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OBITUARIES



HARLAN, IN:

Richard L. "Dick" Ruppert, 78, long-time resident of Harlan, Indiana, passed away Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at Cedarhurst of Fort Wayne. Dick was born February 26, 1948, in Hicksville, Ohio, the son of the late William L. "Pete" and Nina I. (Gustin) Ruppert. He graduated from Woodlan High School and immediately began his lifelong career as a self-employed farmer, operating RJN Farms. When Dick was not farming, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and tinkering with gas engines. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to members of the local farming community and will be missed by many who called him a friend. A fond memory of Dick is his love of ice cream and cherry pie, something he could not get enough of, even when going through his cancer treatments.

Surviving are his two sisters, Nancy (Randy) Eager of Woodburn, Indiana, and Janice Menger of Woodburn, Indiana; one niece, Ingrid (Harvey) Smallwood of New Haven, Indiana; one great-nephew, Noah (Summer Philebaum) Smallwood of New Haven, Indiana; close family friends, Mike and Ben Moore. Dick was preceded in death by his parents; and by his brother-in-law, Heinz "Pete" Menger.

A private graveside service for Richard L. "Dick" Ruppert will be held at Scipio Cemetery, Harlan, Indiana, with Chaplain Karen Kosberg officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Oberlin-Turnbull Funeral Home & Crematory, Hicksville, Ohio.

Memorial contributions can be directed to the Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, 6316 Mutual Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825; or to the Harlan Christian Youth Center, 17308 2nd Street, Harlan, Indiana 46743.

Condolences may be sent to the family, or memories may be shared at www.oberlinturnbull.com.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH BLESSES STUDENTS, TEACHERS FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR



St. John Lutheran Church, 812 East High Street, Hicksville, had their Annual Blessing of Backpacks for students, teachers and school employees during a recent

worship service.

Minister Alex Heffelfinger blessed the group with a beautiful prayer. The six teachers present were presented with a bouquet from the altar flow-

ers. There was approximately nine different educational systems represented. The prayer also included all students and teachers as they begin their new school year.



JONATHAN WHITE TO BRING MUSIC MINISTRY TO AUGLAIZE CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

Jonathan White's main goal in music ministry is to encourage Christians in their walk with God, and to let them know that sometimes things happen that may seem horrible, but God can turn it around for good.

Jonathan has had the opportunity to sing for many different kinds of audiences. From the Grand Ole Opry, to the Bill Gaither Homecoming Concert series, to the little church down the street. Jonathan is willing to sing for God just about anywhere to any size crowd. He has learned that it's not about the size of a crowd, it's about ministering to each individual that has come to the concert. He gives the same emotion and heart regard-

less of who or how many are there. It's all about reaching others for Christ!

He'll be at Auglaize Chapel Church of God, 22652 CR-60, Oakwood, OH on August 30 at 10:00 a.m.

PAULDING COUNTY VENIRE COMMON PLEAS TERM III JURY LIST

Paige Alber, Cassidy Atkins, Christopher Auch, Earl Bailey, III, Carol Baker, Amy Barnes, Christopher Barton, Gregory Baugher, Anthony Baxter, Mickey Boroff, Anjanette Borton, Thomas Boyd, Maggie Bragg, Paul Brandenhoff, Todd Breisch, Landon Brewer, Rhonda Budd, Hunter Carr, Marsha Carter, Brian Cereghin, Virginia Chatterton, Buryl Clifford, Julia Clinton, Russell Coil, Dayna Conley, Wayne Cripps, Donald Crossland, Jr., Mellie Daniels, Brianna Dawson, Olivia Dealey, Jaime Deatrick, Ryan Deel, Alena Denny, Cheryl Detmon, Lorraine Dolinski, Brenda Doster, Geoffrey Drehoel, Kelly Duchene, Charles Dugan, Michelle Dunakin, Aaron Durbin, Mark Eagy, Debra Ebel, Leonard Edwards, Larisa Elder, Brandon Elks, Amanda Elston, Myra Jo Evans, James Feehan, Billy Joe Ferrell, Megan Finch, Erin Fish, Matthew Foss, Mathew French, Pamela Gardner, Gary Gerardot, Chad Geyer, Steven Gilbert, Jr., Peggy Glick, Dennis Gloor, Shelda Gonzales, Len Gordon, Melissa Grant, Allison Gross, Holly Harris, Pamela Heck, Lisa Hefner, Tammy Hesselschardt, Ryan Hines, Brian Holbrooks, Avery Hook, III, Shirley Jenkins,

April Jennings, Brett Johanns, Philip Johnson, Priscilla Kadolph, Sherry Kaufman, Susan Keck

Gary Keck, Carol Kern, Sue Ellen Knapp, Pamela Kretz, Amber Krynock, Simon Lamb, Jamie Lammers, Steven Lantow, Sr., Douglas Laukhuf, Kelsey Laukhuf, Kelsey Lee, Beverly Legendre, Jordon Leiter, Kylee Lockwood, Emily Longardner, Gretchen Loupee, Eric Ludwig, Frank Lyons, Carol Mann, Mary Lou Mapes, Caitlin Martin, Georgina Martinez, Theresa Mattocks, Kyle Mawer, Thomas McClain II, Christopher McClure, Shirley McMichael, Shaun Meeks, Jamie Merriam, Charles Mewhorter, Mary Meyer, Olivia Miller, Cynthia Miller, Bradley Mills, Alivia Moser, Jared Moyer, Brenda Mullen, Jess Munger, James Murlin, Lillian Myers, Jenifer Nicelley, Richard Norling, Jesus Orona, Maudred Orthman, Shane Pack, Daniel Parker, Stephen Parrish, Ann Pease, Sean Pfeiffer, Nicholas Pollock, Quincy Porter, Kaelee Potts, Mary Rager, Eric Rager, Janice Rasey, Michael Reed, David Reid, Tony Reid, Samantha Reineck, Raymond Reust, Vicki Rice, John Rinck, Amanda Roberts, Paul Roddy, Jr., Audrey Rolsten, Jacob Roop, Kayden Sarver, Nash Saylor, Michael Scarbrough, Scott Schaefer, Benjamin Schilt, Audra Schoenauer, Sarah Schrenk, Richard Scott, Ashley See, Ian Setili, Ashton Shaffer, Michael Sharp, Quinn Shawver, David Shepherd, Tyler Showalter, Eden Shuherk, Mason Simonin, Nathan Sinn, Cameron Sinn, Michael Sinn, Stephen Sprow, Vicki Sprow, Dale

Scripture of the Week

"The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me—
A prayer to the God of my life."

— Psalm 42:8

I'M NO LONGER A SLAVE TO FEAR



Galatians 4:7 (NIV): "So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir."

"The text 'I'm no longer a slave to fear' reflects a powerful message about freedom and identity. It emphasizes the transition from a state of bondage, in this case, to fear, to one of liberation through faith and recognition of one's value as a child of God."

The verse from Galatians 4:7 reinforces this idea by stating that believers are not merely subjects or slaves, but children of God. This implies a profound relationship in

which believers can claim their identity as heirs, thereby gaining access to God's promises and blessings.

In essence, the message encourages individuals to let go of fear and embrace their identity as loved and valued children of God. It's about recognizing that one's worth and security come from this divine relationship, rather than from fear or worldly circumstances. This shift in mindset can lead to greater courage and confidence in facing life's challenges.

Faith and fear cannot co-exist in the same environment. They cancel each other out. We choose faith over fear.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV) states, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and self-discipline." This verse is a powerful reminder that we are equipped with strength and the ability to love, rather than being consumed by fear.

Repeat this to yourself: I am no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God!

Now go and live your life FEARLESSLY!

Peace & Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

Stoller, Janette Stoller, Bradley Stutz, Margie Thompson, Laura Thornell, Edward Thrasher Jr., Dorothy Throne, Crystal Trabel, Storm Tracy, Ronda Trammell, Nathaniel Traxler, Ryan Tromblay, Leanne Turrentine, Juan Villarreal, Tamara Wagaman, Hayden Wagner, Brittany Wayne,

Luke Weible, Scott Weisenburger, Robert Welch, Shelly Wendt, Makaela Wenninger, Diana Westrick, Terra Whitman, Laryssa Whitman, Kelly Whitney, Daniel Wilder, Linda Wilhelm, Phillip Wilhelm, Randel Wise, Brandon Wobler, Dennis Woodring, Emily Zamarripa, Sue Ellen Zielke

(Continued from Page 1)

Entrepreneur, AI Innovation & Achievement Categories, and more. View the list of winners by category using this QR code:

#StevieWinners2026



"It's an honor to be recognized by @TheStevieAwards as a Bronze winner in The 23rd Annual International Business Awards® for our Nonprofit work. It's all thanks to the efforts of our many volunteers

from all over the world and their many accomplishments since January 2024 including: growth of our radio show (New Heights Show on Education), the NHEG EDGuide, the E.A.S.Y.Toons Comic Book and volunteers/interns working in many departments such as Human Resources, Data Compilation, Research, Photographers, Graphic Design, Comic Colorist, Magazine creation, Radio Show/Podcast, Social Media and Marketing and Document Builders."

—Pamela Clark, Founder/Director



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MEMORIES

Penny For Your Thoughts By: Nancy Whitaker

Does everyone recall their school friends? Could you recognize them today if you hadn't seen them for 30 years? Sometimes someone will say, "Hello Nancy," and I have to think and think if I know them or not.

On one occasion I ran into a guy in a store and he recognized me. I looked at him and the first thing coming out of my mouth was, "Well it's sure good to see you because I heard you had passed away!"

"Nope," he says, "I'm still here."

Talk about feeling bad, I sure did. However, we talked and as I walked away I thought, "Oh, maybe that was someone else that died." My memory had failed me, but I was so happy that he was alive.

I find as I get older, I can go back in my past and remember a lot of things. Some good, some bad. One good memory I have is from the 1950s and what a simple life we lived. No internet, a crank phone, no TV, an old Maytag washer, hanging clothing on the line and yes, I remember the out-house.

At the time I was young and thought everyone lived like us and was pretty happy. School included yellow tablets, lead pencils, a chalkboard, packing your lunch and I loved school. I have good memories of those days.

Of course, I have good memories about having my 4 children, but a bad memory came about when my husband died at age 47.

I also recall when I was a young chick I was working 6 days a week in a restaurant and going to computer school in Fort Wayne on my day off. I just wanted to be somebody and hard work was the only way to do that.

Following my education, I worked for General Telephone for about 4 years. The reason I quit? ((Gas went up to 50 cents a gallon!))

That brought memories of computers being as big as a room, a big card file, wiring boards for the computers and lots of key punch operators.

Today, my kids are grown, I have 10 grandkids and 8

great and that is one of the greatest accomplishments for me.

Speaking of some of my awesome memories, I have always tended to lose things, get lost, get speeding tickets, and eat lots of chocolate.

Not too long ago I came into my home and everything was so dark. I thought oh no we lost the power. As I struggled to find a flashlight, I glanced out a window and even though it was sunny, it looked dark out too.

Oh no! I had my glasses on so I took them off and guess what? They were my sun glasses. I still had power and could see lights. Wow what a relief!



Another time I thought I left my glasses in a restaurant so a friend drove to the restaurant to see if they found them. Yes, the restaurant had found a pair.

Well when the glasses were returned to me I put them on and said, "These are mine. These are mine."

About a half hour later I found my own glasses in the bathroom. I found out that I had not left them at the restaurant, the ones at the restaurant they had weren't mine. It was so strange taking those restaurant glasses back because I had called and told the restaurant the ones they had were mine.

But making mistakes, getting lost, misplacing things and forgetting you have sunglasses on isn't that bad. At least I can still remember good things in life and you know what? I forget what I had for breakfast.

But I do remember eating big bowls of oatmeal with either sugar and cream on it for breakfast when I was young and that is still a good memory

Do you remember school days? Or who was in your class? What did you eat for breakfast today? Let me know and I'll give you a nickel for your thoughts! No, no. I forgot, it's a Penny For Your Thoughts.

• Bark's software is already used to help protect millions of children nationwide and is deployed in nearly 1,300 school districts to support student online safety.

About Paulding Putnam's ParentProtect Package

ParentProtect is available through Paulding Putnam's fiber internet network at

DEFIANCE COMMUNITY CULTURAL COUNCIL RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT



Pictured above are (l-r) Chris Yoder - DAF Executive Director and Sarah Tackett - DCCC/Stroede Center for the Arts Co-Executive Director.

Congratulations to Defiance Community Cultural Council (DCCC) for receiving a \$10,000 grant during our Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) spring grant cycle ear-

lier this year. This grant will be used for stage lighting in the Stroede Center, cameras for DCTV and remote production cameras for DCTV sports.

PAULDING COUNTY VENIRE PETIT MUNICIPAL COURT JURY LIST TERM III

Bryan Adams, Delina Arnett, Tammy Baker, Ryan Bakle, Cassandra Barnes, Robert Beatty, Steven Benroth, Keith Bercaw, Steve Berenyi, Tammy Berenyi, Marie Bickford, Ronald Billman, Benjamin Bohner, Thomas Boroff, Terry Bowers, Lacy Bowers, Gregory Boylan, Clifford Bragg, Christopher Bray, Jaclyn Buchman, Sandra Buffington, Ricky Burns, Shelby Carlisle, Sue Ann Carr, Brenda Caulfield, Tammy Clark, Victoria Clemens, Angela Coak, Zackery Compton, Craig Crosby, Malinda Curtis, Michele Daeger, Sandy Dangler, Greg Davis, Bethany DeJarnett, Loren Demongeot, Sue Ellen Derck, Nancy Derck, Kenneth Donat, Michael Dotson, Donald Dunderman Jr., Alec Dunham, Melissa Durham, Pamela Eddy, Brian Elkins, Donn English, Diane Erford, Nicole Estle, Reese Etzler, Scott Evans, Jason Flint, Kevin Florence, Robert Foltz II, Cheryl Folz, Kyle Fore, Sarah Franklin, Owen Franks, Gary Frederick, Kenneth Frederick, Mary Friend, Stephanie Funk, Ray Garbaciak,

Ronald Garrity II, Noah Gerschutz, Chase Gideon, Angelina Gill, Melissa Girardot, Rafael Gonzales, Barry Grant, Sacha Gray, Clifford Gray, Alan Griffiths, Robert Grubb, Dana Gunderman, Joanne Gunderman, Shawn Haley, Dereck Halker, Carrie Hammon, Lydia Hammon, Amy Hankinson, Craig Harris, Steven Harrison, Hailey Harter, Brock Hatlevig, Isaac Head, Marsha Henke, Charles Hitt, Christopher Hopkins, Melinda Huss, Sharon Johanns, Keith Johnson, Joseph Jones, Clay Justinger, Kyle Kelly, John Kipfer, Christina Klinker, Jacob Klopfenstein, Shelly Kohart, Kaitlyn Kramer, Betty Lambert, Shawn Lambert, Barbara Laukhuf, Emily Lebrecht, Jennifer Lee, Theresa Lehman, Reid Linder, Corbin Linder, Ray Lindsey, April Litzenberg, Ernest Lopshire, Darlene Lothamer, Amanda Lotz, James Maples, Elda Martens, Douglas Marvin, Darlene Matteson, Lauren McCain, Janice McDowell, Mary McMaster, Elise Miller, Amanda Miller, Sydney Miller, Tara Miller, Donna Miller, Branson Minck, Tristen Moore, Haskell Muncy, Diane Olwin, James Orozco, Jackie Pease, Patricia Pendergrast, David Perez, Susan Pessefall,

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 (part two)

I assure you the line Company boys don't take my liberal attitude, but are looking down the barrel of that rifle which bent up vengeance.

I'd do the same. You would really be interested in my surroundings. I'm sitting on a second floor balcony with the warm Italian sun creating a false feeling of peace and tranquility. The Italians really go in for spacious buildings, with big flare for unnecessary adornments. My desk is a box of grenades, all over the floor is scattered debris from the surrounding walls. It certainly will be a sad day when the owner returns and finds his house in such ruin. Many of the men have fled into the hills carrying a few meager possessions but they will return gradually as their homes are liberated from the Nazis. They are very bitter against the Germans, and small wonder. They even

have looted what little the Italians were able to take with them. All of the stories about the unscrupulous Germans must have been true, even more so what some of the Germans have to say is very interesting.

Before I decide to start a novel on this subject, I'd better sign off, assuring you I am o.k. and will write as often as opportunity presents itself.

Corporal Royce E. Smith
35345369 85th Infantry,
Division Band

P.S. A correspondent just gave four of us an interview. He took notes on our reaction to our first enemy air bombing. I consider myself lucky I didn't get hit. Those Stukas were plenty terrifying. He also took the address of the Paulding Republican Newspaper, which I just received.

Royce Smith was my neighbor from my childhood until he passed away. I loved his sense of humor, craftsmanship in making human models for the Paulding Historical Museum. Leaving model heads in the windows of his shop was often scary. But as he would say, "No one ever broke in". I knew his father Altie and his mother, Agness, great people. I had really neat neighbors as a kid growing up. I only wish that I would have wrote down what they said. All I have are great memories from old neighbors and watching new neighbors living in their homes. I guess to them, I am starting to be that old neighbor.

... Until Next Time!

Stacie Peters, Jarrod Phlipot, Russ Pierce, Joseph Pollard, Lynn Proxmire, Benjamin Rager, Nickolas Ray, Sherry Reinhart, Michael Reinhart, Isaiah Rittenhouse, Caroline Rohrs, Stacy Ross, Thomas Roth, Jason Rupp, Laurie Ryan, Michael Sanderson, Kathleen Schilb, Brian Schlatter, Bruce Schmidt, Virginia Schmidt, Beth Ann Schweinsberg, Kenneth Shellenbarger, Alexandra Shelton, Molli Shepherd, Gregory Sherry, Tyler Sherry, Phoebe Shopshire, Regina Singer, Randall Slattman, Daniel Smith, Mark Smith, Devon Snyder, Jereka Spieth, Robert Stef-

fen, Sally Stevenson, Wesley Stillions, Lorie Strable, Alex Straley, Joseph Stromski, Nathan Sutton, Sherry Svec, Ruthann Swary, Aaron Timm, Debra Tope, Marlene Tracy, Kathleen Vachon, Brenda Vance, Kenneth Vickery, Marilea Volkert, Lori Walton, Dolly Wann, Gregory Weber, Mackenzie Weible, James Weidenhamer Jr., Wendy Westhoven, Brian Williams, Cheryl Williams, Debora Williamson, Charles Workman Sr., Stephen Yoder, Terry Zartman, Elizabeth Zartman, Kathleen Zartman, Allan Zimmer, Sandra Zuber, Russell Zuber, Heidi Zuber

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 1)

tools to:

• Filter and block inappropriate websites and content categories

• Set and manage screen time limits by device

• Receive location alerts when a child arrives at or leaves a designated place

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Community Education Events

Ahead of the September rollout, Paulding Putnam staff are attending open house events at local schools to talk directly with parents and teachers about online safety, answer questions, and share resources.

Staff attended Grover Hill Elementary's open house and will be at Crestview on

Wednesday, Aug. 19, and Thursday, Aug. 20.

"Bringing Bark into our ParentProtect package at no extra cost is exactly the kind of investment a cooperative should make, not because it drives profit, but because it's the right thing to do for the families who own this co-op. That's been true since 1935, and it's still true today," says Renee Hull, Paulding Putnam's Chief Finance Officer.

More information about Bark and the ParentProtect internet package is available at www.ppec.coop/for-home/internet-packages/parent-protect/bark/. Those with questions can call the office at 800-686-2357, email member_services@ppec.coop, or visit www.PPEC.coop/internet.



AUTHORS

Dotting My Teas By:
Marlene Oxender

I recently stumbled upon an online discussion regarding the definition of the word "author." Someone asked when it is that a writer becomes an author.

One of the participants in the conversation pointed out that fixing a plumbing problem doesn't mean you're a plumber. Preparing a meal doesn't make you a chef. Working on your car doesn't mean you are a mechanic, and so forth.

This person went on to say that self-publishing a book doesn't make you an author.

It made me wonder if anyone in the discussion group had owned a deck of Authors playing cards when they were growing up. If so, this is where they saw pictures of Mark Twain, Louisa May Alcott, and eleven additional famous authors. This is where they learned the titles of many famous books.

I remember looking at those cards as a child and thinking you had to be old to be an author. I had no plans of becoming old anytime soon. Certainly I would never become an author; I simply didn't fit the profile.

Then this writing thing happened to me – when I got older. If it weren't for my parents' estate, my younger brother Stevie, and a mother who encouraged her children to write, I would not be writing. And thus I would not be wondering when it is that someone becomes an author.

If you think about it, writers make something out of nothing. Or maybe it's more accurate to say they make something out of twenty-six letters. They simply need to arrange the letters in ways that people enjoy.

When the fishing magazine arrives at our house, I know the letters are lined up in a way that will keep my husband's attention.

It's fascinating to me that fishermen know how to pull a fish out of a body of water.

They know what kind of equipment they need. They know when the fish may be biting. They know, and they know, and they know.

I, on the other hand, know very little about fishing. I know fishermen will get out of bed at a very early hour to head out for the day. I know a fishing trip is a vacation for them. I know they'll end up with a few fishing stories to tell. It's safe to say they are fishermen.

Perhaps it's the same for authors – they are writers who keep showing up with stories. They keep coming back to arrange those twenty-six letters into something worth sharing.

A board game many of us began playing as children is Scrabble. It's a game in which players line up small, lettered tiles to form a word. Serious players keep a Scrabble dictionary nearby and learn of words that are rarely used – except in word games.

I've heard it said that children never remember their best day in front of the television, but they will remember the days when someone spent time with them. They'll remember who was there to play games and who taught them hobbies that took them into the great outdoors.

And although their father may not be a plumber, they'll remember learning how to fix a plumbing issue. They'll remember learning how to change a tire from someone who isn't a mechanic. And they may grow up to become a chef, having been inspired by someone who knows just the basics.

My mother told me she didn't realize the best years of her life were when her children were home. She was living through what she thought were tiring, nameless moments.

If my siblings and I were bored, we learned not to tell our mother, for the next thing we knew, there'd be a cleaning cloth in our hands.

According to her, there was always something to do. She'd tell us to go read something. Or write something.

Fast forward to today. Now I'm the one telling people they ought to find a pen and paper and write a quick story about something that once happened to them. Something only they could tell but their family would enjoy reading.

Those of us who own boxes full of photos can write a few identifying words on the backs of them. Some-

day, someone will be grateful for what we did.

Those twenty-six letters are here to help us make something out of nothing. We can write our to-do list. We can keep a journal. We can make Xs and Os show up in unexpected places. We can write about days gone by. There are nameless moments longing to be named.

We can play Scrabble and learn how many points we'll tally if we figure out how to play the X, Q, and Z tiles. Or we can sit on the floor and play a loud game of Spoons.

Children will discover that we older people may not look much like kids anymore, but we still know a

thing or two about being one.

Every day is an empty page, and we're right on time for our next chapter.

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

FRAUD IS EVOLVING. SO MUST WE.

By: Jeff Mumma, President & CEO, Antwerp Exchange Bank

Every week, we hear about new fraud attempts targeting consumers, businesses, and local organizations. Scammers are convincing, motivated, and increasingly sophisticated. They use technology and trust to steal money and personal information, which means all of us have to stay alert.

Many scams no longer come from a stranger knocking on your door. Instead, they arrive through text messages, emails, social media, and phone calls that appear legitimate. Criminals may claim to be from your bank, a government agency, a delivery company, or even a family member.

One of the most common fraud schemes continues to be text message fraud. You may receive a message claiming there is a problem with your account or that suspicious activity has been detected. The message often creates a sense of urgency and asks you to click a link or provide personal information.

Remember this simple rule: Never provide account numbers, passwords, one-time verification codes, or online banking credentials in response to an unsolicited call, text, or email.

Another growing concern is check fraud. Criminals are stealing checks from mailboxes, altering them, and attempting to negotiate them for larger amounts. If you regularly mail checks, consider using the post office rather than leaving outgoing mail in an unsecured mailbox. Monitor your accounts frequently and report suspicious activity immediately.

Seniors are often targeted through grandparent scams and imposter scams. Fraudsters may claim that a loved one is in trouble and needs money immediately. Their goal is to create panic and pressure victims into acting before verifying the facts. Whenever you receive an urgent request involving money, take a moment to slow down, contact the person directly, and confirm the story.

Technology plays an important role in protecting our customers. Banks today use sophisticated monitoring systems, fraud detection tools, and cybersecurity measures to help identify

suspicious activity. However, the most effective defense remains an informed customer.

At Antwerp Exchange Bank, protecting our customers is one of our highest priorities. If you get a call from someone claiming to be from the Bank and something feels off, hang up and call your local branch or our main office at (419)258-5351. Scammers can make a phone number look local or familiar, so it is always okay to pause and verify. Please call us or stop in if something does not seem right. We would much rather answer a quick question today than help recover funds after a loss tomorrow.

We will never ask you over the phone for your account number, Social Security number, online banking credentials, or other personal information that could compromise your identity. We will also never ask you to withdraw cash, buy gift cards, send cryptocurrency, lie to the bank, or stay on the phone while completing a transaction. If someone tells you to do any of those things, please find a way to tell us. We can help protect your money before it falls into the wrong hands.

Community banking has always been about relationships. By working together and staying informed, we can make it much harder for fraudsters to succeed. We may ask a few extra questions from time to time, and we understand that can feel inconvenient. Please know our goal is simple: to protect your money, your identity, and your peace of mind.

We are also excited to share that our new Paulding office is opening soon. We have heard there are new faces in town and new families and businesses we have not had the chance to meet yet. If that is you, we would love to talk with you. Stop in, introduce yourself, ask questions, and get to know our team. Community banking works best when we know each other.

If you ever receive a suspicious message, call Antwerp Exchange Bank directly before taking action. Our team is always happy to help.

Fraud Prevention Tip of the Month: "Stop. Verify. Then Act." A few extra minutes of caution can prevent months of financial headaches.



HUSTED MEETS WITH OHIO JOB CREATORS, BUSINESS LEADERS AND SPORTSMEN IN MARIETTA, COLUMBUS, DELAWARE



Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio) visited the Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition Support Center in Marietta and met with members of the Columbus business community at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. He also visited Black Wing Shooting Center in celebration of National Shooting Sports Month.

"The Ohioans I met with this week are all examples of the leadership that makes our state strong. From workers and job creators to sportsmen, they are committed to making Ohio an even better place to live and work. I always enjoy the time I get to spend on the ground with Ohioans, hearing their priorities and taking those conversations back with me as I represent them in the U.S. Senate," said Husted.

At the Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition Support Center, Husted held a roundtable with industry partners, local elected officials and education partners on the importance of strengthening Ohio's workforce.

This visit builds on Husted's work to equip students with the skills necessary to earn high-paying jobs, strengthening the workforce. As Ohio's lieutenant governor, Husted expanded career technical education to give more Ohio students access to skills training that enabled them to graduate high school career-ready. He also pioneered TechCred and the Individual Microcredential Assistance Program, a job training program that provides every Ohioan with access to the credentials they need to earn good jobs.

Husted also helped pass Workforce Pell Grants into law this summer. Workforce Pell Grants will soon make short-term, high-quality training programs eligible for federal financial aid.

Husted also joined members of the Columbus business

community for a discussion at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce on economic development and efforts to support Ohio businesses and job creators.

Additionally, Husted visited Black Wing Shooting Center in celebration of National Shooting Sports Month. Black Wing is a family-owned indoor and outdoor shooting range. Husted is a strong supporter of the Second Amendment, hunting and recreational shooting sports.

These visits build on Husted's work to help Ohio workers, manufacturers and small businesses. In the Senate, Husted is supporting:

- Made in America Manufacturing Financing Act: This bill would expand access to growth capital for small U.S.-based manufacturers.

- Investing in All of America Act: This bill would expand access to capital for small businesses in rural and low-income communities, as well as those in the manufacturing and critical technology sectors.

- AI for Mainstreet Act: This bill would provide training, guidance and support to American small businesses looking to implement AI into their businesses.

- Repealing Big Brother Overreach Act: This bill would eliminate the requirement for small businesses to report beneficial ownership information to the Treasury Department, which is burdensome and overreaching.

Husted also supported the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, which includes major provisions for small businesses and their workforce. • Makes the 20% small business tax deduction permanent.

This will deliver \$4,600 in average tax relief to 8 million entrepreneurs around the country.

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PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages

1st Weekend- Paulding , Fair Grounds
2nd Weekend- Grover Hill , VFW
3rd Weekend- Payne ,
(Paved lot east of Homier's)
4th Weekend- Antwerp ,
(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)

New Schedule For Smaller Villages

3rd Wednesday of each month
Cecil 11:30-12:00 (Fire Station)
Junction 12:30-1:00 (Catholic Church)
Haviland/Scott 1:30-2:00 (SR 114 at Haviland Park)
Latty/Briceton 2:30-3:00 (Latty Park)

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

- years.
- Doubles the small business expensing limits for new investments in machinery, equipment and software.
 - Includes a \$7,000 tax cut

PARKVIEW HEALTH RECEIVES KLAS ARCH COLLABORATIVE PINNACLE AWARD FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR



From left, Connor Bice, senior director, KLAS Research; Dr. Mark Mabus, vice president of electronic health records and chief medical informatics officer, Parkview Health; Dr. Hasan Ahmad, vice president and assistant chief medical informatics officer; and Steve Low, president, KLAS Research; pose with the KLAS Arch Pinnacle Award. It's the second consecutive year Parkview has received the award for effective utilization of its electronic health records system.

For the second consecutive year, Parkview Health has received the Pinnacle Award from the KLAS Arch Collaborative, which recognizes health systems for high-level effectiveness and user experience with their electronic health records (EHR).

Parkview ranked in the 98th percentile for physician experience among 126 health systems surveyed that use the Epic EHR system. Parkview was one of only nine systems nationwide to receive the Pinnacle Award for physicians and was also recognized as the top-per-

- for 12 million small business owners.
- Cuts taxes on tips and overtime, saving tipped and overtime workers up to \$1,750 per year.

The Arch Collaborative at KLAS Research is a group of healthcare organizations committed to improving the EHR experience for clinicians. Through standardized surveys and benchmarking, healthcare organizations collaborate to identify best practices for reducing burnout, increasing efficiency and accuracy, and improving patient care. KLAS is a research and insights firm on a global mission to improve healthcare delivery by amplifying the provider's voice.

Parkview has implemented numerous practices to manage its EHR in cooperation with users, such as conducting customized 1-on-1 sessions with providers, creating short informational content for physicians with user tips, and generating fun and engaging content such as music videos or interactive tools to reinforce training.

"Technology is interwoven into every part of the healthcare experience," said Jeff Coulter, chief information officer, Parkview Health. "Working one-on-one with physicians will always be the foundation of great care, but technology also provides our caregivers with the tools to make safe, effective, and efficient decisions."

Parkview joined the Arch Collaborative in 2025 in order to gauge how the system matched up against other health systems. Parkview received the Pinnacle Award in its first year and repeated the achievement.

Parkview has frequently been recognized for its effective implementation and use of technology. The system achieved cum laude status and made Epic's annual Honor Roll for five consecutive years; maintains a 12-year streak as a "Most Wired" system with the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME); and achieved a three-year Stage 7 certification, the highest possible, with the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) in 2023.

"Parkview has implemented technology to benefit all users from physicians to nurses to the patients themselves," said Dr. Ray Dushman, president, physician and clinical enterprise, Parkview Health. "Parkview continually proves it is on the forefront in using technology to improve our patients' experience, create efficiencies for our providers, and improve quality and safety."

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THE SALVATION ARMY EXPANDS DISASTER RESPONSES IN INDIANA COMMUNITIES

The Salvation Army is responding in communities across northwestern and east central Indiana as record power outages and floods create hazardous conditions for tens of thousands of Hoosiers. Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) teams have been deployed and are providing food, hydration, shelter, and other emergency assistance to impacted residents.

LAKE COUNTY, IN

The August 11 storms left most Lake County residents without power, including The Salvation Army's three locations in Hammond, East Chicago, and Gary. In spite of these outages, the East Chicago corps has continued to serve the public with meals throughout the week and is working with Strack and Van Til and other community partners to get food distributed from the corps' location at 513 W. Chicago Avenue. The most current distribution information can be found on Facebook at facebook.com/SalvationArmyEastChicago.

Additional food box distributions will be in place by Wednesday at the Gary-Merrillville corps, located at 4800 Harrison Street in Gary. Updates regarding service in the Gary area will be posted on Facebook at facebook.com/TSAGaryMerrillville.

PORTER COUNTY, IN

The Salvation Army of Porter County is serving residents of Porter County and eastern Lake County, providing meals and hydration. On Sunday the EDS team will be at the Portage Strack and Van Til store, located at 6046 Central Avenue, with NIPSCO to distribute food and water. Lunches will also be served Monday-Wednesday of next week at the Porter County corps, located at 799 Capitol Road north of South Haven.

The team in Porter County has been providing food from the centralized feeding site at Portage High School, serving thousands of meals in the first few days of the disaster response. Updates and additional information about distribution

sites and needs will continue to be posted on Facebook at facebook.com/SAPorterCounty.

LA PORTE COUNTY, IN

The Salvation Army of La Porte County has been distributing food and hydration to residents without power since the August 11 storms. Distributions from the Michigan City corps, located at 1201 Franklin Street, will continue into next week with additional food distributions taking place over the weekend in Hanna, Unions Mills, Kingsford Heights, La Porte City Hall, and La Porte Civic Auditorium. Food distribution will also continue at the La Porte corps, located at 3240 Monroe Street.

Future distribution locations and times are being posted to the corps' Facebook pages as they are confirmed. Visit facebook.com/samichiganacityin and facebook.com/salaporte for the latest information as the response continues to develop.

MADISON COUNTY, IN

The Salvation Army of Anderson has been sheltering displaced residents since August 12 as hundreds were rescued from their homes as a result of record-breaking flooding. The corps is open 24/7 with cots and hot meals for up to 40 individuals. It is also distributing nonperishable food, clothing and boots, and personal care items.

"Thank you to the volunteers who have given more than 1,000 volunteer hours since this disaster response began," said Major Mike Wolfe with The Salvation Army. "We've had great support from the community and food partners like The Big Easy, Toast Diner, Cracker Barrel, KFC, and Fazoli's. This has been a team effort and we will continue to do everything in our power to keep meeting the needs of our community."

Major Wolfe shared that they are running low on certain supplies, including nonperishable food and adult incontinence items. Donations can be dropped off at the Anderson corps, located at 1615

Meridian Street. Anyone in need can reach the corps around the clock by calling 765-644-2538. Updates will continue to be posted to Facebook at facebook.com/SalvationArmyAndersonIndiana.

HENRY COUNTY, IN

The Salvation Army of Henry County, located in New Castle at 2500 Washington Street, has been offering three meals each day to the public and has converted its gymnasium into a distribution center thanks to a generous donation from Walmart. Pallets of water, cleaning supplies, and nonperishable food from Walmart are helping Henry County residents after destructive floods displaced residents across the county.

"My shirt is soaked from the tears I've absorbed this week," said Envoy Beth Stamper with The Salvation Army. "People just want to hold you because they've lost so much and they're so scared. It is beautiful to see the whole community come together, from the emergency coordinator and trustee to the high school football team. It's really nice to see everyone just helping, especially after such devastating loss."

While The Salvation Army building in New Castle can't be used as a shelter because of storm damage to the building, Envoy Stamper has put a plea out to the public for monetary donations. Displaced residents need help paying for motel rooms while flood cleanup continues. Updated needs and community resources will continue to be posted on Facebook at facebook.com/SalvationArmyHenryCounty.

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, NOCAC, 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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DEFIANCE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY WELCOMES STUDENTS FOR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



First day at Defiance Christian Academy was a great success. Pictured above are students and staff of DCA.



Will and Dave Gillingerten and Sam Andres stand by the newly installed sign for Defiance Christian Academy.

Defiance Christian Academy (DCA) officially opened its doors for its first day of school, welcoming 30 students as the new Christian school begins its inaugural year.

DCA is beginning the school year with four teachers serving students in kindergarten through sixth grade. The academy is utilizing combined classrooms as it begins its first year of operation.

Representatives from the

Center for Christian Virtue in Columbus and its Ohio Christian Education Network were on hand to help celebrate the school's opening. DCA has developed a relationship with the organizations as it worked toward establishing the new school.

Students, teachers, board members and the school's principal joined representatives from the Ohio Christian Education Network and Center for Christian Virtue for a photo commemorating

the academy's first day.

Another visible sign of the school's arrival in the community is a new DCA sign that has been installed along Standley Road at the entrance to the Defiance Christian Church parking lot.

Although classes have begun, enrollment at Defiance Christian Academy remains open for the 2026-27 school year.

School officials said DCA has been able to make its first year more affordable for families through the support of numerous donors and grants. "Founding Families," consisting of families enrolling during the academy's first year, will have the vast majority of their first-semester fees covered through those donations and grants.

For most families, school officials anticipate second-semester costs will be covered through Ohio's Ed-Choice Scholarship Program.

DCA continues to welcome families interested in

enrolling students in kindergarten through sixth grade as the academy begins its first year serving the Defiance area.

PAULDING GOLFERS COMPETE IN BACK-TO-BACK MATCHES

The Paulding boys golf program was busy with back-to-back competition Aug. 17-18, with the junior varsity squad taking the course Sunday before the varsity Panthers picked up a victory the following day.

On Aug. 17, Paulding's JV team competed in a three-team match against Lincolnview and Miller City. The Panthers finished third with a team score of 177, behind Lincolnview's winning 153 and Miller City's 162.

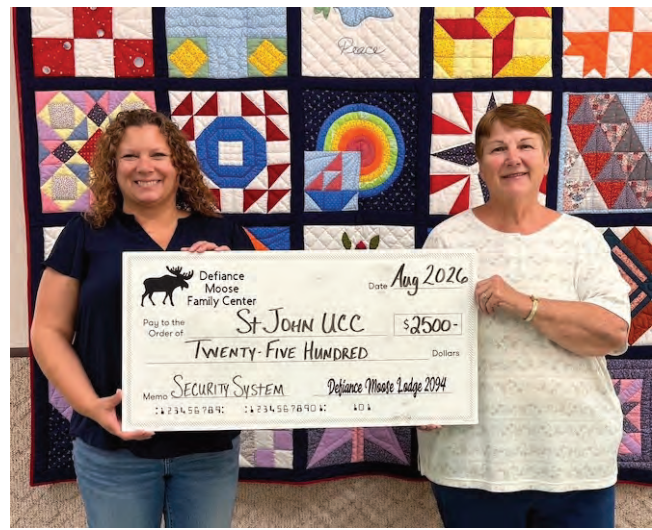
Nolan Schlatter led Paulding with a round of 55, while Gavin Parrett followed with a 58 and Chase Manz carded a 64. Lincolnview's Adam Miller earned medalist honors with a 45.

The Panthers returned to action Aug. 18 for a varsity tri-match against Antwerp and Hicksville at Pond-A-River Golf Course. Paulding turned in a strong team score of 150 to finish ahead of Antwerp's 161 and Hicksville's 176.

Gannon Parrett led the way for Paulding, firing a 35 to earn varsity medalist honors. Tyler Goyings added a 37, Tim Font III shot a 38 and Jack Daeger finished with a 40 to account for the Panthers' team score. Cameron Williams added a 41, while Nolan Schlatter recorded a 51.

Antwerp was paced by Kyler Johnson, Lincoln Lu-

DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE AWARDS \$2,500 GRANT TO ST. JOHN UCC



Congratulations to St. John United Church of Christ for receiving a \$2,500 grant from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. This grant will be used to improve security within St. John UCC's building. Pictured with the grant are (L to R) Stacy McCartney - Defiance Moose Lodge Administrator and Sarah Bennett - St. John UCC Deacon.

cas and Tyler Bradbury, who each shot 40. Emerson Morrow followed with a 41, Noah Lucas shot 42 and Isaac Meyer finished with a 46.

Hicksville's Charlie Karacson led the Aces with a 36, followed by Nolan Inkrott with a 39, Canyon Ankney with a 47 and Luke Nelson with a 54.

Junior varsity golfers also competed during the Aug. 18 match. Paulding's Gavin Parrett earned JV medalist honors with a 45, while teammate Chase Manz shot 63. Antwerp's Krayston Eicher recorded a 47 and Austin Fish finished with a 50.

USDA ANNOUNCES \$7.5 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING TO EXPAND COLD CHAIN CAPACITY AND INCREASE ACCESS TO REAL FOOD

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced \$7.5 million in grant funding available through the Cold Chain Grants for Emergency Food Assistance Program (CCG). The Program will fund projects to support cold chain equipment investments that help food assistance entities temporarily store, effectively package, and distribute fresh, frozen, and minimally processed foods.

"The Trump Administration continues to prioritize providing Real Food for Americans. Over the past year and a half, we have worked hard to incentivize healthier options for Americans and today's announcement is another step in the right direction," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins. "With this funding opportunity we will see more cold storage and infrastructure to store homegrown proteins for all Americans to enjoy as we continue to Make America Healthy Again."

"Every American deserves access to real, nutritious food," said HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. "This funding will give food banks the infrastructure to deliver more meat, eggs, dairy, produce, and other whole foods from American farmers and ranchers to families in need. Under President Trump's leadership, we are rebuilding a food system that nourishes American families and strengthens American agriculture."

Funded non-profit organizations will administer a sub-

award program to support cold storage within the middle of the supply chain. The selected grant recipient(s) will be responsible for managing and overseeing a competitive subaward program, including providing consultation and subject matter expertise to sub-awardees in support of cold storage in consumer-facing food assistance operations.

CCG recipients will issue subawards to fund cold chain equipment purchases, with the amount awarded being equal to the cost of the equipment and documented delivery, installation and necessary ancillary equipment/supplies, up to \$200,000. Sub-awardees will be required to provide a 10% cash cost share contribution.

Projects funded through CCG will result in more Real Foods produced by America's farmers and ranchers being made available to support healthier families and healthier communities in alignment with the 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. This program is funded through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021.

Application Information CCG applications must be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. ET on October 1st, 2026.

Any grant application submitted after the due date will not be considered. More information is available in the AMS' Late Applications, Denials and/or Appeals Procedures Policy.

For more information about grant eligibility, visit the Cold Chain Grants for Emergency Food Assistance program website or contact the CCG team at AMS.CCG@usda.gov.

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EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS WELCOMES NEW ADMINISTRATION



Robert Berkley

Mr. Robert Berkley is the new assistant principal at New Haven High School. Berkley is beginning his eighth year with East Allen County Schools and said he is excited to take on his new role while becoming part of the New Haven community. He said the opportunity will allow him to continue supporting students while helping build a strong pathway for their success.

Berkley said one of the things he enjoys most about education is watching students grow and seeing the moment when a concept clicks, their confidence increases or they recognize their own potential.

He also expressed enthusiasm for joining New Haven, describing the community's energy as "infectious." Looking ahead, Berkley said his goal is to build strong relationships, create opportunities and help empower every student to reach his or her full potential.



Diane Dikeolakos

Diane Dikeolakos is a new assistant principal at New Haven Jr/Sr High School. Dikeolakos begins the new position as she starts her 29th year in education. Ten of those years have been spent with East Allen County Schools.

She said she is grateful for the opportunity to join the New Haven High School community and looks forward to building on the positive momentum already taking place within the school.

Veronica Wilson is the new assistant principal and athletic director at Woodlan Jr/Sr High School. Wilson is entering her 13th year in education, her fifth year as an administrator and her eighth year with East Allen County Schools. She said she is excited to begin a new chapter at Woodlan and looks forward to supporting student-athletes,



Veronica Wilson

families, staff and the community.

In her new position, Wilson hopes to help create opportunities for students to succeed both in the classroom and through athletics.



Adam Smith

Adam Smith is the new administrative intern at New Haven Intermediate School. Smith has been with East Allen County Schools for the past six years and said he is excited for the opportunity to support the school's teachers and staff in his new position.

"I'm looking forward to supporting our teachers and staff in any way I can so that, together, we can provide our students with the best education possible," Smith said.

PENNEY NATURE STORY TRAIL ADVENTURE SET FOR SEPT. 3

Families are invited to enjoy a morning outdoors with Defiance Public Library System during a Penney Nature Story Trail Adventure on Thursday, Sept. 3, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Penney Nature Center, 08855 Ashpacher Road, Defiance.

Participants can explore the Penney Nature Storybook Trail at their own pace, stopping at 15 stations along the approximately half-mile trail to read the story. After completing the trail, children can make a nature-themed craft at the shelter house, provided by the DPL Children's Department, while supplies last.

The program is geared toward children and families, and no registration is required. Participants may arrive and leave at any time during the event.

The trail's walking paths are unpaved, and the only restroom facilities available are outhouses. Families are encouraged to wear appropriate hiking clothes and bring mosquito and tick spray.

For more information,

contact Defiance Public Library System at 419-782-1456.

FIELD REPORTS FROM OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OFFICERS

Central Ohio - Wildlife District One

State Wildlife Officer Maurice Irish, assigned to Delaware County, received a Turn In a Poacher (TIP) report that an individual had killed a white-tailed deer buck during the 2025-26 deer gun season and game checked the buck under another individual's name. Further investigation revealed the suspect harvested a deer the year prior and failed to complete the game check process. Summonses were issued for the violations, and the suspect paid \$741 in fines and court costs and received a two-year hunting license revocation.

State Wildlife Officer Nick Oliver, assigned to Champaign County, recently served as a judge for the Champaign County 4-H outdoor adventure beginning and intermediate fish projects. The program introduces young participants to the fundamentals of fishing and aquatic education. Throughout the spring and summer, 4-H members learn basic fishing skills, fish identification, and conservation principles. Their work culminates in a presentation delivered before a judge, showcasing what they have learned and accomplished throughout the project.

Northwest Ohio - Wildlife District Two

State Wildlife Officer Adam Stachler, assigned to Fulton County, was on patrol when he observed a kayak angler struggling to load a kayak into a vehicle. Officer Stachler helped load the kayak into the truck and held it in place while the angler secured it. Officer Stachler then conducted a routine fishing license check. The angler showed him a valid fishing license, as well as a picture of a trophy largemouth bass caught a few minutes earlier. Officer Stachler congratulated the angler and continued his patrol.

State Wildlife Officers Matt R. Smith and Eric VonAlmen, assigned to Henry and Wood counties, respectively, contacted an angler fishing the walleye run earlier this spring. Prior to making contact, Officer Smith ran the license plate of the angler's vehicle and did not find a fishing license. When asked for a fishing license, the angler produced a suspicious looking license. Upon further investigation, they found that the angler had created a fictitious license. The individual was cited and ordered to pay \$150 in fines and \$135 in court costs.

Northeast Ohio - Wildlife District Three

In late May, while on boat patrol on Lake Erie near Lorain, State Wildlife Investigator Brian Bury and State Wildlife Officer Zach Hillman, assigned to Summit County, contacted a charter boat that had just returned from walleye fishing. The officers discovered that all persons aboard had caught their limit of walleye, but only the charter captain possessed a valid fishing license. Four individuals were issued summonses for fishing without a license. The individuals were found guilty and each was ordered to pay \$171 in fines and

court costs.

State Wildlife Officer Nick Turner, assigned to Harrison County, attended the Freepart Farmers and Sportsman's Club's 16th annual Youth Fishing Derby. The club averages around 100 children per year who attend to fish and receive fishing poles, tackle, and gear donated by local partners. Officer Turner saw a lot of familiar faces and spent time talking to several children about their fishing and hunting experiences, including a young individual who is eager to become a future wildlife officer.

Southeast Ohio - Wildlife District Four

State Wildlife Officer Kiri Williams, assigned to Vinton County, received a report of a large trash dump on Wellston Wildlife Area. Officer Williams contacted a suspect who was found to have unlawfully dumped the trash. The suspect was issued a summons for state property litter and was ordered to pay \$272 in fines and court costs.

State Wildlife Officer Ted Witham, assigned to Jackson County, recently attended a youth fishing derby hosted by the local bass club, the Oak Hill Lunker Hunters. This year marked the 40th event. The club provided lunch for the 100 children who attended and awarded prizes for the biggest and smallest fish. Every young angler left with a fishing pole or other equipment.

Southwest Ohio - Wildlife District Five

State Wildlife Officer Jeff Wenning, assigned to Montgomery County, along with Wildlife Officer Supervisor David Warner, recently attended Free Range Day at Spring Valley Shooting Range. Free Range Day is held in coordination with the National Shooting Sports Foundation and features special events at two of Ohio's premier public shooting ranges. On-site staff provided equipment, ammunition, ear protection, and eye protection. Free to the public, the shooting range permit requirement is waived on all Division of Wildlife Class A, B, and C shooting ranges for the annual event.

HIGHWAY PATROL INVESTIGATES FATAL TRAFFIC CRASH

Woodville, OH - The Swanton Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal traffic crash that occurred on August 19, 2026, at approximately 3:55AM. On Interstate 80 (Ohio Turnpike) near milepost 75 in Woodville Township, Sandusky County.

The crash occurred when Melody K. Wilburn, age 49 of Oak Harbor, Ohio was traveling eastbound on Interstate 80 near milepost 75 in a 2014 GMC Terrain. Ms. Wilburn's vehicle traveled off of the right side of the roadway and into a ditch. Ms. Wilburn was pronounced deceased at the scene of the incident. Ms. Wilburn was not wearing a safety belt at the time of the incident and impairment is not suspected of being a factor in the crash. The crash remains under investigation.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted at the scene by Lake Township Fire and EMS, The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission, the Sandusky County Coroner's Office, and Madison Motor Service Towing.



HOWARD GRAY

A story that touched my heart. One of those things that you listen to in the shower and wow. Something that's happened to all of us and shouldn't.

I'm always amazed how a song tell a story in a few sentences. I've mentioned before John Smidt from Berlin, Ohio. He could have been one of the most popular singers but gave this up for a prison ministry. I'm listening to a concert and this song comes up. John enunciate so well that it's not hard to pick up the lyrics:

"Most everyone I knew put the whole

"Gray family down

"They were the poorest family in our little Kansas town

"Howard sat across from me in 7th grade in school

"I didn't like it much but Mama taught the Golden rule

"You see Howard was the type that is easy to pick on. He was different. If you kind of liked him a bit, and I didn't tease him which made him think I was his friend.

"So when the spitballs flew at him I never did join in. I would look and see the grateful eyes of Howard Gray looking back at me."

But things were about to get rocky.

One day I did something that I will regret the rest of my life.

"One day after lunch I went to comb my hair and saw they had Howard pinned against the lockers in the hall and they had his left arm pinned behind him until it hurt."

"Somehow I can't explain how I ended up laughing with the rest. Till this day I can still see the eyes of Howard Gray looking back at me. I wanted to apologize but I was too afraid to be a friend to you Howard Gray."

"He never smiled at me nor looked my way again. Not much longer after that his family moved away and that's all I ever heard of Howard Gray."

That was 20 years ago and I still haven't found why we kick our brother or our sister when they're down. I only hope you'll hear this song someday and know that we are sorry Howard Gray"

A lifetime of regret. My three youngest grandkids are super athletes and straight A students. I've told them from day one, find someone that is not part of the 'in' crowd and eat lunch with them, or just be their friend. I don't know if this has helped but they always have a couple of friends with them.

But that is not the end of the story. This song was written and sung by Lee Dolman from Nashville, TN, who is a friend of Johnny's. Johnny asked him if he ever saw Howard Gray again.

Lee said, "As a matter of fact I did." Last year my dad passed away and as they lowered the casket I looked up and saw a face with a tear in his eye. I walked right up to him, stood beside him and put my arm around him. "Will you forgive me?"

"Yuh." 20 years of guilt lifted.

Howard never returned to school after the 7th grade and had only low paying jobs. He heard the song on the radio and now he was getting fan mail. A few years later, Johnny stopped by. "I've been singing your song," Johnny told him that every time he sings his song he will send him \$25. After that Common Ground Ministry sent him \$100 a month until his death. Sometimes all you have to do to help someone on his way is to be kind.

PS: I Love sunflowers

—James Neuhouser

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SEPTEMBER VIRTUAL EQUIPMENT AUCTION

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH @ 6:30 PM ET

Highlight Items: JD 7800, Case IH 4494, Cockshutt 1255, 1958 MH 444 NF, 1962 Case 730 Western, 1965 Case 730 Western, 1965 Case NF 730, 2018 Peterbilt Feed Truck, Adams Stainless 32' Steel Tender Trailer x3, 18' Corn Pro Livestock Trailer, Merritt 2000 Aluminum Hopper Bottom, 29' Gooseneck Econoline Trailer, JD 6600, JD 6620 w/ 220 Header x2, JD 7720 w/ 216 Platform, JD 643 Corn Head x2, Gravity/Grain Wagon x20, Kuhn Krause 8000-30 Excelsiorator, JD 960 Field Cultivator x2, 13 Knife 28 Applicator, 11 Shank Clark NH3 Applicator, 7 Shank NH3 Applicator, 26' Harrowator, Yetter 3415 Rotary Hoe, Trackmobile 9TM Railcar Mover, Case 580B Backhoe, TCM Tow Motor x2, 14' JD Flail Mower x2, HI-CAP Grain Cleaner, Case IH 5100 Soybean Special Drill, Case IH 5300 Soybean Special w/ Culti-Planter, McCormick International 37 Small Square Baler, 10 Wheel Sitrex Rake, Unverferth 120 Conveyor & More.

Preview: Items are available for preview by appointment.

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THE LEFT TURN



Kyle Larson Rules Knoxville in 2026 Photo Credit Action Photos Ohio.

By: Ron Burt

NASCAR Champion, Kyle Larson had a stellar week of racing, that capped off by winning his 4th Knoxville Nationals for 410 Winged Outlaw Sprint Cars and \$200,000.00 for his effort. After a long week of racing, qualifying, and winning the pole for the 65th Annual Knoxville Nationals, it was a long shot for him to make the race. Saturday afternoon his NASCAR obligations had him at Richmond VA in his Cup Car. While that race was going on, he had know idea, it was pouring rain in the Hawkeye State. Once his race was over, his crew helped him make a mad dash to the airport for a charter flight waiting for him. In Larsons favor, Iowa is on central time and that gave him 60 more minutes and pushed the starting time from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

When his flight was in the air, the airplane tracker app recorded 14,000 viewers tracking his fight. His plane was the most tracked in the world during the flight from Richmond to Knoxville. Once he arrived at the airport he was rushed to the track, just enough time to get his fire suit on and get strapped in his car. Starting on the pole, when the green flag dropped, he led every lap of the feature, taking the checked flag and celebrating in victory lane. It was an amazing day and another accomplishment for the driver called, "Yung Money". Standing next to the champion on

the podium 2nd Wooster Ohio's Sheldon Haudenschild and 3rd Kasey Kahne.

Larson had a busy race week leading up to the Knoxville Nationals. On Monday, August 10th, He won his 3rd Oskaloosa Challenge, three years in a row at Southern Iowa Speedway in Oskaloosa. This feature race will go down as one of the most interesting. Starting eleventh, Kyle Larson put a controversial late slider on Ryan Timms, to win his third Front Row Challenge in a row, and the sixth in his career. He earned \$21,000 for the win. The slider he put on Timms is still a hot topic over a week later and will be the subject of Sprint Car Racing for years.

Thursday, August 13th, Kyle Larson was back in Iowa getting ready for qualifying for the prestigious 65th Knoxville Nationals. He started in 8th and battled into the lead and picked up the win. On the Podium with Larson 2nd Garett Williamson, and 3rd Brent Marks.

Friday, August 14th, Larson had the night off and Donny Sahatz, had the feature win, 2nd Steven Snyder Jr., and 3rd Carson McCarl.

On Saturday, August 15th, close to home all the Sprint Car tracks were closed because of the Knoxville Nationals. Weather put the damper on most of the other race-tracks around the tri-state. Angola, Oakshade and Millstream called their programs early.

The Ohio Sports Blitz Football Scoreboard returns for the 6th season. Every Friday night at 10:20PM on Facebook Live www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz/. The largest scoreboard in NW Ohio besides local scores I

cover 28 Ohio football conferences, State and National ranked Top 10 teams. Scoreboards will be posted for 24 hours and can be replayed.

Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out!

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Dylcia M. Carter, Detroit, Michigan, pleaded guilty to a passenger seat belt violation. She was fined \$20 and ordered to pay \$62 in court costs.

Brendan Weidenhamer, Paulding, pleaded guilty to hunting without a license. He was fined \$83 and ordered to pay \$87 in court costs.

Joseph D. Jackson, Monroe, Michigan, pleaded guilty to driving under suspension. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Tycen J. Proxmire, Paulding, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Alfonso Martinez Meza, Paulding, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Siarha Blotter, Bloomington, Indiana, pleaded guilty to attempted commission of an offense. She was fined \$200 and ordered to pay \$141.64 in court costs. Blotter was sentenced to 90 days in jail, all of which were suspended. She was ordered to maintain good behavior and have no contact with Dollar General in Paulding. Fines and costs were ordered to be taken from bond.

Charles R. Scriver-Lamie, Grover Hill, pleaded guilty to assault. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$280 in court costs. Scriver-Lamie was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 178 days suspended. He was ordered to maintain good behavior and have no unlawful contact with the victim.

Aeris M. Brought, Van Wert, pleaded guilty to failure to control. Brought was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Chase R. Mayer, Paulding, pleaded guilty to improper lights. Mayer was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Francis D. Aldred, Paulding, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. Aldred was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Steven F. Tift, Bennington, Vermont, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle under the influence. Tift was fined \$565 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. He was sentenced to 90 days in jail, with 83 days suspended, and his driver's license was suspended from September 1, 2026, through September 1, 2027. A marked lanes charge and seat belt violation were dismissed.

STATE PATROL INVESTIGATING FATAL CRASH

Tully Township - The Ohio State Highway Patrol's Van Wert Post is investigating a two-vehicle fatal crash that occurred on August 21, 2026, at approximately 9:04 A.M. on US-30 and State Route 49 in Van Wert County.

A 2010 Toyota Corolla was being driven southbound on State Route 49 by Kaci Rae Sentelik, age 19, of Payne. A 2006 Western Star 4900 was

being driven westbound on US-30 by Gavin Brady Smith, age 24, of Quincy, MI. Sentelik stopped for a marked stopped sign on State Route 49. Sentelik failed to yield to oncoming traffic and was struck on the driver's side by Smith. Sentelik was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted on scene by the Van Wert County Sheriff's Office, Convoy Fire Department, Van Wert Fire Department, ODOT, Van Wert Coroner's Office, Hague Towing and Repair, Harting Farms, and Gerten Deadstock.

The crash remains under investigation.

PAULDING EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS BOARD MEETING 8/18/26

Guests and Public Participation: None

Treasurers' Report:

- Approved the July 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting minutes.

- Approved the financial reports and bills for July 2026

- Approved the Five-Year forecast

- Approved to transfer \$1406.86 from the General Fund to Quiz Bowl.

- Approved Jon Rhodes as Fall Quiz Bowl Advisor for the 2026-2027 school year and approved his waiver of financial compensation

- Approved of the NH and Class of 2027 student activity budgets

Administrators' Report:

Superintendent

- 1st Day of School

- HVAC Update

- Summer Work Updates

JVS Report

Legislative Report

The following Recommendations have been approved:

- Advanced Systems Group to work on the light panel for the JH/HS Auditorium lighting at an estimated cost of \$29,000.

- Marching Band Trip to Circleville, Ohio, October 21-22, 2026, approximately 60 students and five chaperones

- School calendar adjustment to remove Wednesday, May 5, 2027 and Wednesday, May 12, 2027 as Panther Professional Learning Days on the school calendar.

- Approved the addendum to the Cell Phone/Smart Device Policy in the Middle School Handbook:

Cell phones and smart watches must be silenced and in student lockers during the duration of the school day. Paulding Junior High School students are not allowed to carry cell phones on their person during the school day. All Paulding Junior High School student calls must be made from the office using the office telephone.

Two-Hour Delay Schedule

Warning Bell: 9:55 AM

Period 1: 10:00-10:32 AM

Period 2: 10:36-11:06 AM

Period 3: 11:10-11:40 AM

Period 4: 11:41 AM - 12:15 PM

Lunch: 12:18-12:48 PM

Period 5: 12:52-1:22 PM

Period 6: 1:26-1:56 PM

Period 7: 2:00-2:30 PM

Panther Time: 2:34-3:00 PM

The following Personnel Recommendations have been approved:

- The resignation of the following:

Brittany Grinnell, Paulding Bus Driver. She has served the district for 4.5 years.

Ian Gochenour, JH/HS cafeteria worker. He has worked in the cafeteria for one year.

Tanya Bok, PJH Social Studies Teacher. She has served the district for 12 years.

- The following extracurricular contracts were rescinded:

Cole Seslar, High School Assistant Football Coach

Phil Romero, Middle School Student Council Advisor

visor 25%

Madison Etter, Middle School Student Council Advisor 25%

- A one-year limited contract for the following:

Alyssa Taylor, Intervention Specialist, Paulding Junior High

Megan Hahn, Social Studies Teacher, Paulding Junior High

Tyler Hines, Intervention Specialist, Paulding Junior High

Christine Spencer, Intervention Specialist, Oakwood Elementary

- A one-year limited extracurricular contracts for the following:

Joe Fisher - HS Assistant Football Coach

Phil Romero - Junior High Student Council 50%

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CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK RETURNS AS BRONZE SPONSOR FOR DAF'S 2026 GALA



Pictured are Jason LaBounty - Citizens National Bank SVP, Defiance City President and Chelsie Schroeder - DAF Marketing Director.

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

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

Defiance Area Foundation Community Fund, which provides flexible grant dollars to support local non-profits, community projects, and emerging needs throughout Defiance County.

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



ANTWERP POLICE REPORT

August 3 - A vehicle was observed making an improper stop. A traffic stop followed, and criminal indicators were observed. A canine was called in, and possible methamphetamine was

found and sent to BCI for testing. A report was forwarded to the prosecutor.

August 3 - A resident requested officers increase patrol on Erie and Canal streets for people speeding and running stop signs.

August 5 - Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident on W. River St.

August 6 - Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident at the Sunoco gas station.

August 7 - Officers responded to a residence in Antwerp for a vehicle unlock.

August 8 - A welfare check was requested for an elderly resident in the vil-

lage.

August 8 - Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident on private property.

August 8 - Officers responded to a domestic violence report. A report was filed and sent to the prosecutor.

August 9 - A report was made about a tree in the roadway on N. Madison St.

August 10 - Officers responded to a residence for open burning.

August 11 - A vehicle was observed running a stop sign. During the traffic stop, the driver was found to have a suspended license. The officer issued a citation, and the vehicle was towed.

August 11 - A resident reported a citizen mowing grass clippings into the roadway. Officers responded, and the roadway was cleared.

August 13 - Officers were called to investigate a possible fraud case involving an Antwerp citizen.

August 13 - Officers were notified of a vehicle driving erratically while heading into Antwerp.

August 14 - An officer responded to a residence for a welfare check on two juveniles.

August 16 - A motorcycle operator was stopped and cited for illegal passing and street racing.

August 16 - An officer responded to a residence in the village for a domestic dispute.

August 18 - The Antwerp Police Department received a call regarding a neighborhood dispute. A resident complained that a neighbor was yelling and cussing at her. Officers responded and left without incident.

August 18 - While on patrol, officers observed a vehicle make an improper stop. The vehicle was stopped, and the driver was cited for driving under suspension.

August 18 - An officer responded to a call at a residence for suspected theft of prescription medication.

If you would like to report any suspicious activity or if you have any questions,

please contact the Antwerp Police Department, 419-258-2627. They are always ready to serve the residents of the Village of Antwerp!

FREE EXPUNGEMENT EDUCATION EVENT, SEPT. 22

A free presentation by local attorney, Heidi Fowler, explaining Indiana's Expungement Law and local resources for legal assistance will be given on Tuesday, September 22nd beginning at 6 p.m. The event will be held at the Auditorium at Ivy Tech Community College - Coliseum Campus, 3800 N. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN. Use door #6 facing Crescent Avenue.

Indiana's law allows a one-time opportunity for some low-level convictions, misdemeanors, and arrest records to be expunged (sealed) from criminal records. The Second Chance Initiative, a partnership of the Volunteer Center, the Volunteer Lawyer Program and Indiana Legal Services, offers individuals that meet qualification requirements the opportunity to have their Indiana conviction records expunged.

Volunteer Center Executive Director Ani Etter states, "A criminal record is one of the largest obstacles to better housing, employment, and education. The Second Chance Initiative provides an option for low to moderate income individuals to have a chance at a better future."

The Volunteer Center strengthens the community by connecting individuals with meaningful volunteer opportunities at local non-profits through a variety of impactful programs. The Second Chance Program is one such initiative, supported by a team of four dedicated volunteers whose expertise has helped more than 125 low- to moderate-income individuals take an important step toward a brighter future. To learn more, visit www.volunteer-fortwayne.org

The West Bend News

Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

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
Suite 238
Toledo, OH 43615

LEGAL NOTICE

2026 PAULDING COUNTY ASPHALT PAVING PROJECT

Sealed bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Paulding, Ohio, at 451 McDonald Pike, Paulding, Ohio, 45879 until 11:00 A.M., D.S.T. on September 2, 2026.

Proposal 1: 2026 OPWC Paving Project on Brown TR 263
Engineer's Estimate \$264,566

Proposal 2: 2026 Paving Projects for Various Township Roads
Engineer's Estimate \$524,278

Proposal 3: 2026 Paving Projects for Various Paulding County Roads
Engineer's Estimate \$883,792

Completion Deadline for each proposal is November 6, 2026. Each proposal will be awarded separately.

Each bidder is required to furnish with its proposal, a Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond in accordance with Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. Bid security furnished in Bond form, shall be issued by a Surety Company or Corporation licensed in the State of Ohio to provide said surety.

Each Proposal must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. The owner intends and requires that this project be completed as listed above.

All contractors and subcontractors involved with the project will, to the extent practicable use Ohio products, materials, services, and labor in the implementation of their project. Additionally, contractor compliance with the equal employment opportunity requirements of Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 123, the Governor's Executive Order of 1972, and Governor's Executive Order 84-9 shall be required.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Paulding County as determined by the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Wage and Hour Division, (614) 644-2239.

All contractors shall follow all applicable Federal and State OSHA regulations. The contractor shall also hold the County Engineer harmless for any violations or fines received while engaged in this project.

All contractors must provide current Certificate of Liability Insurance Coverage for \$1,000,000 along with a current Certificate of Worker's Compensation Coverage, before they can be hired to perform any type of work for Paulding County.

All materials shall conform to the latest version of the State of Ohio Department of Transportation Construction and Material Specifications.

Sealed bids shall be in writing and in accordance with specifications furnished by Paulding County and on file in the Offices of the Paulding County Engineer and Commissioners.

Bids are to be sealed and addressed to the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Paulding County, Ohio, and bids on the above-named items to be marked:

PROPOSAL (insert proposal number): "2026 Paulding County Asphalt Paving Projects"

The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids received.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
Heather Barnhouse, Clerk Board of Commissioners

LEGAL NOTICE

2026 PAULDING COUNTY PAVEMENT MARKING PROJECTS

Sealed bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Paulding, Ohio, at 451 McDonald Pike, Paulding, Ohio, 45879 until 11:00 A.M., D.S.T. on September 2, 2026.

Proposal 1: 2026 Paulding County Pavement Marking Project
Engineer's Estimate \$15,360

Completion Deadline for each proposal is November 6, 2026. Each proposal will be awarded separately.

Each bidder is required to furnish with its proposal, a Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond in accordance with Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. Bid security furnished in Bond form, shall be issued by a Surety Company or Corporation licensed in the State of Ohio to provide said surety.

Each Proposal must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. The owner intends and requires that this project be completed as listed above.

All contractors and subcontractors involved with the project will, to the extent practicable use Ohio products, materials, services, and labor in the implementation of their project. Additionally, contractor compliance with the equal employment opportunity requirements of Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 123, the Governor's Executive Order of 1972, and Governor's Executive Order 84-9 shall be required.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Paulding County as determined by the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Wage and Hour Division, (614) 644-2239.

All contractors shall follow all applicable Federal and State OSHA regulations. The contractor shall also hold the County Engineer harmless for any violations or fines received while engaged in this project.

All contractors must provide current Certificate of Liability Insurance Coverage for \$1,000,000 along with a current Certificate of Worker's Compensation Coverage, before they can be hired to perform any type of work for Paulding County.

All materials shall conform to the latest version of the State of Ohio Department of Transportation Construction and Material Specifications.

Sealed bids shall be in writing and in accordance with specifications furnished by Paulding County and on file in the Offices of the Paulding County Engineer.

Bids are to be sealed and addressed to the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Paulding County, Ohio, and bids on the above-named items to be marked:

PROPOSAL 1: "2026 Paulding County Pavement Marking Projects"

The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids received.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
Heather Barnhouse, Clerk Board of Commissioners

LEGAL NOTICE

2026 PAULDING COUNTY CHIP SEAL PROJECT

Sealed bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Paulding, Ohio, at 451 McDonald Pike, Paulding, Ohio, 45879 until 11:00 A.M., D.S.T. on September 2, 2026.

Proposal 1: 2026 Chip Seal Projects for Various Township Roads
Engineer's Estimate \$385,840

Proposal 2: 2026 Chip Seal Projects for Various Paulding Co. Roads
Engineer's Estimate \$360,901

Completion Deadline for each proposal is November 6, 2026. Each proposal will be awarded separately.

Each bidder is required to furnish with its proposal, a Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond in accordance with Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. Bid security furnished in Bond form, shall be issued by a Surety Company or Corporation licensed in the State of Ohio to provide said surety.

Each Proposal must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. The owner intends and requires that this project be completed as listed above.

All contractors and subcontractors involved with the project will, to the extent practicable use Ohio products, materials, services, and labor in the implementation of their project. Additionally, contractor compliance with the equal employment opportunity requirements of Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 123, the Governor's Executive Order of 1972, and Governor's Executive Order 84-9 shall be required.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Paulding County as determined by the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Wage and Hour Division, (614) 644-2239.

All contractors shall follow all applicable Federal and State OSHA regulations. The contractor shall also hold the County Engineer harmless for any violations or fines received while engaged in this project.

All contractors must provide current Certificate of Liability Insurance Coverage for \$1,000,000 along with a current Certificate of Worker's Compensation Coverage, before they can be hired to perform any type of work for Paulding County.

All materials shall conform to the latest version of the State of Ohio Department of Transportation Construction and Material Specifications.

Sealed bids shall be in writing and in accordance with specifications furnished by Paulding County and on file in the Offices of the Paulding County Engineer and Commissioners.

Bids are to be sealed and addressed to the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Paulding County, Ohio, and bids on the above-named items to be marked:

PROPOSAL (insert proposal number): "2026 Paulding County Chip Seal Projects"

The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids received.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
Heather Barnhouse, Clerk Board of Commissioners

VANTAGE AUGUST BOARD MEETING HELD

The Vantage Board of Education held their August Board meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2026 in the District Conference Room. During the board meeting, Minutes from the June 25, 2026 regular board meeting and the July 14, 2026 special board meeting were approved along with financial statements for the month of June, 2026.

Superintendent Rick Turner welcomed the following guests to the meeting: Sam Shriver with The Times Bulletin, Mr. Benjamin Winans, High School Director, Mrs. Angie Fahy, Adult Education Director, Mr. Austin Meyer, Network Systems Instructor, Silas Foltz (Paulding) - National BPA winner, Mr. Chris Miles, Construction Equip-

ment Technology Instructor, Mrs. Deb Richardson, Construction Equipment Technology Aide, Cruse Schroeder (Ottoville) - National SkillsUSA winner, Mrs. Jessica Morefield, Cafeteria Manager, Mrs. Sara Zura, Alexander and Bebout and Mr. Mike Cress, Alexander and Bebout.

Mrs. Morefield provided the 2025-2026 Cafeteria Yearly Report Mr. Turner also spoke about and highlighted the following items at the meeting:

Many thanks to our 12-month staff for their hard work this summer to prepare for the upcoming school year. The maintenance staff has the building and grounds in great shape, while our IT department has been busy ensuring our technology is up to date and ready for staff and students.

Additionally, our administration has filled all open positions and is currently working on orientation and professional development activities to support our new employees. To welcome our latest team members, we will host a Meet and Greet in the Cup and Saucer at 5:45 p.m. on September 3, just prior to your monthly meeting.

We are preparing for the renovations to occur in this building upon completion of the Academy of Medical Careers. Selection of the "Best Value" proposal will occur at our September Board meeting with the actual work to begin this fall.

While we are disappointed that we will not be in the Academy of Medical Careers for the start of the school year, we remain focused on the magnificent training facilities that it will provide for our students and our community for many years to come.

High School Director Benjamin Winans reported on the following:

We are currently sitting at 597 students, just 335 incoming juniors and 262 returning seniors. Last year with less students we had also offered students a half day option for lab only, but currently we are able to house all students in house with the addition of another English instructor. Kudos to our high school admin team (specifically Tonya Temple) for placing all these students in the courses they need in our schedule.

Incoming student orientation will take place on August 17 for Trade and Industry programs and August 18 for Business and Service programs. To better accommodate increased enrollment, each evening will be split into two sessions. Information outlining specific session times has been mailed to all new students, and our Student Services team will be making follow-up phone calls throughout the week to assist with any questions.

Our high school administrative team examined our District Strategic Goal, the Board of Education survey of staff, and the feedback from conversations that Mr. Turner had with staff to create our goals for the upcoming school year. We will focus on communicating better across the district, as well as being more visible and available to our staff. Feedback will be collected from our staff to allow us to dig into how we can better serve them in both of these areas throughout the school year.

Staff are scheduled to return to the building on Wednesday, August 19, for our annual in-service and planning day. The administrative team will begin the morning in the Commons to introduce new team members and outline primary goals for the upcoming school year. Despite several summer staffing transitions, all key positions are aligned and prepared for a strong start.

Additionally, Lead Teacher Katie Drerup has finalized the schedule for new staff orientation, which will take place this coming Monday and Tuesday. We look forward to welcoming both our new and returning staff members back to campus soon.

Mr. Winans also reported the following upcoming events:

Monday, August 17 - Trade and Industry Orientation

ACPL'S SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL SUMMER OF DINOSAUR-SIZED FUN



Raptors with Soarin' Hawk at Woodburn Branch Library

The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) is celebrating a successful summer of learning and discovery as its annual Summer Learning Program wrapped up July 31. This year's "Unearth a Story" theme invited children, teens and adults to explore reading, learning, and hands-on experiences throughout the summer, with thousands of community members taking part. The free program, which ran from June 1 through July 31, attracted 15,685 registered participants, including 11,795 youth and 3,890 adults.

Participants could take part individually or as part of a group, with 12,753 individual registrations and 2,932 group registrations.

"Summer Learning is one of the most exciting times of the year at the Library because we get to see our community come together around curiosity, reading, and discovery," said Jacki Fulwood, Youth Services Manager at ACPL. "This summer, our participants truly embraced the 'Unearth a Story' theme. From earning books and prizes to attending programs and exploring dinosaurs, there were so many

ways for people of all ages to keep learning all summer long."

The library distributed more than 26,000 prizes during the program as participants tracked their learning activities throughout the summer and claimed free books and prizes at milestone levels. This represents a nearly 20% increase year over year.

Summer's prehistoric theme also proved to be a major attraction. ACPL hosted the traveling exhibit "Dinosaurs: Fossils Exposed," giving the community an opportunity to explore fascinating specimens and learn about life millions of years ago. The exhibit welcomed more than 25,000 visitors of all ages. Across the ACPL system, the Library welcomed another 24,000+ participants to more than 1000 programs exploring STEM, crafts, reading, and other hands-on learning experiences.

ACPL's Summer Learning Program also helped connect families with essential community resources. Through its partnership with Fort Wayne Community Schools, ACPL distributed 17,953 meals and

snacks to youth and the Library's partnership with Blessings in a Backpack distributed 8,942 non-perishable weekend food bags, an 11% increase over 2025.

Finally, the ACPL's Team Read program employed 37 local teens to travel to local community centers and parks to read to children. They conducted 71 visits and gave 2000+ books to the youth.

"When I total it all up, it's more than 100,000 individual examples of how the Summer Learning Program helped the community stay engaged and connected during the summer," said Fulwood. "And all of this is above and beyond the usual tasks of a librarian. I am so grateful to our team, our funders, and the folks in Allen County for making it a success!"

The 2026 Summer Learning Program was made possible through the generous support of Foellinger Foundation, Friends of the Allen County Public Library, and the Allen County Public Library Foundation.

For more information about ACPL initiatives like Summer Learning Program, visit acpl.info.

ANOTHER GORRELL BROS

AUCTION

REAL ESTATE AND LAND AUCTION

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

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

Sat. August 29th, 2026 @ 10AM



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SELLERS: Terry L Middaugh, et al

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

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Tuesday, August 18 - Business and Service Orientation

Wednesday, August 19 - Staff Workday and Professional Development

Thursday, August 20 - First day of school (All students)

Adult Education Director Angie Fahy reported on the following:

The CDL Program was selected for a Federal Review and passed with no issue

The federal auditor relayed that this program was a treat

Phlebotomy - 100% pass rate on NHA certification test

Enrollment - CAN; August class is full

Current enrollment: 5, with 4 working towards acceptance

Fire Fighter 1 - Current enrollment: 9; VPA; The opening audit with the state went well; Current enrollment: 13, with 10 working towards acceptance; Maximum number accepted: 20

EMT - 17 potential students; PNP; 11 accepted; 3 being reviewed for an acceptance letter; 3 missing 1 or 2 items; 3 actively working on completing enrollment

Prep Pathway (non-nursing courses) - 4 accepted; 1 working on completing enrollment

LPN/RN - 16 accepted; 7 being reviewed for accep-

tance; 7 missing 1 or 2 items; 3 actively working on enrollment

In new business, the Board:

Approved employment of a certified employee for the 2026-2027 school year

Approved employment of a classified employee

Approved three (3) supplemental contracts

Approved one (1) column movement on the teacher salary schedule

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STEVEN LOWER APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF OHIO STATE'S SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Steven Lower has been appointed director of the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR) at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), effective Aug. 15, 2026, through June 30, 2030, pending approval by Ohio State's Board of Trustees.

Lower, was a professor with a joint appointment in SENR and Ohio State's School of Earth Sciences, brings extensive leadership, research and teaching experience to the role. He previously served as director of the School of Earth Sciences from 2021 to 2024 and as associate director of graduate studies from 2017 to 2020.

"Dr. Lower is an outstanding scientist, educator and collaborative leader whose experience across research, teaching and academic administration makes him exceptionally well-prepared to lead the School of Environment and Natural Resources," said Cathann A. Kress, Ohio State vice president for agricultural administration and CFAES dean. "His ability to bring people and disciplines together will help strengthen the school's impact while ad-

vancing its mission of excellence in teaching, research and outreach."

An interdisciplinary researcher, Lower has secured approximately \$7 million in competitive funding as sole or lead principal investigator from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health and U.S. Department of Energy. His research spans geomicrobiology, mineralogy, nanoscale science, microbiology and biophysics, with projects exploring biomineralization, infectious biofilms on medical implants, acidophilic bacteria that oxidize sulfides and the role of nanoscale minerals in disease.

His work has been published in leading scientific journals, including Science, Nature and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Lower has also demonstrated a long-standing commitment to teaching and student success, having taught more than 5,300 undergraduate and graduate students during his career at Ohio State.

As SENR director, Lower will provide strategic leadership for the school's teaching, research, outreach and international programs. He will oversee the school's fiscal and human resources; will support faculty, staff and student success; will strengthen collaborations across the university; and will represent the school in partnerships with stakeholders throughout Ohio and beyond.

Lower earned a BS in conservation biology and geology and an MS in environmental chemistry from Kent State University. He also earned a PhD in mineralogy and microbiology from Virginia Tech.

HELP WANTED

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:

Village of Payne • 111 N. Main Street • Payne, Ohio 45880

Mayor@villageofpayne.com

Application Deadline: Sept. 11th, 2026 – 4:00 PM

The Village of Payne is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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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.

Preschool Policy Manual

Approved the Vantage Special Education Policy Manual

Accepted the cafeteria bids from Nickels Bakery and Kemp Dairy

Approved school lunch prices for the 2026-2027 school year

Approved an MOU with Apollo Career Center for the Aspire program services

Approved an MOU with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University for our drone program

Accepted the estimate from Xtek Partners for the surveillance systems at the Academy of Medical Careers

Approved the Rothacker Lampe Bequest equipment list

Approved the CTE Work-Based Learning Coordinator job description

Accepted the anonymous donation for our carpentry program in memory of Howard L. McGue

Approved the MOU between the Vantage Board of Education and Vantage Teacher's Organization

First reading of NEOLA revised policies

Outside of Consent Agenda Items

Resolution to acknowledge the Delphos City Schools Board of Education representative appointment to the Vantage Board of Education

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1), the Superintendent hereby requests that the Board adjourn to executive session for the purpose of considering personnel matters of the school district.

Adjournment -at the call of the President and at the pleasure of the Vantage Career Center Board of Education

Next meeting – Thursday, September 3, 2026; New Staff Meet and Greet at 5:45 p.m. in the Cup & Saucer; Board of Education Meeting at 6:30 p.m.; In District Conference Room Regular Board Meeting

FIGHTING CORN TAR SPOT

Corn Tar Spot (Phyllachora maydis) is showing up in Southwest/Central Ohio in Preble and Madison counties.

Corn that is tasseling or reaching silking stages with warm, humid, foggy, cloudy and wet weather create favorable conditions for corn tar spot to develop. Tar spot looks like small raised black spots on corn leaves when air temperatures are 64°F - 73°F, high humidity (>75%), and long periods of leaf wetness. Once the tar spot reaches the upper leaves dur-

spot will only have a marginal effect at best while increasing your risk of soil erosion.

Long-term no-tillers who use cover crops can decompose corn residue quickly by changing the micro-environment and getting more moisture, microbes, and earthworms to incorporate the leaf residue into the soil just effectively as a tillage tool. In addition, a parasitic fungus (Cochliophthora phyllachorae) associates with the tar spot and may be a natural predator to tar spot. Biologicals (saprophytic microbes) applied in early fall can be used to speed up crop residue decomposition and decrease the spread of tar spot.

All diseases attack weak growing plants and organisms. Healthy plants growing on healthy soils have less pests (weeds, insects, diseases). While healthy plants can still get infected, usually the yields losses are much smaller or much less severe. Since you cannot till your way out of this disease, your most effective strategy involves a combination of genetic resistance and either using fungicides or creating a healthier plant through foliar applications to decrease micro-nutrient deficiencies.

Micro-nutrients are critical for healthy plants. Most plant proteins that are converted to enzymes need a certain micro-nutrient to activate the enzyme. Enzymes speed up biological processes so that plants can function at their highest potential, including increasing photosynthesis and also fighting off diseases.

Almost all tar spot corn shows signs of zinc deficiency. Corn zinc deficiency shows up as a white midrib in the center of the corn ear leaf while healthy corn leaf midribs should usually be dark green. Zinc activates nearly 300 different enzymes in plants. Manganese deficiency shows up as a yellow midrib in corn. Zinc, manganese, iron, and copper are several micronutrients deficiencies that may be associated with increased corn tar spot diseases. Foliar applications of these nutrients may help reduce tar spot incidence.

Fungicides are known to help but timing is critical with most fungicides needing to be applied early, before the disease is severe. Mancozeb is a combination of two fungicides, Maneb and Zineb. The central micronutrient element in Maneb is manganese with zinc in Zineb (plus some sulfur). Most fungicides are

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

composed of micro-nutrients needed to activate the fungicide. All these fungicides need to be applied early or they do not work effectively. Perhaps the fungicides are just another way of getting micronutrients into the plant?

Researchers are developing and researching corn hybrids that are resistant to tar spot. The problem is that it may take several years. They have developed new methods for studying tar spot infection, so help may be coming. Fungicides with Group 3, 7, 11 have the longest residual time and highest corn tar spot efficacy. These fungicides include Veltima (3,11), Delaro Complete (All), Miravis Neo (All), and Trivapro (All) applied from VT tassel to R3 milk stage for best efficacy.

—James J. Hoorman
Hoorman Soil Health Services

PAULDING COUNTY VENIRE GRAND JURY TERM III LIST

Debra Adetolure, David Allan, Myrna Antrim, Kayla Barnes, Pamela Brown, Anna Brown, Gregory Dysinger, Kurt Eklund, Frieda Ferris, Denise Gebers, Antonio Gonzales III, Harold Gottke, Brooke Greulich, Erlinda Griffith, Linda Hessel, Michael Krouse, James Lane, Alexandra Lehman, Colin Lilly, Nikkole Maroney, Charles McClure, Everett McClure, Michael McKeever, Karen McVay, Hayden Merri-man, Rodney Miller, Corbin Mobley, Carolyn Moore, John Overmyer, Ty Overmyer, Andrew Sifuentes, Dennis Starry, Lucas Tracy, Melvin Waters, Paul Winchester

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ANTWERP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: ANTWERP MANOR ASSISTED LIVING



Antwerp Chamber of Commerce is proud to spotlight Antwerp Manor Assisted Living. Here is a little about their facility:

Antwerp Manor is an assisted living community in the Village of Antwerp that helps older adults who can no longer manage all daily tasks on their own but do not need full nursing home care. Residents live in a comfortable, home-like setting where trained staff provide support with things like meals, laundry, housekeeping, bathing, dressing, and medication reminders. Each resident lives in

their own apartment with their own private bathroom and shower, while safety and independence are still maintained. We offer social activities, companionship, and a safe environment so residents can stay active and connected. At Antwerp Manor, we focus on dignity, comfort, and helping each person feel at home while receiving the care they need.

If you have any questions or need information about Antwerp Manor Assisted Living, please call 419-258-1500 or email

antwerp.nursing@alshio.com

LIBRARY TO HOST DEFIANCE CO. CHILDREN'S HOME CEMETERY WALK

Defiance Public Library System will host a program exploring the history of the Defiance County Children's Home Cemetery on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

Located on Schick Road, the cemetery is the only rem-

nant of the former Defiance County Children's Home. Participants will take a walk through the cemetery, learning about the history of the home and the individuals who are buried at the cemetery.

The program is free and open to adults, but registration is required by 5:00 p.m. September 11, 2026. To register and see driving directions, visit defiancelibrary.org/walk.

Those interested in attending can also register by calling the library at 419-782-1456.

KINSMEN OF THE CROSS TO HOST 'FAITH & FREEDOM' MEN'S CONFERENCE

The Kinsmen of the Cross Men's Ministry will be presenting their annual Fall Men's Conference on Saturday, October 3rd, 2026 at Faith Baptist Church, 14102 State Route 111, Defiance, Ohio. This non-denominational Christian conference will run from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.; fellowship will be from 8:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m., with coffee and donuts provided. Lunch is included and will be catered by Unique Catering, and all conference attendees will receive a welcome gift bag.

The Kinsmen of the Cross Men's Ministry mission is to promote Biblical understanding of God's design for men's responsibilities to God; themselves; their families, the church, community and workplace. This year's fall conference is "FAITH & FREEDOM"

And it will focus on helping men understand the critical role Christian faith played in the founding and continuation of America's government and the freedoms we enjoy. We aim to educate, inform, equip and encourage men to step out with courage and conviction to defeat the lies that our enemy is flooding our nation with.

Men who have attended past conferences have left challenged; re-energized and more engaged in their faith; additionally many men return to every conference to renew friendships from pre-

VILLAGE OF SHERWOOD RECEIVES \$35,000 GRANT FOR MOATS PARK IMPROVEMENTS



Pictured above are (l-r) Don Hange - Defiance Area Foundation Grants Committee Member; Dave Weaner - Mayor of Sherwood; Levi Kuhn - Co-Project Leader; Luke Kuhn - Co-Project Leader; and Sherri Ramey, Sherwood Village Administrator.

The Defiance Area Foundation has awarded a \$35,000 grant to the Village of Sherwood during its 2026 Spring Grant Cycle. Funding for the project was provided through the Hanna Family Memorial Fund under the Defiance Area Foundation umbrella.

vious conferences. The registration for this conference is only \$30 which includes lunch, gift bags and refreshments. We encourage pastors to bring a group of men from their church and if a pastor brings at least five men from their church with him the pastor's admission will be free.

The "FAITH & FREEDOM" conference will feature worship music by Eli Arce; four speakers and the popular panel discussion

The grant will support Project Home Plate at Moats Park, a community-led initiative focused on revitalizing Sherwood's primary youth sports complex and securing land for future park expansion. Planned improvements include upgrades to concession stands, restrooms, play-

ground equipment, and other park amenities.

The project is designed to enhance recreational opportunities for local youth and families while ensuring that Moats Park continues to serve as a valuable community gathering space for years to come.

with questions and answers. Additionally, the well-loved drawings for prizes will be included throughout the event. Featured speakers are Pastor Jimmy Fry from Free Christian Church in Continental; Pastor Pete Flores, New Covenant Church in Defiance; Pastor Solomon Okang, Dupont Church in Dupont; and Pastor AJ Swanson from Cornerstone Church in Hicksville.

Registration and information call 616-813-5946 or go

to www.kinsmenofthecross.com

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