as an emergency measure with substantial changes made during the meeting, council unanimously voted to table Ordinance 2026-18 and have it revised for consideration at the next meeting.

Council also heard first readings of four ordinances covering five-year fire and EMS agreements beginning in 2027. Ordinances 2026-19 and 2026-20 concern fire and EMS services for Carryall Township, while Ordinances 2026-21 and 2026-22 concern fire and EMS services for Harrison Township.

In other business, Mayor

# Classified Ads

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**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!**

**DESIGN - PRINT - ADVERTISE: West Bend Printing can get you what you need FAST! 419-258-2000.**

Bryan Smith thanked the Antwerp Rotary Club and others involved in the recent Antwerp Day in the Park. Smith said the parade included approximately 35 en-

tries and thanked council members and community participants for helping make the event successful.

Council adjourned following the mayor's report.

### VETERANS MEMORIAL TO PAY TRIBUTE TO TWO FALLEN HEROES

From Concordia High School with Memorial Benches in their Honor, Saturday August 22nd at 11:00 a.m.

The Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum 2122 O'Day Road in Fort Wayne, will pay tribute to two Concordia Lutheran High School Alumni killed in Iraq and Afghanistan in ceremony to be held on Saturday August 22nd at 11:00 a.m.

Army 1st Lieutenant Neale M. Shank died serving his country during Operation Iraqi Freedom on March 31, 2007. Army Staff Sergeant Kevin Pape died November 16, 2010 in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. Both soldiers were childhood friends and students at both Concordia Lutheran Grade School and High School.

Two black granite benches featuring each soldier's photo and inscription will be dedicated in their honor in front of the recently completed Global War on Terrorism Memorial. Funding for the benches was raised by students from both the Concordia Lutheran Grade School, High School, Team Pape and the JROTC fundraising activities.

The Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum is open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The memorial grounds are open 24/7 for visitors. honoringforever.org

### PARKVIEW HEALTH NAMED TO FORBES' BEST EMPLOYERS BY STATE

Parkview Health has been named to the Forbes 2026 list of America's Best Employers by State, ranking No. 29 out of 75 companies in Indiana.

It's the fifth consecutive year Parkview has made the Forbes list, improving its ranking from No. 32 in 2025. Parkview was one of 13 healthcare and social services companies highlighted on this year's Indiana list, ranked with fellow Fort Wayne-headquartered companies Steel Dynamics (No. 36) and Fort Wayne Community Schools (No. 69).

clinical enterprise, Parkview Health. "Parkview's culture is an integral piece in building and growing the best care team at our hospitals and physician offices. With a great team in place across Indiana and northwest Ohio, we're able to deliver the highest quality, safety and experience to our patients."

Forbes is the latest in a continuing streak of national recognition for Parkview's workplace culture. Parkview was named No. 5 overall among Most Loved Workplaces in 2025; honored as the No. 1 nonprofit and No. 8 overall in North America by Inspiring Workplaces for 2026; certified as a Great Place to Work for the first time in 2025, named to Newsweek's 2025 Best Places to Work in Health Care list; and selected as Greater Fort Wayne Inc.'s Business Excellence Award winner for 2026.

### NEW REPORTS REVEAL TRENDS IN OHIO'S LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES & SUPPORTS

The Ohio Department of Aging (AGE) and Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University (Scripps) have published a pair of reports on long-term care services and supports in Ohio. These longitudinal studies found that Ohio has made tremendous progress in enhancing the long-term services system, but challenges remain.

"As an aging state, the complex care needs of our growing population continue to evolve," said AGE Director Ursel J. McElroy. "However, we are providing more options than ever when it comes to how older adults receive care in Ohio."

The studies are now available on the AGE website:

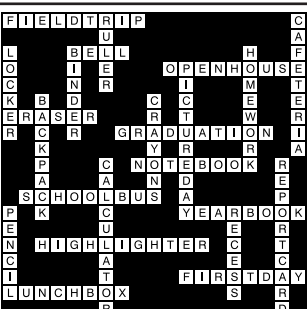
- Home- and Community-Based Services in Ohio: 1993-2023
- Nursing Homes in Ohio: A Profile

"I am grateful to the Scripps Gerontology Center for their years of work that have gone into these longitudinal studies and their ongoing partnership with our department - helping us collect and analyze data about Ohio's older adults," added Director McElroy.

The studies are part of Scripps Gerontology Center's Ohio Long-Term Care Research Project. It was created by AGE and the Ohio General Assembly to track data about the growing number of older Ohioans likely to need long-term care services and supports, with the goal of informing the development of future state policies and plans to serve these residents.

"The Home- and Community-Based Services report shows that today more older Ohioans with high levels of disability are receiving services in the community rather than receiving care in a nursing home," said Dr. Bob Applebaum, who has led the Scripps Gerontology Center's Ohio Long-Term Care Research Project since its creation. "A remarkable change from 30 years ago when we began this study, when nine in 10 older Ohioans with high disability received their care in a nursing home."

"The Profile of Nursing Homes documents the changes experienced by Ohio's 930 nursing homes," added Dr. Applebaum. "From a dramatic increase in short-



Crossword solution from page 9

term rehabilitation residents, to recruitment and retention difficulties of the direct care workforce, to a heavy reliance on public funding, the report describes an industry in transition."

In the past year, AGE launched the newly enhanced Ohio Long-Term Care Quality Navigator. The new name coincided with the addition of nearly 800 assisted living facilities to the Navigator, on top of the nearly 930 nursing homes that had previously been included. The updated Navigator also includes more data than ever for each facility, as well as a new "Care Quiz" feature that asks users simple questions to help direct them to the type of long-term care facility that may be best for them.

AGE is also leading a large expansion of the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). PACE is an interdisciplinary care model designed for older adults who require a level of support typically found in nursing facilities. It enables them to access the necessary assistance to remain in their homes and communities, rather than needing to relocate to an institutional long-term care setting. Services are now available in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lorain, Mahoning, Summit, and Trumbull counties. PACE is expected to open in Lucas and Montgomery counties later in 2026.



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**Village of Payne • FISCAL OFFICER**  
The Village of Payne is accepting applications for the position of Village Fiscal Officer. This position works closely with the Mayor, Village Council, Board of Public Affairs, and department heads and is responsible for the financial and administrative records of the Village.  
Primary responsibilities include:  

- Maintaining Village financial records and accounts
- Preparing budgets, appropriations, and financial reports
- Processing payroll and required governmental reporting
- Maintaining records of Council proceedings, resolutions, and ordinances
- Assisting with audits, grants, and financial reporting
- Performing other Fiscal Officer duties required by Ohio law and Village Council

Applicants should have an Associate's or Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Business, Finance, or an equivalent combination of education and work experience. Candidates should possess strong accounting, computer, organizational, and communication skills. Experience with the State Auditor of Ohio's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) is preferred but can be taught.  
The position requires weekday availability, attendance at Village meetings, and occasional evening or weekend work. Applicants must possess a valid driver's license and meet bonding requirements.  
Position: Part-time (3/4 days a week)  
Compensation: \$24.83 an hour  
Interested applicants should submit resume/application to:  
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Mayor@villageofpayne.com  
**Application Deadline: Sept. 11th, 2026 – 4:00 PM**  
**The Village of Payne is an Equal Opportunity Employer**

## OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY ‘BOUNCES’ INTO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR



Pictured above are many of the Oakwood Elementary staff members enjoying the second annual Bounce Bash during the school's Open House. The staff and PTO are looking forward to a great year ahead.

The Oakwood Elementary PTO helped students kick off the new school year with some high-flying fun during its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bounce Bash, held in conjunction with the school's Open House on Thursday

August 13, 2026.

Students who attended the Open House festivities inside the school were given a ticket to enjoy the Bounce Bash, adding a little extra excitement to the evening as students and families pre-

pared for the start of another school year.

Oakwood Elementary staff members also joined in the fun, celebrating as they “bounced” into the new school year together.

### BRAIN BRIGHT THERAPY TO PRESENT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM AT DPL

Adults are invited to learn more about neuro-based occupational therapy during a special program presented by Brain Bright Therapy at Defiance Public Library on Thursday, September 3, at 10:30 a.m.

The program will showcase exercises designed to support emotional regulation, balance and coordination, eye tracking, impulse control and more.

Brain Bright Therapy is a

specialized occupational therapy practice focused on addressing underlying factors within the brain and nervous system. Its approach incorporates eye movements, physical movements and neuro-based exercises designed to encourage neuroplasticity — the brain's ability to form and strengthen new neural pathways.

During the program, attendees will learn how these techniques can be used to help retrain the brain and develop healthier responses rather than relying on patterns that may contribute to certain

symptoms.

The presentation will be led by Danielle Nelson, OTR/L, CNSI, and MaKenzie Cowden, Patient Care Coordinator.

The program is open to all adults, and no registration is required.

For more information, contact Defiance Public Library at 419-782-1456.

### CAR SHOW DONUTS

The Woodburn Lions will have their famous donuts on Saturday August 22 form 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. during the

BFG/Main St. Car show. They will be in the Chop Shop parking lot. With limited access due to the show, you can enter the alley off of Center St. and come behind the Bowling Alley. Thanks for your support.

### TAKE A TOUR THROUGH THE 2026 OHIO TREE FARM OF THE YEAR

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry invites you to tour the 2026 Ohio Tree Farm of the Year on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This year, the Ohio Tree Farm Committee announced Working Woods at Holden Arboretum in Kirtland, Ohio, as the Tree Farm of the Year. The Working Woods at Holden Arboretum was nominated by consulting forester Adam Beichler. This annual award recognizes an outstanding Tree Farm in Ohio that is certified by the American Tree Farm System and exemplifies its mission “to promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry.”

The Working Woods Learning Forest at Holden Arboretum is a 74-acre Tree Farm that provides a hands-on learning experience in a managed woodland setting. Current efforts focus on creating resilient, biodiverse forests through forestry best management practices such as selective harvesting to create an uneven-aged forest. Active management, including invasive species removal and habitat improvements like edge

feathering, has enhanced wildlife use of the area. A comparison of timber stand improvements with and without invasive management further contributes to the site's ecological and educational value. The approaches demonstrated reflect what a typical landowner could do in their woods and highlight that what is good for the forest can also be good economically and ecologically.

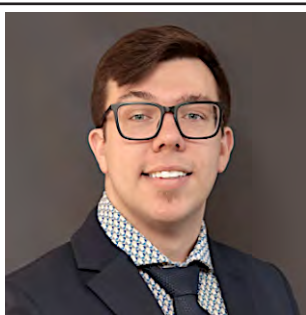
“Working Woods demonstrates that healthy forests don't happen by accident—they require thoughtful, long-term stewardship,” said Ed Moydell, President and CEO of Holden Forests & Gardens. “We're honored to be recognized as Ohio's 2026 Tree Farm of the Year and proud to share this living classroom with landowners, forestry professionals, and community members. This tour offers a unique opportunity to see sustainable forestry in action and learn how active management can help forests remain healthy, resilient, and productive for generations to come.”

“The management of the Working Woods Learning Forest at Holden Arboretum demonstrates the benefits of intentional, long-term forest stewardship,” said ODNR Division of Forestry Chief Dan Balser. “As the 2026 Tree Farm of the Year, Holden's Working Woods provides a valuable opportunity to observe sustainable forestry practices and learn about their role in maintaining healthy, resilient forests.”

During the 2026 Tree Farm of the Year Tour, professional foresters and staff from Holden Arboretum will lead seminars on a variety of forestry topics. Sessions will cover various timber harvest methods, forest pests and pathogens, active forest research, timber stand improvement, non-timber forest products, wildlife habitat creation, and more. Additional topics include invasive species identification and management, carbon markets, incentive programs, developing a management plan, and how to become a tree farmer. Activities for youth and information about the Holden Seed Bank will also be available.

Advance registration is required due to event logistics and transportation. Parking will be located at 9550 Sperry Road, Kirtland, OH 44094, where shuttle vans will transport attendees to the Working Woods Learning Forest.

Space is limited, and participants are encouraged to



### PAULDING MAN APPOINTED TO STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

COLUMBUS, OH; August 6, 2026 — Christopher Elder, a Paulding resident and 2026 candidate for the Ohio House, was appointed to fill the District 9 seat vacated by Tom Pruss for the Libertarian State Central Committee. Pruss was elected in the May Primary, along with Zach Hall, both of whom are from Toledo. After the first meeting of 2026, Pruss was elected Vice Chair of the Executive Committee and resigned his seat on the Central Committee. At the August meeting, Elder was nominated and then appointed to fill the seat.

“I look forward to serving Libertarian voters and candidates across the 9th District,” Elder posted to his social media accounts. “I think it's cool that we have a rural voice and an urban voice representing Libertarians in the District.” The Libertarian Party of Ohio divides its Central Committee districts by US Congressional District. Elder and Hall represent all the Counties in Ohio's 9th Congressional District.

More information about the State Central Committee and the Libertarian Party of Ohio can be found on their website at lpo.org. As more local Libertarian Clubs begin popping up across Northwest Ohio, interested parties are encouraged to reach out to their nearest County Club to contact their Central Committee members.

register early. Scan the QR provided here:



The event will be outdoors, so be sure to dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Parking for the event will be at 9550 Sperry Rd, Kirtland, OH 44094, and shuttle vans will be available to transport attendees to the Tree Farm.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at [ohiodnr.gov/](https://www.ohiodnr.gov/).

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