



MERRIN VISITS PAULDING COUNTY ON CAMPAIGN TRAIL



Derek Merrin, candidate for Ohio's 9th Congressional House seat, visited Paulding County recently. Shown with Merrin is Laurie Lucas, chairman of the Paulding County Republican Central Committee.

The Republican candidate for Ohio's 9th Congressional House seat visited Paulding County recently.

Derek Merrin visited various places throughout Paulding County during his visit.

He started at Stoller Brothers and Sons family farm, where Brent and Mark Stoller, Francis Maag and other family members discussed agriculture in the county.

He visited the Paulding

Kiwanis Club as a guest of Chris Johnson. He also visited Glen Troth and his staff. Throughout his visit he met with several Paulding County officials and residents including the county commissioners, Blaine Fickel, Terry McClure and economic development director Tim Copsey.

The Paulding County Republican Party held a reception for him in the evening. Following the reception, he attended the Paulding County mayor's quarterly meeting to hear their concerns.

Merrin is running for Ohio's 9th Congressional House seat in the November 2026 election. He is facing off against incumbent Marcy Kaptur (D) and Matthew Althaus (Lib.). The 9th Congressional district includes Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Lucas, Ottawa, Williams, and newly added Henry, Paulding, Putnam, and the northern portion of Wood Counties. Merrin served for eight years in the Ohio State Legislature. During his tenure, he was the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. He lives in Monclova Township and is a graduate of both the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS FOR FRIENDS OF THE PAULDING PARK DISTRICT, INC.

Notice is hereby given that Friends of the Paulding Park District, Inc. intends to consider and vote upon proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws.

The proposed changes include renaming the organization from Friends of the Paulding Park District, Inc. to Friends of Paulding County Parks, Inc., expanding its charitable mission to support parks and recreational opportunities throughout Paulding County, and updating its governance and operating provisions.

Anyone interested in reviewing the proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws may request a copy by emailing friendsofpaulding-countyparks@gmail.com.

The proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws will be considered for adoption at the organization's regular meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. Paulding County History Museum

—Friends of the Paulding Park District, Inc.

A COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER IN CECIL



On Saturday, August 21, more than 20 volunteers of all ages and backgrounds, many of whom had never met one another, came together in Cecil to take an important step toward improving the village's park and creating a welcom-

ing place for the community.

The project was spearheaded by an ad hoc committee made up of representatives from the Village of Cecil, Crane Township, and Friends of the Paulding County Park

(Continued on Page 3)

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS INVITED TO APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Volunteers throughout the area are invited to a special Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Tuesday, September 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Paulding County History Museum, 600 Fairgrounds Drive, Paulding.

The luncheon is sponsored by the Black Swamp Arbor of

Gleaner Life Insurance, Manz Insurance and Phil Recker of Edward Jones.

Anyone who volunteers for an organization or club is invited to attend, along with area first responders. The luncheon is being held as a way to recognize those who give their time and talents in service to the community.

"You serve our community — let us serve you!" organizers said.

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PC Engineer Asphalt Bid Notice	9
PC Engineer Chip Seal Bid Notice	9
PC Engineer Marking Bid Notice	9
PC Probate Will Notice	8
PC Sheriff Sale Cl 22 109	8
PC Sheriff Sale Cl 25 078	9
PC Veteran's Service	10
PCH 2026 Fall Health Fair	6
PCH Cardiology	6
PUZZLE – CW Union Bank	9
Ron Burt Ohio Sports Blitz	8
Sauder Feeds	11
Schmucker Construction	1
Senior Saints Concert Schedule	4
T&C Concrete	1
Wayne Trace Newsletter	7
Zimmerman Grass Fed Beef	3

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

Community Calendar

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

September 1
• Van Wert Co. Fair Begins! At the Fairgrounds (thur 9/7)

September 3
• Brain Bright Therapy OT Program @ Defiance Library, 10:30a
• Penney Nature Story Trail Adventure @ Penney Nature Center, Defiance, 10:30a

September 6
• Oakwood Homecoming Fireworks, Oakwood Ball Park, Dusk

September 7
• Oakwood Homecoming Parade, 11a
• America 250 Corn Maze is Open @ Weller Farms - runs thru 10/31
• Defiance Libraries Closed for Labor Day

September 8
• PC Democrat Party Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p

September 9
• Defiance Libraries Closed for Staff In-Service

September 10
• Senior Saints Concert @ First Assembly Church, FW, IN, 12:15p
• Digital Navigation @ Van Wert Senior Center, 9a-3p

PAULDING COUNTY'S OWN
Add your event to the calendar
info@westbendnews.net

OBITUARIES



PAULDING, OH:
Nicholas H. "Nick" Martinez, age 81, passed away peacefully on Friday, August 21, 2026.

Nick was born on October 9, 1944 in Payne, OH to the late Nick C. and Lupe (Hernandez) Martinez. For over 60 years he owned and operated his business, Martinez Construction, where he worked in concrete and construction. He was a member of Divine Mercy Catholic Parish in Paulding, Paulding Eagles Aerie 2405, and the Labors Local 329 - Lima. Nick coached basketball and baseball in his younger years. He loved fishing, oldies music, dancing and more than anything, he loved his grandchildren.

Nick will be remembered for the way he treated people. He had a generous heart, an easy smile, and a genuine kindness that knew no boundaries between family, friend, neighbor, or stranger. He noticed people, made time for them, and had a way of making them feel they mattered. His generosity was often found in the simplest acts—a helping hand, a ride when someone needed one, candy for neighborhood children, a conversation that was never too hurried, or simply asking, "Do you need anything?" He gave freely of what he had, but even more freely of himself. Throughout his life, Nick quietly became part of countless other lives, leaving behind stories of laughter, friendship, encouragement, and kindness that span generations. To many, he was more than a familiar face; he was part of the fabric of the community he loved. His legacy will live not only in the family who loved him fiercely or in the work of his hands that remains throughout the community, but in the countless people who are better for having known him. Nick lived an ordinary life in an extraordinary way: he made people feel seen, welcomed, and cared for—and wherever he went, he left a little more goodness behind.

Nick will be lovingly missed by his children: Jamie (Christina) Martinez, Huron, OH; Michelle (Claude) Hoenou, Crestview, FL; Nicole (Eric) Gross, Payne, OH; Nicholas Paul Martinez III, Payne, OH; Natalie (Dan) Martinez, Decatur, GA; Natasha (Star) (Andres Isidoro) Martinez, Hicksville, OH; brothers: Rosalio (Genevieve) Martinez, Paulding, OH; Martin (Gloria) Martinez, Fort Wayne, IN; Juan Martinez, Paulding, OH; sisters: Lupe (Ray) Contreras, Paulding, OH; Esther (Joe) Rangel, Paulding, OH; Phyllis Martinez, Fort Wayne, IN; Lisa (Tim) Bermejo, Paulding, OH; 15 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Nick was also preceded in

death by his sister, Valentina Ybarra.

Calling hours will be from 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. on Monday, August 31, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home.

Memorial service will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, August 31, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home.

The family requests no flowers or funeral memorabilia. If you wish, please make a contribution in Nick's memory in care of Den Herder Funeral Home to go towards funeral expenses.

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

HARLAN, IN:

David R. Schaber, 75, of Harlan, Ind., unexpectedly went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Monday, August 24, 2026. Arrangements provided by Hockemeyer Funeral Home, 17629 SR-37, Harlan, IN.



PAULDING, OH:

Norma I. (Fleck) Dennewitz, age 91, passed away on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at Homestead at Towne Center, Van Wert, OH.

Norma was born on December 22, 1934 in Poneto, IN to the late Charles O. and Jennie M. (West) Bennett. On September 5, 1953, she married Arlan "Rex" Fleck, who preceded her in death in 1999. In 2011, she married Don Dennewitz, who also preceded her in death in 2021. Norma worked as a teacher's aide at Parc Lane for 15 years before her retirement in 1991. She volunteered many hours for Hawthorne Court. Norma attended Bethel Church in Arthur, OH. She loved her cat, Donavon.

Norma will be lovingly missed by her children: Michelle Barnett, Van Wert, OH; Cyndee (Jerry) DeLong, Van Wert, OH; Mark (Kerri) Fleck, New Ellenton, SC; stepchildren: Kathy (Tom) Comeans and Trisha (Tim) Hahn; grandchildren: Kristina (Jason) Fought, Robert (Debbie) Barnett, Jordan (Melanie) DeLong, Elliott Fleck, Joshua Fleck; 12 great grandchildren, and 5 great-great grandchildren.

Norma was also preceded in death by her son-in-law, Larry Barnett; grandson, Adam DeLong; granddaughter, Kimberly Ann DeLong; siblings: Audra Hamilton, Mabel Penrod, Ruby Plothe, Claude Bennett, Elmer Bennett, John E. Bennett, Fern Mann, Bernice Newman, Jennie Yount, Ocie Finley, Donna DePew, Bob Bennett.

Funeral service will be held at 1:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at Den Herder

Funeral Home with Pastor Chris Baker officiating. Burial will follow in St. Paul Cemetery, Paulding Township, OH.

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

Memorial contributions may be made in Norma's memory to a charity of the donor's choosing.

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

HERITAGE LIONS COLLECT 10,000 EYEGLASSES



Somewhere in your home may be a pair of eyeglasses you have not worn in years.

Perhaps they are sitting in a drawer, a desk or a bathroom cabinet. You may have forgotten about them. But those glasses are not necessarily useless. The Heritage Lions collect over 10,000 pairs of eyeglasses each year from over 45 locations in Allen County. Optometrists, Allen County Public Libraries, YMCAs, Indiana Physical Therapy, nursing homes and funeral homes throughout the area sponsor these collection boxes.

After sorting out all of the cases and the broken glasses, the Heritage Lions bring the good glasses to Arcola for their twice a year sorting session in Lion John Gellar's barn. The Arcola Lions Club take sorted eyeglasses to the The Wanatah Lions Club's collection center in District 25A.

There Lions members from all over Northern Indiana sort over 15,000 pairs of used eye-glasses. Sort categories include: men's and women's, children's, reading glasses and sunglasses. After the Arcola sort, The Wanatah Lions Club works with the Westville Correctional Facility where prisoners clean, repair, and most importantly read the prescriptions to catalog them for dispensing on missions trips.

The glasses will eventually be shipped with missions to Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico and other countries that lack the resources to manufacture these necessary items. At the mission site, eye care professionals and trained Lion

volunteers perform vision screenings and dispense the appropriate recycled glasses, free of charge, to children and adults in need.

Worldwide, millions of people live with vision impairment that could be improved with appropriate eye care and corrective lenses. For people in communities where eye examinations and eyeglasses are difficult to obtain or afford, a simple pair of donated glasses can make an enormous difference. When they receive these glasses from the Lions, their lives are changed forever.

Imagine, for a moment, a six-year-old girl we will call Maria. She places the glasses onto her face, looks across the room and for the first time sees the faces of the people around her clearly. She can now see the writing on the blackboard. She can read a book.

She can remain in school rather than falling behind because she cannot see. Multiply this times many millions and you can appreciate the power of this Heritage and International Lions project. All from gathering used eyeglasses that would have otherwise gone into a landfill.

Please consider placing your unneeded eyeglasses, sunglasses, reading glasses and hearing aids/batteries in any of the collection boxes located throughout northern Indiana.

Help the Lions help the less fortunate to see clearly, perhaps for the first time in their lives. This project is a perfect example of the Heritage Lions motto: "We Serve".

OAKWOOD HOMECOMING RETURNS LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Oakwood will celebrate its annual Homecoming over Labor Day weekend, Sept. 5-7, with three days of activities, food, contests and community events. This year's celebration will also include a special fireworks display Sunday evening at the ballpark in recognition of the nation's 250th anniversary.

Activities begin Saturday with the Fire Department Breakfast from 7-11 a.m. The annual golf outing at Auglaize Country Club begins at 9 a.m., followed by a tractor pull at 10 a.m., home run derby at noon and the Landing Strip Poker Run at 2 p.m. The Alumni Banquet will be held at the school at 5

p.m., followed by DJ Larry Colley at the Landing Strip at 7:30 p.m., a scavenger hunt at 8 p.m. and a movie at the ballpark at dusk. Those attending the movie are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket.

The golf outing is a scramble with check-in beginning at 8:15 a.m. and a shotgun start at 9 a.m. and the event includes a \$500 hole-in-one prize sponsored by The Award Shop. An Auglaize Country Club membership donated by the Todd Dangler family will also be auctioned following the outing.

Sunday begins with the Legion Breakfast from 7-11 a.m. Other activities include the Health Walk at 9 a.m., Church in the Park at 10 a.m., Lawn Mower Dead Weight Pull at 11 a.m., tractor drive and golf cart races at 2 p.m.,

Scripture of the Week

"Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

— John 6:29

DO NOT LOSE HEART



For those of us in ministry, we sometimes find ourselves getting a little weary. Serving God's people can wear you down. I often find that when I get weary, it's usually due to a few factors.

1. A lack of quality time in God's presence.
2. A lack of quality time in God's word.
3. A lack of quality time in prayer.
4. Physical deterioration. (old age)

Without the first three attributes, you may find yourself in the wrong place at the wrong time, assigned to the wrong task. There's nothing worse than being out of sync with the Holy Spirit.

First things first, Matthew 6:33 (NIV) states, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

This verse emphasizes the importance of prioritizing our relationship with God and living according to His will. Jesus encourages His listeners not to worry about material needs such as food and clothing, because God knows what we need before we need it. By seeking God's kingdom and

righteousness first, we align our lives with His purposes and, in doing so, can trust that He will provide for our needs and keep us in the right place, with the right spirit. It reminds us to keep our focus on spiritual matters rather than being consumed by worldly concerns.

Sometimes weariness comes from the fourth one mentioned. Physical deterioration. (old age) smile. Or not. The scripture below encourages me when I struggle with weariness.

2 Corinthians 4:16 (NIV): "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

This verse emphasizes the importance of perspective in the face of challenges and the inevitable aging process. While our physical bodies may experience decline and difficulties, Paul encourages believers to focus on the inner spiritual renewal that comes through faith and reliance on God.

This renewal offers hope and strength, reminding us that spiritual growth and resilience can thrive even amid physical struggles. It inspires perseverance, encouraging us not to be discouraged by temporary hardships, but to find hope in the constant renewal of our spiritual lives.

Knowing that one fine day, we will take off this old self and put on the new self, being transformed from mortality to immortality, from corruptible to incorruptible. So be not weary in well doing, for in due season, ye shall reap if you faint not.

Peace & Love,
—Pastor Dwayne

golf cart poker run at 3 p.m., Cemetery Walk at Melrose Cemetery at 4 p.m., Singo Bingo at 5:30 p.m. and a Quarter Auction at the school at 6 p.m. The evening concludes with fireworks at dusk at the ballpark and free cake.

Monday's Labor Day festivities feature the traditional Homecoming Parade. Lineup begins at 9 a.m. at the corner of Harmon and Second streets, with the parade stepping off at 11 a.m. Following the parade, visitors will find the food stand, food at the library, church dinner, a buffet at the Landing Strip, the Oak Leaf, Big Wheel races, inflatables and balloon animals. Shopping cart races begin at 12:30 p.m., along with free bingo, and Jackpot Bingo begins at 2:30 p.m. with a \$100 jackpot.

The Taylor B. Tumblin Foundation will host Sunday's Health Walk. Participants are encouraged to register by Aug. 28 to guarantee

a T-shirt. A Landmark Search will also be offered during the weekend, with forms available at the library and entries due at the food stand by 2 p.m. Monday. The winner will receive a \$25 gift card.

The Oakwood Library will be busy on Labor Day with loaded baked potatoes, creamed turkey, ice cream and drinks. The library will also conduct its membership drive, with new members receiving a small gift and an entry into a gift basket drawing. A 50/50 drawing will take place at 2 p.m. Monday.

Organizers are also encouraging new volunteers to become involved in planning future Oakwood Homecoming celebrations. Several of those who have helped coordinate the event for the past 23 years are nearing retirement and hope additional community members will step forward with new ideas and help continue the annual tradition.

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A BOLOGNA SANDWICH (PLEASE)

Penny For Your Thoughts

By: Nancy Whitaker

What is the strangest thing you have ever seen or ate between two slices of bread? My first good memory of eating a sandwich, I must have been about 3 years old. There used to be a drugstore with a soda fountain on a corner in Van Wert.

Mom and I walked in and sat at a booth. Then mom ordered something that I never forgot. It was on grilled bread and in the middle of this was warm peanut butter. I bit down on it and it was simply delicious. It was a grilled peanut butter sandwich. I never ever forgot it.

According to my research, sandwiches have been eaten for centuries. According to one story, the Earl of Sandwich (John Montague) who was a billionaire, loved to gamble. In a 24 hour period he was gambling and did not want to stop and eat, asked his assistant to go get him a piece of beef and some bread.

The Earl took the beef, put it between the bread and ate it without stopping his streak of luck.

When the other customers saw Mr Sandwich make a sandwich, they too wanted to order the food that Sandwich had. So meat between bread became a "sandwich."

Going back to when I was a kid, we ate bologna sandwiches. My little brother, Jim, couldn't say bologna real plain so he called it "Lum Lum."

In fact Jimmy would bow his head and pray, "Dear God, help papa on the train (where grandpa worked) so he can bring home Jimmy some Lum Lum."

I have not had a bologna sandwich for years, but they sure sound good. My kids liked to take a slice of bologna and put it in the microwave. They would let it cook until the sides folded up and the bologna looked like a bowl.

There is a guy named Billy Lewis who had a show on and he had his fans send in different kinds of sandwiches he might want to try. One sandwich was a Mars candy bar on top of apples between two slices of bread. He seemed to like the taste. Another one was marshmallow cream and bacon, and apricot jam and bacon on toast. Some don't sound too bad.

We know that Elvis had a favorite sandwich which was peanut butter, bananas, and crispy bacon and he loved them.

Here are some of the strangest sandwich combinations found in historical cook-

books and archives:

The Toast Sandwich (1861): Featured in Mrs. Beeton's Book of Household Management, this consists of a single piece of dry toast seasoned with salt and pepper, placed snugly between two slices of buttered bread.

Peanut Butter, Olive, and Sardine Sandwich (1915): An early 20th-century combination that layered salty fish, briny olives, and thick peanut butter on bread.

Popcorn Sandwich (1909): A crunchy turn-of-the-century snack that used popped corn mixed with a binder or spread between but-



tered slices.

Banana and Liverwurst Sandwich (1931): A Great Depression-era pairing of sweet mashed banana and savory, iron-rich liverwurst.

Spaghetti Sandwich (1931): Cold, leftover spaghetti noodles tucked between slices of bread, sometimes accented with a basic sauce.

Pineapple and Anchovy Cheese Sandwich (1935): A sharp, sweet, and intensely fishy mid-century combination.

Prune Sandwich (1940): Often mashed into a paste or laid flat as whole dried fruits, sweet prunes were used during periods when fresh fruit or traditional spreads were scarce.

Pineapple Roquefort Sandwich (1965): A pungent mix of strong blue cheese and sweet, juicy canned pineapple rings.

Apple Sandwich (1910): Thinly sliced raw apples layered with basic seasonings or butter on early-century white bread.

Onion and Mayo Sandwich (1927): Thick rings of raw white onion slathered with simple mayonnaise.

Pineapple and Tuna Sandwich (1928): Highlighted in Florence A. Cowles' Seven Hundred Sandwiches, this mixed flaked tuna, pickles, and crushed pineapple with French dressing.

Bacon, Peanut Butter, and Catsup Sandwich (1928): Crumbled crisp bacon moistened with ketchup and spread over peanut butter-coated white bread.

Cheese and Caviar Sandwich (1916): An upscale yet unusual pairing from early 20th-century tearoom recipe books.

Sardine and Mustard Sandwich: A Depression-era

staple where pungent, cheap mustard cut through the fishy, oily taste of canned sardines to provide cheap calories.

Olive and Nut Sandwich: A delicate, chopped-nut and green-olive paste popular in mid-century tea parties before fading into obscurity.

Curried Egg and Oyster Sandwich (1916): A spicy, maritime combination featuring curry-spiced eggs and whole oysters.

Mosaic Sandwich (1916): A multi-colored concoction mixing cream cheese, chopped pimento, and peanut butter.

Scrapple Sandwich (1853): Fried slices of cornmeal and pork scrapple cooked in a skillet, popular across the Mid-Atlantic. (what is Scrapple? I think I know but



(Continued from Page 1)

Board. The committee has developed a vision for the future of Cecil Village Park, with the goal of making improvements that will provide a place for residents and visitors to gather, enjoy the outdoors and build community.

The day's project demonstrated what can happen when people come together with a common purpose. More than concrete was poured that day. Connections were made, a vision began to take shape, and

OVERHEAD DOOR BRINGS RAILROAD HISTORY TO LIFE ALONG PUFFERBELLY TRAIL

Overhead Door of Fort Wayne, Beautifying the PufferBelly Trail with its Rail History depicted in a Colorful Creative Way, will be unveiled September 3rd at 10:30 a.m.

Overhead Door Company is beautifying a 200 foot section of PufferBelly Trail that runs behind their business on Keystone Drive. Cassie Harren, Regional Manager of the 99 year old Overhead Door business, thought it would be great to not only educate residents who use the trails but to highlight their company's business with 8 ft high sections of colorful graphic banners.

Harren said, "The PufferBelly Trail runs right behind our business, so we decided to beautify the fenced area facing the trail with a creative display of banner sections that tell a story at the same time. The rail road service was called the Fort Wayne and Jackson Railroad and ran from Fort Wayne to Jackson, Michigan from 1879-1976. It's a way to get people's attention, tell about the actual railroad routes and do it in a fun way to highlight the many services Overhead Door offers."

The concept created by local artist Richard Porfilio is comprised of railroad artwork depicting train cars from that era with over 97 years of history on the rail lines that ran between both cities and the stops in between. Rick Popp from the Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society Inc. assisted with key copy points and

not sure)

Egg and Sardine Sandwich (1920s): Mashed hard-boiled eggs blended directly with tinned sardines as a high-protein, budget-friendly meal.

Tongue Sandwich: Piled high with sharp mustard on rye, beef tongue was a standard fixture in historical New York delis before falling out of mainstream favor.

Savory Roast Beef Sandwich (1920): A heavy flavor mashup utilizing mustard butter, rare roast beef, salt, ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, horseradish, and mayonnaise.

Now I want a sandwich! Which one should we try? If you do try one, let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

residents showed that they are willing to invest their time and talents in the future of their community.

The concrete pad is just one step in the ongoing effort to improve Cecil Village Park. With the continued support and involvement of community members, the committee hopes to build on Saturday's success and make that vision a reality.

When people are willing to come together and work toward a common goal, great things can be accomplished.

timelines of the historic routes. Old picture frames add to the time period art showing a wide variety of products and services that are offered by Overhead Door locations. "I think when runners, bicyclists, walkers and tourists pass by this display of artwork, they hopefully will learn more about the PufferBelly Railroad and it's history and learning about all the great products and services we offer at Overhead Door Company" Cassie said. "We wanted to make it fun and an educational experience too."

For the dedication, of the fence project will take place on September 3rd at 10:30 a.m. Parking is available at 5449 Keystone Drive. Look for the walkway to the trail.

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

Lloyd Emmet Vogel was born May 1, 1892, in Latty, Ohio. He was the son of William Harvey Vogel, born in November 1846 in Ohio, and Anna (Kautz) Vogel, born September 26, 1862, in Ohio. The couple was married in 1890. William had served with Company H, 166th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil War. The couple became parents to Lloyd in 1892, Nellie in February 1893, and Olive Edna in April 1896. By 1900, the couple and their children were living in Blue Creek Township. William was a farmer, and Lloyd was in school.

Lloyd quit school after the eighth grade. On June 5, 1917, Lloyd went to the Blue Creek precinct and registered for the World War I draft. He was listed as tall, of medium build, with dark gray eyes and dark brown hair. He was single and working as a laborer on the family farm. Lloyd had prior military service, as he had served five months in the Ohio National Guard. On June 25, 1918, Lloyd joined the National Army. He served with Company L, 334th Infantry. On September 2, 1918, Lloyd departed from New York on the ship Aquitania for France. While overseas, Lloyd's sister Nellie passed away on March 14, 1919. She was buried in Pleasant View Cemetery. On July 3, 1919, Lloyd boarded the ship Pueblo at Brest, France, and set sail for home. Lloyd was honorably discharged on July 22, 1919.

After returning home, Lloyd met and married Opal

Libby Powell in 1920. Opal was born August 4, 1904, in Missouri. They were living in Blue Creek Township, and Lloyd was farming. A son, Lloyd Emmet Vogel Jr., was born in 1921. He passed away within the year and was buried in Pleasant View Cemetery. On April 1, 1921, Lloyd was appointed postmaster of the Latty Post Office. He held that position until July 9, 1921.

A daughter, Vivian Marie, was born May 18, 1922; William H. on January 15, 1924; Justus Ralph on March 22, 1925; and Joe E.C. on July 6, 1929. We all remember Vogel's Barber Shop. He was a county commissioner and a Marine Corps veteran. By 1930, Lloyd, Opal, and their children were living on Main Street in Paulding. Lloyd was running a grocery store. A boarder, Robert L. Roberts, was also living with the Vogel family.

On February 1, 1932, a son, Glen E., was born. On January 30, 1933, a son, Vern H., was born. On June 23, 1933, Lloyd's father, William, passed away. He was buried in Pleasant View Cemetery. On February 7, 1934, Lloyd's mother, Anna, passed away from pneumonia in Fort Wayne. She was buried in Pleasant View Cemetery.

By 1935, Lloyd and Opal were divorced. Lloyd and his children were living in Latty, Ohio. A housekeeper, Lois Mines, and her two daughters, Donna and Mabel Ray, were also living with them. By 1940, Lloyd was selling cars for a dealership in Paulding. In 1942, Lloyd registered for the World War II draft, but he was not selected.

By 1950, Lloyd was living on 1st Street in Latty, next to State Route 113, now known as State Route 613. Lloyd was the owner of the Latty Tavern. His four sons were also living with him.

On November 2, 1966, Lloyd passed away in a fire that destroyed a storage building and grocery store. Services were held Saturday, November 5, at the Latty Methodist Church by Rev. Dale Rensler. Members of the V.F.W. served as pallbearers and also conducted graveside services. Lloyd was buried in Pleasant View Cemetery.

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KIWANIS CLUB WELCOMES DEREK MERRIN



The Kiwanis Club welcomed Derek Merrin as its guest speaker on August 13, 2026. Merrin was invited to speak by fellow Kiwanian Richard Kipp.

Merrin is a conservative leader and lifelong Northwest Ohioan with a strong background in public service. His experience includes serving on Waterville City Council, serving as mayor of Waterville, and spending eight years

in the Ohio House of Representatives, where he became a leader in the House Republican Caucus.

During his time in public service, Merrin has advocated for lower taxes, reduced government regulations, election integrity, school choice, and responsible government.

Merrin currently lives in Monclova Township and is running for Congress. During his presentation, he discussed

his background, legislative experience, and his desire to bring his conservative values and Northwest Ohio roots to Washington.

The Kiwanis Club appreciates Merrin for taking the time to speak with members and share his perspective on public service and his campaign for Congress. The club also thanks Richard Kipp for inviting Merrin to be part of the meeting.

Corn has caught up somewhat but a lot of corn is just past the tasseling stage and is setting kernels. This can be a tough stage for development if fields remain flooded for extended periods of time. Some corn fields may have had high winds, lodging and even green snap which causes corn to break off. Root lodging from R2-R4 when corn is developing kernels may result in 20% to 40% loss in grain yield. Often this creates harvesting challenges with down ears and poor grain quality due to less air movement on downed ears. Increased incidences of corn ear diseases may result.

Ohio State University researchers report, "If corn plants have been bent or snapped, yield losses may be incurred. Stem buckling during the reproductive stages may cause 15-20% yield loss, and for every 1% of plants that green snapped (full stalk breakage below the ear), a 0.5-1.0% loss in yield can be expected. Corn yield losses from flooding during grain fill stages tend to be much lower, with yield losses being 5-7% for flooding up to 3 days, or around 15% if flooding lasts for 6-7 days at the R1-R2 growth stage." (Lindsey, Lindsey, Ortez).

For soybeans, flooding can be more detrimental especially during flowering and seed set. Again, it depends on variety and how long water stands or ponds in the field with saturated roots. Yield losses can range from 15% to 90% or more if the plants are dead or dying. Be sure to keep an eye on your fields to see how quickly the flooding or saturated conditions remain as this will likely affect the magnitude of any potential yield loss. Yield losses are higher the longer water stands or ponds in a field. Other issues include muddy and sediment covered leaves which can disrupt or prevent proper photosynthesis from occurring. Light showers after a crop gets mud soaked may be beneficial.

One corn disease that likes humid and moist conditions is Gray leaf spot (*Cercospora zeae-maydis*, GLS). The disease usually starts out on the lower leaves from rain and muddy water splashed up on the leaves. It creates narrow rectangular leaf lesions that are parallel to the leaf. Yield losses can range from 5 to 50 bushel per acre. It thrives during warm humid weather. If GLS infects the ear leaf, that is where about 80% of the energy from photosynthesis is used to develop that ear of corn and can be highly detrimental to corn yields.

The GLS lesions appear tan to brown in color and rectangular in shape, bordered by the veins of the leaf. Individual lesions may be 3 to 4 inches long and 1/16 to 1/8 inch wide, depending on the distance between veins. The light brown lesions produce conidia (spores) and the affected area turns a silvery-gray color. Some corn hybrids may have orange or yellow lesions and some may develop symptoms on the stalk and leaf sheath. The more area of the leaf that is covered with lesions, the more the yield damage which increases with time.

Currently, GLS resistant hybrids have been developed. However, in the 1990's, before GLS resistant corn, yield losses were 90-100%. GLS

WHAT IS JOY



Monday morning and my mind is blank. I usually have a story floating around in my head but not today. As I contemplate, life has been good, we went to church yesterday and the weather has been gorgeous.

I have been listening to David Gibbs, president of the Christian Lawyers Association. His organization has had many victories including bringing religion back into the schools. He has traveled all over the world litigating lawsuits against churches.

I've been thinking about his message on joy. It's not exactly the same as happiness. Christians are commanded to have joy. Happiness is a roller coaster but joy is there at all times no matter what the circumstances.

It's hard for me to explain, so I check with Mrs Google. "Joy is dependent on who Jesus is than rather on who we are or what is happening around us." "It's eternal and remains no matter what you go through."

I have seen good Christian people struggle. The word Joy, enjoy, is addressed in the Bible hundreds of times. Looking at one verse Romans 12:12, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in affliction, be persistent in prayer." David Gibbs is what I would call a wealthy man. His grandfather started butchering cattle and selling the meat. He built an empire slaughtering thousands of cattle a day, and shipping the meat all over the world.

David's grandfather was righteous man, treating people honestly in everything he did. When David was eight years old his mother contacted polio and was in the hospital a year and a half, and when she came home spent the rest of her life in a wheelchair unable to do the simplest tasks.

David's mother began asking God for something that she could do for Him. A young minister was starting a new church, and she told him she had always wanted to have a Sunday School. She had David take her to a bus company and asked for a bus to bring in kids on Sunday morning. Of course the owner declined and she told him, "God's going to be unhappy."

At 1 time she had 20 buses picking up 5,000 kids each Sunday. Many of the bus drivers were saved, and many of her kids became missionaries. I personally do not have a corner on the market. I struggle with trying to live a Christian Life everyday and I do pray that God would use me in some way.

I had thought about tutoring students in math and science, but my strength is quite limited. I think of a practical advice, plant some tulips this fall. Nearly anytime before frost. 2 ft diameter circle, bulbs 6 inches apart. A bit of bone meal or fertilizer mixed in the ground. Really helps one get through the winter.

—James Neuhouser

JAY KLOPFENSTEIN SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club welcomed Jay Klopfenstein, Director of the Paulding County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), as the guest speaker at its meeting today. Klopfenstein was invited to speak by fellow Kiwanian Jane Gray.

Klopfenstein has served as the Paulding County EMA Director for approximately a

year and a half. During his presentation, he discussed the many responsibilities involved in emergency management, including weather monitoring and response.

He provided information about the county's tornado sirens, which are tested weekly. While the EMA is not directly responsible for maintaining the sirens, Klopfen-

stein explained that he can help connect communities with the appropriate resources when a siren is not functioning properly.

Another important part of his role is assessing storm damage and assisting residents if state funding becomes available. He also works with the county's emergency preparedness plans, including the Operations Plan, Hazmat Plan, and Mitigation Plan. A Cybersecurity Plan is currently in-process of being added to these plans very soon.

Klopfenstein also maintains and manages the county's training facility located on Fairground Drive. In addition, he assists with canteen services for local EMS and fire departments when needed and works with the county's radio communications system.

The Kiwanis Club appreciates Klopfenstein taking the time to share information about the important work of the Paulding County Emergency Management Agency and the many ways it supports the community.

RAIN IMPACT ON CROPS AND DISEASE

Rain this past week caused some flooding, especially in the several counties around Lima, Ohio and further south and west. Rainfall amounts of 9-10 inches were recorded. Most of Northwest Ohio got several rainfall events over several days. Officially, the 5-year record appears to be over.

Flooding effects on corn and soybean development varies and depends on crop stage of development, soil types, and how long water remains in the field. For the State of Ohio, if the corn was planted early and the corn is more mature (dough to dented), the flooding effects may be less severe; unless the corn stands in water for extended period of time (past 2 days).

For northwest Ohio, delayed spring planting delayed corn growth development.

rarely reaches that extreme today. If GLS is below the ear leaf, grain damage is usually minimal, however; if it get above the ear leaf, expect much more damage. Fungicides are often applied to prevent GLS disease. Watch for susceptible varieties or varieties where corn is planted into a lot of residue. High GLS disease often occurs in low areas and river bottoms where high humidity and low air flows occur.

GLS overwinters on surface corn residue. In late spring, warm temperatures with high humidity, produces conidia (spores) which can infect lower corn leaves in June to late July. Late rains increase infection in late July and August from wind-blown spores. The earlier GLS infection occurs; expect more leaf and yield damage.

—James J. Hoorman
Hoorman Soil Health Services

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Senior Saints

2026 Public Concert Schedule

Updates are posted at GrabillMC.org/seniorsaints

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

MIDWEST COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION DONATES \$2,500 TO UNITED WAY OF DEFIANCE COUNTY



Pictured from L to R: Christian Elden Midwest Community, Marissa Olwin United Way Board President/Midwest Community, Abby Wolfrum United Way Defiance County Executive Director, Emily Schlegel Midwest Community

Midwest Community Federal Credit Union recently presented a \$2,500 donation to United Way of Defiance County's Backpack Buddy program following its annual General Motors Car Show.

The annual car show is held to honor Midwest Community's roots and history. The Credit Union began serving employees and families of the General Motors plant in Defiance and continues to celebrate that history and connection to the community through the event.

In addition to bringing together car enthusiasts and community members, the show serves as a fundraising opportunity for the Backpack Buddy program. Funds raised during this year's event totaled \$1,500, and through Midwest Community's partnership with Visa, an additional \$1,000 was contributed, bringing the total donation to \$2,500.

Backpack Buddy is one of

United Way of Defiance County's internal programs and provides kid-friendly, nutritious food each weekend during the school year for children who qualify for free and reduced lunches or opt into the program. The program serves students at all elementary schools in Defiance County and has been helping keep local children fed since 2010, packing nearly 500 bags each week for students in need.

"Giving back to the communities we serve is at the heart of who we are," said Emily Schlegel Community Development Manager. "We're proud that an event honoring our history can also make a meaningful impact on local children and families."

Midwest Community Federal Credit Union is committed to supporting the communities it serves through volunteerism, partnerships, financial education and charitable giving. As a local, mem-

ber-owned financial institution, Midwest Community is proud to invest in programs and organizations that make a lasting difference throughout the region.

For more information about Midwest Community Federal Credit Union, visit www.midwestcommunity.org



PAULDING COUNTY RECOGNIZED FOR PROPERTY FRAUD ALERT SIGN-UPS

Paulding County has received an award recognizing the strong participation of local residents in the Property Fraud Alert service offered through the Paulding County Recorder's Office.

More than 1,000 residents have now subscribed to the free service, which notifies participants when a document containing their name is recorded with the Recorder's Office.

The Recorder's Office encourages all Paulding County property owners to consider registering for the service. Enrollment requires only a name and either a phone number or email address. Subscribers may choose to receive alerts by phone call, email or text message.

Residents can enroll online by visiting pauldingcountyrecorder.com and selecting the "Property Fraud Alert" button. They may also register by calling the Recorder's Office at 419-399-8275 or visiting the office at the Paulding County Courthouse, 115 N. Williams St., Paulding.

The Property Fraud Alert service is provided free of charge through the Recorder's Office software provider. The service is designed to give property owners an additional way to monitor documents recorded under their name.

For additional information or assistance registering, contact the Paulding County Recorder's Office at 419-399-8275.

FROM CLOSETS TO COMMUNITY

First Presbyterian Church of Paulding's annual garage sale, held in conjunction with the 127 Yard Sale, raised more than \$5,300 for the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry.

The West Bend News is published weekly for residents of northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio. The publication is wholly owned by West Bend Printing & Publishing Inc. Subscription information for the West Bend News follows: If you would like to have the West Bend News newspaper delivered to your home, subscriptions are \$62.00 per year. The newspapers are available for free at pickup locations throughout Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio. All content submitted & printed in the West Bend News becomes the property and copyright of West Bend Printing and Publishing Inc corporation. Any and all reproduction requires prior consent by the Publisher. Any submissions may be edited or rejected by the editor.

Located along US Route 127, the church's annual sale has become much more than a fundraiser. It has grown into a community event that brings together neighbors, travelers and bargain hunters while supporting several worthwhile causes.

Sale items are donated by members of the community, providing people an opportunity to clean out their homes while giving unwanted items a second life. At the end of the sale, remaining merchandise is donated to Goodwill, further extending the life of those items while supporting Goodwill's mission.

The church also welcomes 127 Yard Sale travelers who need a break from the summer heat. Visitors can step inside the air-conditioned church, purchase cold drinks and snacks, use the restrooms, or simply sit and rest for a few minutes before continuing their journey.

Everything at the sale is available on a free-will donation basis. Rather than assigning prices to individual items, shoppers are invited to give whatever they are comfortable contributing, making the sale accessible to everyone.

The church is grateful to the many community members who donated items and to the volunteers who spent countless hours preparing and working at the sale. Their generosity helped make this year's event a success and will help provide food to local individuals and families through the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry.

What began as a garage sale has become a community tradition, showing how something as simple as cleaning out a closet can make a difference in the lives of others.

DEFIANCE COUNTY LIBRARIES CLOSED SEPTEMBER 7&9

All Defiance Public Library System locations, including the Defiance Public, Sherwood Branch, and Johnson Memorial (Hicksville) libraries, will be closed Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day, and Wednesday, September 9, for a staff in-service.

BUILD CONFIDENCE IN YOUR 401(K) DECISIONS

In its simplest form, saving can mean putting money into a jar, adding to it and letting it grow slowly. A 401(k), or other workplace retirement plan, is a step beyond that. It's more like a garden than a jar. Once you understand the basics of your 401(k), it becomes easier to feel confident in your decisions.

In a jar, your money only grows when you add more. In a garden, what you plant can begin to grow on its own. Your investments can earn returns, and those returns may in turn earn additional returns. That's called compounding, and it can have a meaningful impact over time. Like a garden, however, growth is not guaranteed. Markets can rise and fall, and investments can lose value.

Most workplace retirement plan contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, which lowers today's taxable income; you'll pay taxes when you withdraw it in retirement. Some plans also offer a Roth option: you contribute after-tax dollars and withdrawals in retirement can be tax free. Your plan administrator can provide more information.

Many 401(k) plans include an employer match, either up to a set dollar amount, perhaps \$500, or a percentage of your salary, typically 3%-5%. Contributions you make, as well as those from your employer, can grow over time. Try to contribute at least enough to capture the full match; anything less means you're leaving money on the table.

Now the question is how to invest your contributions inside your 401(k). The menu of investment options may seem complicated, but most fall into a few common categories.

• Stock or equity funds focus on stocks, which represent ownership in companies. Because they're tied to company performance, they have the potential for higher

growth over time, but their value can go up and down in the short term. When you're decades from retirement, that short-term volatility matters less; you have time to ride out the swings.

• Bond funds invest in loans made to governments or corporations. These tend to be more stable than stock funds but typically grow more slowly. They can help balance the ups and downs.

• Balanced or blended funds hold a mix of stocks and bonds in a single investment.

• Target-date funds combine different types of investments in one fund. As you move toward a specified retirement year, the fund gradually adjusts to focus more on stability and less on growth.

The earlier you start planting, the more time your money has to grow. Even small contributions early in your career can end up as large amounts later, simply because they had more time to compound.

If you change jobs, keep in mind that your employer's contributions may not be fully yours immediately. It depends on your plan's vesting schedule, so it's worth checking before you go.

The most important steps in a retirement plan are getting started, contributing consistently and taking advantage of what your plan offers. With a little knowledge, you can feel more confident moving forward. The garden is yours. Start planting.

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

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OHIO LOCATIONS

Antwerp: Antwerp Library, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Antwerp Manor, Dollar General, Family Dollar, G-Mart, Genesis House, H2O Water Store, H&W NAPA, Pop-N-Brew, Pit-Stop, Small Town Bliss

Bryan: 4 Seasons, Bryan Hospital, Chief, CVS, Dollar General, Town & Country, Walmart

Cecil: 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House

Continental: ACE Hardware, Dollar General, Okuley's Pharmacy

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

Junction: Dollar General, Cabbage Patch

Edgerton: USPS, H&W Napa, Kaiser Supermarket, Utilities Dept, Marathon Main Stop, Marathon (East)

Grover Hill: N&N Quick Stop, GH Branch Library, Dollar General

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

Ney: Marathon

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

Paulding: Ace Hardware, Bargain Bin, Board of Elections, Chief, Corner Market, Courthouse, Dairy Queen, Dollar General, Gardens of Paulding, Holly, Wood & Vine, Integrity Ford,

Kwik Mart, Maramart, Napa Do It Best, PC Sheriff Office, PCH, PC Carnegie Library, Stykemain,VFW Post 587

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

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

Scott: Scott Post Office

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

INDIANA LOCATIONS

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

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

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

Hoagland: Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market

Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain

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

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

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

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PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL GIVES BACK TO ANTWERP, PAULDING & WAYNE TRACE SCHOOLS



Paulding Exempted Village Schools: Hunter Bosch, HS Principal; Ron Goedde, PCH CEO; and Andi Mead, Athletic Director



Antwerp Local Schools: Drew Altimus, Athletic Director and PCH's Ron Goedde, CEO

Paulding, Ohio- Paulding County Hospital gives back to all three area schools. Antwerp, Paulding and Wayne Trace schools all received a donation to their athletic departments from Paul-

ding County Hospital this past week.

Paulding County Hospital offered sports physicals to local athletes during the school day at the end of the previous school year. Sports physicals



Wayne Trace Local Schools: Kristen Stabler, Athletic Director; and Ron Goedde, CEO of Paulding County Hospital

were performed at all three county schools by Paulding County Hospital providers and staff. With the approval of administration and the Board, Paulding County Hospital was able to donate every dollar collected for the sports physicals performed back to each school's athletic depart-

ment.

Participating in school-related sports is a great way for youth to stay fit, have fun, all while developing school and community spirit. Paulding County Hospital was happy to be able to play a role in this process and give back to these worthy programs.

HICKSVILLE VOLLEYBALL BOUNCES BACK WITH FIVE-SET VICTORY OVER WAUSEON

The Hicksville varsity volleyball team bounced back from a season-opening loss to Swanton with a hard-fought five-set victory over Wauseon on Thursday, August 27, evening its record at 1-1.

Hicksville opened the season on August 24 against

Swanton, falling in three sets, 17-25, 12-25 and 13-25.

Mika Inkrott led the Hicksville attack with eight kills while adding 10 digs. McKenna Baird recorded nine assists, three kills and four digs, while Jocelyn Baldwin contributed four kills and five digs. Verenice Molina finished with five digs.

The Hicksville junior varsity team also fell to Swanton in its opener. The Aces battled to a 31-29 win in the opening set before Swanton came back to take the next two, 25-8 and 25-20.

Three days later, the Hicksville varsity squad earned its first win of the season in a back-and-forth battle with Wauseon.

The Aces took the opening set 25-14 before Wauseon answered with a 25-20 victory in the second. Hicksville regained the advantage with a

25-19 third-set win, but Wauseon forced a deciding fifth set by taking the fourth, 25-18. Hicksville prevailed in the finale, 15-12, to secure the match.

Baird turned in an all-around performance with 35 assists, nine kills, four aces and 12 digs. Inkrott powered the offense with 16 kills while adding four aces and 11 digs.

Baldwin recorded 10 kills, eight digs and five blocks, while McKenna Bergman added nine kills, six digs and four blocks. Liberty Doctor contributed 11 assists, three kills, three blocks and six digs. Tori Wells finished with six digs, and Caddy Vasquez served two aces.

The victory moved Hicksville's varsity record to 1-1 on the young season.

Hicksville's junior varsity team fell to Wauseon in two sets, 17-25 and 7-25, dropping its record to 0-2.

TINORA TAKES TOP SPOT IN GMC BOYS GOLF MATCH

Tinora claimed the team championship in the second Green Meadows Conference boys golf match of the season Thursday, August 27, firing a 152 at Auglaize Golf Course.

The Rams held off Paulding by two strokes, with the Panthers taking second place with a 154. Antwerp was just one stroke further back at 155 to finish third, while Wayne Trace took fourth with a 161. Ayersville placed fifth at 172, Hicksville was sixth with a 173, Edgerton finished seventh at 175 and Fairview rounded out the field with a 181.

Tinora used a balanced effort to secure the victory. Calvin Martin led the Rams

with a 37, while Logan Stein and Grant Lymanstall each carded a 38. Ryder Backhaus and Kaden Massengale both shot 39, and Kolten Snyder added a 45.

Paulding's Timothy Font III turned in one of the day's best performances, shooting a two-under-par 34 to share medalist honors with Wayne Trace's Brody Rosswurm, who also finished at 34. Antwerp's Noah Lucas was just one stroke behind the medalists with a one-under-par 35.

The Panthers' runner-up effort included a 38 from Tyler Goyings, a 40 from Jack Daeger and a 42 from Cameron Williams. Gannon Parrett shot a 43 and Sawyer Hunt finished with a 48.

Antwerp was led by Lucas' 35, with Kyler Johnson adding a 39, Lincoln Lucas a 40 and Emerson Morrow a 41. Krayston Eicher finished at 44 and Isaac Meyer shot a 52.

Along with Rosswurm's 34, Wayne Trace received a 41 from Maxton Williamson, a 42 from Grayson Sutton, a 44 from Brock Knowles and a 45 from Owen Welch.

Ayersville was paced by Hans Vetter with a 41 and Graham Schlachter with a 43, while Hicksville's top rounds came from Charlie Karacson with a 40 and matching 41s from Nolan Inkrott and Luke Nelson. Edgerton was led by Mason Elden's 41, and Jonah Shiningier paced Fairview with a 41.

The battle at the top was especially tight, with only three strokes separating Tinora, Paulding and Antwerp, but the Rams' 152 was enough to secure the GMC victory.



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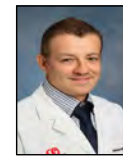
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RAIDER SPOTLIGHT

AUGUST 2026



Wayne Trace Jr/Sr High NEW Staff: Katy Williamson – Agriculture Teacher; Seth Erford – Junior High Intervention Teacher; Wendy Baumle – Digital Online Classroom Aide.



Grover Hill Elementary NEW staff: Mrs. Rylee Stoller - 5th and 6th Grade Science, Mrs. Jessica Riebesehl - TK and 1st Grade Aide, Mrs. Holly Blume - Preschool Aide, and Miss Carmen Hoersten - Intervention Specialist.

From the Superintendent's Desk ...

The beginning of the 2026-27 school year has gone smoothly! As our bus drivers fine tune their routes, please be patient as there are usually some time differentials as we get the routes adjusted.

The STEAM Center is still progressing on time. You will notice the transformation if you come by. I would like to give a shout-out to our Art teacher Angie Stokes, and Curriculum Director Tim Manz, as they were monumental in getting the grant that we received to make the project possible. Again, if all goes as scheduled, we will be utilizing this space after Christmas.

Our first volleyball game will be August 31st, and due to the delays in our gym floor in the high school being refinished, we will be hosting Liberty Center in "The Pit" (junior high gym)! Come out and enjoy a great Volleyball game like it was played in the '70s and '80s!!

We are all Raiders, so let's continue on with this new school year, and come out and support Wayne Trace Schools in all our events this year. The community support in our district has become *Legendary!*

Go Raiders!!

Grover Hill Elementary Update...

Back to School at Grover Elementary: A Bright Start to a New Academic Year

As the doors of Grover Elementary opened wide on August 18th, the hallways once again filled with energy,

laughter, and the unmistakable excitement of a new school year. Seeing our students' smiling faces return made all the hard work and preparation worthwhile.

Ahead of the big day, our dedicated teachers and staff spent weeks behind the scenes organizing classrooms, aligning curricula, and refining school procedures to ensure a seamless transition back into the classroom routine. Their unwavering commitment set a positive, welcoming tone for what promises to be an extraordinary year of learning, discovery, and community.

This fall, we are also thrilled to expand our school family. Please join us in giving a warm Grover Elementary welcome to our four newest staff members (pictured above right).

Please remember these important dates:

October 22nd – STEAM Night
November 11th – Veterans Day
December 10th – Christmas Program
April 8th – Spring Program
May 21st – Kindergarten Celebration

Payne Elementary Update...

The school year is off to a fantastic start, and the hallways are buzzing with energy! Everyone at Payne Elementary, from students to staff, has done a stellar job getting back into the groove. A big shoutout to the students who really shined during the first week and earned some ice cream for being Respectful, Responsible, and Ready: Jaxson Danner, Navy Denning, Avery Stalsberg, Brooke Philipot, Finn Feasby, Josiah Perez Tello, Aliyah Gerardot, Silas Dempsey, Demi Boyd, Ayden Good, Celeste Hollar, Layne Delgado, and Laylah Robertson. Mark your calendars for some im-

portant dates: on September 4th, our 4th graders will head to the Paulding County Fair to learn about Farm Safety, and remember, there's no school on September 7th. Picture days are coming up on September 21 and 22. We're thrilled about the school year and can't wait to see what's ahead.

Go Raiders!

Jr/Sr High School Building Update...

WELCOME BACK, WAYNE TRACE!

As the 2026–2027 school year kicks into gear, Wayne Trace Junior/Senior High School is ready for an exciting year ahead. From new staff members to innovative academic initiatives, here is a quick look at what's happening around the building:

Welcome to the Raider Team! We are thrilled to welcome three new faces to our junior/senior high school staff (pictured above left):

Katy Williamson – Agriculture Teacher

Seth Erford – Junior High Intervention Teacher

Wendy Baumle – Digital Online Classroom Aide

Our custodial team and summer help have worked tirelessly to get the hallways and classrooms sparkling for the return of our students. Meanwhile, office staff, teachers, and support staff have been busy finalizing schedules, preparing classrooms, and connecting with families.

WTHS is moving to an eight-period schedule with two lunches. This shift supports our new MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) model, providing a dedicated 30-minute common flex time

for teachers to work directly with students.

Once again this year there will be free breakfast for all students at the high school.

Mark Your Calendars

- Monday, September 7: No School (Labor Day)
- Wednesday, September 9: Picture Day
- Friday, September 18: Interim Reports
- Monday, September 28: Full Professional Day - No school for students

We are looking forward to a fantastic 2026–2027 school year.

Go Raiders!



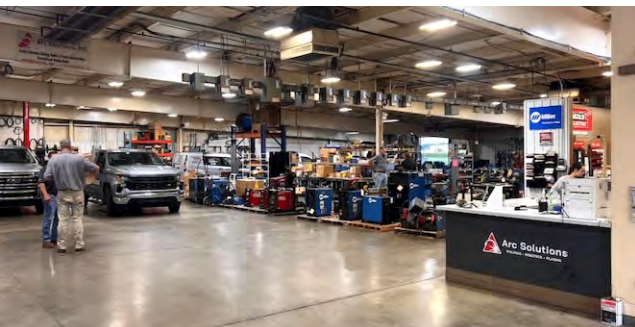
MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

NW OHIO COMPANY TO EXPAND OPERATIONS AT CURRENT FACILITY



Arc Solutions, a family-operated company, will invest more than \$6 million and add 65 new jobs to meet increased customer demand. Earlier today, the Ohio Tax Credit Authority approved a Job Creation Tax Credit for the advanced manufacturing firm.

Company President Denny Vetter credited the current workforce and its central location in the Midwest market as key factors in the decision to expand at the Northwest Ohio location.

"Northwest Ohio provides an enormous advantage as a very economical place to do business, which makes Defiance County the most compelling location for our expansion. Add to that, this facility features a world-class workforce - second to none - that is committed to our company's success." - Denny Vetter, President, Arc Solutions

The expansion project in Hicksville will include construction over the next four years of two 30,000 square foot buildings.

With more than 25 years in the industry, Arc Solutions is recognized as a premier expert for welding products, cutting equipment, automation solutions, machine repair and sales of top-quality consumables and equipment. The company serves a wide variety of industries including automotive and advanced manufacturing facilities.

Arc Solutions is a division of FabX and collaborates closely with its affiliated companies - Advanced Welding Automation, Arc Robotics, Guide Engineering, Aquest Machining - to ensure customers satisfaction.

"Welding and cutting services are the backbone that Northwest Ohio manufacturers rely on to grow. Arc Solutions' continued investment in

Defiance County strengthens that foundation, and it's exactly the kind of ecosystem support that keeps Ohio's manufacturing advantage compounding," - J.P. Nauseef, JobsOhio President and CEO

Vetter complimented the collaboration among the economic development partners that helped move the project forward, including JobsOhio, the Regional Growth Partnership and Defiance County Economic Development.

"Hicksville may be a rural community, but it has long been home to world-class manufacturers. Bringing 65 new jobs to the area demonstrates that advanced manufacturing continues to thrive here," said Erika Willitzer, executive director, Defiance County Economic Development. "We are excited that Arc Solutions is growing customer demand while creating new opportunities for skilled professionals who help power the success in welding, cutting, automation, and machine repair, and the best part is - It's happening in Hicksville, Ohio!"

The company expects to break ground on the new buildings in the coming months.

For more information on Arc Solutions, FabX and its affiliated companies, visit www.fabxindustries.com

The Regional Growth Partnership is the lead economic development organization serving 17 counties in Northwest Ohio. As a private nonprofit development corporation, the RGP is dedicated to fostering regional, national and international business investment opportunities across the region. The RGP serves as Northwest Ohio's network partner for JobsOhio. Visit www.rgp.org for more information.

(Continued from Page 9)

costs.

Maan Muhammad I. Abujabal, Murrieta, California, pleaded guilty to failure to yield to an emergency vehicle. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

Nicholas J. Lenkowski, Strykersville, New York, pleaded guilty to operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

Clifford S. Gray, Paulding, pleaded guilty to improper backing. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court

costs.

Cody L. Adkins, Oakwood, driving under suspension dismissed at the village's request. Court costs were waived. A charge of failure to register and a windshield violation against were also dismissed at the village's request and court costs were waived.

Ciarra C. Owens, Bryan, pleaded no contest and was found guilty of assault. She was fined \$200 and ordered to pay \$280 in court costs. Owens was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 179 days suspended. She was placed on standard probation and or-

HONOR FLIGHT NORTHEAST INDIANA CELEBRATES 57th FLIGHT

Honor Flight Northeast Indiana (HFNEI) will conduct its 57th flight to Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

Honor Flight Northeast Indiana has safely transported 4,407 veterans to Washington, D.C., providing them the opportunity to visit the memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice.

For the upcoming 57th flight, 87 veterans are confirmed to participate: 1 from World War II, 2 from the Korean War, 4 from the Cold War, 75 from the Vietnam War, and 5 who served during other conflicts. Among these honored veterans, 5 have been awarded Bronze Stars, 7 have been awarded Purple Hearts, and one is a double Purple Heart recipient.

HFNEI President Cathy Berkshire states, "We are so excited to be taking our 57th Honor Flight to honor an additional 87 of our most deserving Veteran Heroes! "Thank you to the Fort Wayne, Northeast Indiana, and Northwest Ohio communities for helping us fulfill our mission!"

Berkshire states, "We invite everyone to join the Welcome Home Celebration to honor these heroes as they return from Washington, D.C. Please plan to arrive at the airport around 8:30 p.m. for the Welcome Home. You are also welcome to bring a folding or camp chair to use while waiting for our return."

The public is allowed to park in the long-term parking lot at Fort Wayne International Airport for the Welcome Home Event.

ELLIOTT ROAD SITE BEING PREPARED FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) of Defiance County - Defiance County Economic Development says a site along Elliott Road is being positioned for future industrial or technology-related investment, but no data center, manufacturing company or other end user has committed to the property.

The development site is

located to have no unlawful contact with the victims, complete an evaluation, risk assessment and online courses. A disorderly conduct charge was dismissed. She also pleaded no contest and was found guilty of criminal trespass. She was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$280 in court costs. Owens was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 27 days suspended. She was placed on standard probation and ordered to have no contact with the victim or property, complete a risk assessment and online classes. A charge of operating a motor vehicle without a valid operator's license was dismissed. She was ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

Madison R. Thompson, Paulding, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. She was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$280 in court costs. Thompson was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 29 days suspended, and was ordered to maintain good behavior.

Kenneth A. Reed, Latty

VANTAGE CELEBRATES 2026 PRACTICAL NURSING GRADUATES



Back row left to right: Joann Ruan, Andrea Fletter, Kenyota Pickett, Kyla Carder, Dreama Hampton. Front row left to right: Hailey Smith, Victoria Quiroz, Alana Beebe, Salasia Lipsey

Vantage Career Center Adult Education celebrated nine Practical Nursing graduates during its 2026 graduation and pinning ceremony on August 13, recognizing a class marked by academic achievement, dedication and compassion.

The Class of 2026 included Alana Beebe, Kyla Carder, Andrea Fletter, Dreama Hampton, Salasia Lipsey, Kenyota Pickett, Victoria Quiroz, Joann Ruan and Hailey Smith. Each graduate completed Vantage's rigorous 1,318-hour Practical Nursing Program, which combines classroom instruction, hands-on lab training and clinical experiences.

Among the graduates, Alana Beebe made Vantage history as the first student to begin the PNP PREP pathway while in high school and go on to complete the Practical Nursing Program. PN PREP allows students to begin their nursing education while still in high school and continue their training through Vantage Adult Education.

The entire class also reached an impressive academic benchmark: every graduate earned an Exit HESI

score equivalent to passing the NCLEX examination. HESI exams use NCLEX-style questions to evaluate students' nursing knowledge and readiness for the licensure exam.

"The 2026 Practical Nursing graduates have accomplished so much throughout their time at Vantage," said Erin Askins. "They excelled in their knowledge, skills, confidence and compassion, and their hard work, dedication and commitment to learning truly showed. To have every student achieve an Exit HESI score equivalent to passing the NCLEX is an incredible accomplishment for this class."

Individual HESI honors went to Joann Ruan, who earned the highest Fundamentals of Nursing score; Hailey Smith, who earned the highest Pediatric, Medical-Surgical and Exit scores; and Dreama Hampton, who earned the highest Maternity and Pharmacology scores. Hampton's Pharmacology score was the highest recorded in Vantage's Practical Nursing Program to date.

Graduates were also recognized with Nursing Excellence Awards. Kenyota Pickett re-

ceived Outstanding Motivation, Determination and Hard Work; Hailey Smith, Outstanding Learning and Education; Salasia Lipsey, Outstanding Patient Advocate; Victoria Quiroz, Outstanding Leadership; Kyla Carder, Outstanding Clinical Confidence; Alana Beebe, Outstanding Heart of Nursing; and Andrea Fletter,

Quiroz received an additional distinction for perfect attendance, completing all 1,318 hours without missing a single minute of class, lab or clinical training.

With their training complete, the graduates will take the next step toward becoming Licensed Practical Nurses as they prepare for the NCLEX. Vantage Career Center congratulates the Class of 2026 and wishes each graduate continued success in the nursing profession.

To learn more about the Practical Nursing Program and other career-training opportunities available through Vantage Career Center Adult Education, visit the Vantage Adult Education programs webpage or call 419-238-5411, ext. 2166.

located in the 24000 block of Elliott Road, across from Keller Trucking's Operations Center and near DECKED and Johns Manville. Its proximity to U.S. 24 and existing industrial operations makes the property suitable for manufacturing, logistics, technology and other com-

mercial development.

The property is being developed by local businessman Bryan Keller and partners, with the site currently undergoing due diligence and preparations necessary to make it market-ready. Defiance County Economic Development has also assisted in assembling additional parcels surrounding the property to create a larger development site.

Economic development officials emphasized that although there has been public

discussion about the possibility of a data center, no data center company has submitted a binding proposal, signed a lease or entered into a purchase agreement for the property. The organization has responded to general inquiries and provided information about data centers and other types of industrial development as part of its economic development activities.

The Elliott Road corridor has previously been identified for industrial and business

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

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development in the City of Defiance Comprehensive Plan. Officials said preparing large development sites can take years and often involves land assembly, engineering, infrastructure planning, zoning, annexation and other work before a specific company is identified.

Should a company propose a project for the site, Defiance County Economic Development said it would be evaluated based on its economic benefits, infrastructure requirements, environmental considerations, workforce impact and long-term value to the community. The organization said projects should pay for infrastructure and utility improvements required by their operations and should not shift project-related costs to local taxpayers.

Officials also said no local financial incentives have been authorized for data center development.

Any future proposal would be subject to applicable zoning, permitting and development requirements, with project details made available through the appropriate public review processes.

Defiance County Economic Development said its goal is to maintain the county's ability to compete for new investment while ensuring projects are financially sustainable, minimize impacts on neighboring properties and provide measurable long-term benefits to the community.

PATROL INVESTIGATES FATAL CRASH

Defiance - The Ohio State Highway Patrol's Defiance Post is investigating a two vehicle fatal crash. The crash occurred on Thursday August 28, 2026, at approximately 12:41 p.m. The crash was located on SR 15 near milepost 20 in Highland Township, Defiance County.

Judith Knowles, age 74, of Continental, Ohio, was northbound on SR 15. Ms. Knowles was driving a black 2007 Jeep Grand Cherokee when she rear-ended a northbound 2026 Mack dump truck. The dump truck was driven by Lee Perry, age 37, of Mount Morris, Michigan. Upon impact both vehicles stayed in the north bound lanes of SR 15. SR 15 was closed for approximately two hours.

Ms. Knowles, who was wearing a seatbelt, was pronounced deceased at the scene. Mr. Perry was evaluated by EMS but claimed no

injury.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted by the Defiance County Sheriff's Office, Defiance Fire and Rescue, Ayersville Fire Department, Continental Police Department, the Defiance County Coroner's Office and J&R Towing.

CANDIDATE DEREK MERRIN ATTENDS; LAND BANK DATA SHARED AT PC MAYORS MEETING

PAULDING - Six of Paulding County's eleven villages—Antwerp, Cecil, Grover Hill, Latty, Oakwood, and Paulding—were represented at the quarterly Mayors Meeting, where local leaders gathered to discuss upcoming community events, development opportunities, and statewide initiatives impacting municipalities.

The meeting concluded a full-day tour of Paulding County by Derek Merrin, candidate for Ohio's 9th Congressional District. Merrin introduced himself to the group, outlined key components of his platform, and held a question-and-answer session with the mayors on federal issues affecting rural communities.

Amanda Miller, representing the Ohio Department of Development for ODOT Districts 1 and 2, provided an overview of how her role supports village-level projects and infrastructure planning. Miller reminded attendees that Transportation Improvement District (TID) applications will be due in March, encouraging communities to prepare early for potential submissions.

Scott Sands, from the office of Ohio Auditor Keith Faber, addressed current statewide concerns, urging villages to remain vigilant in maintaining strong cybersecurity practices. Sands also noted increases in Medicaid fraud cases and a rise in rain and flood insurance scams with recent weather activity, advising local officials to stay alert and report suspicious activity.

During new business, mayors discussed upcoming village festivals that will incorporate America 250 celebrations. Events include:

- Oakwood Homecoming Weekend - September 5-7
- Payne Rock the Block Festival - September 12-13

Paulding County Economic Development Director Tim Copsey reported that the 2025-26 Land Bank Commercial and Residential Blight Removal Grant cycle has officially closed, with the county utilizing the full \$500,000 allocation. This year's work included more than 20 demolition projects and the purchase and rehabilitation of three homes through the Welcome Home Ohio (WHO) grant.

Copsey also announced that following the property purchase and demolition of a blighted trailer on West Jackson Street in Paulding, two new homes will be constructed in 2027 using WHO

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grant funds. Looking ahead, the 2026-27 state allocation for blight removal will be \$230,000. 19 new properties have already been identified, and bids were submitted and accepted for cleanup.

The meeting concluded with a roundtable discussion, allowing village representatives to share updates, exchange ideas, and continue strengthening collaboration across Paulding County.

PAULDING PUTNAM AND MIDWEST ELECTRIC HOST JOINT LEGISLATIVE DINNER



Nearly 200 members of Paulding Putnam and Midwest Electric gathered Monday evening at the Wassenberg Art Center in Van Wert for a joint Legislative Dinner hosted by the cooperatives' America's Electric Cooperatives PAC.

The event brought cooperative members together with state and energy industry leaders for an evening focused on issues affecting electric reliability, affordability and the future of Ohio's energy industry.

State Representative Roy Klopfenstein and State Senator Susan Manchester joined members for the evening, sharing their perspectives on current energy legislation and the role electric cooperatives play in helping legislators understand the issues facing the electric industry.

Klopfenstein emphasized the importance of cooperative participation in America's Electric Cooperatives PAC and the role the cooperative industry plays in educating elected officials.

"The America's Electric Cooperatives PAC plays an important role in helping legislators understand the issues facing electric cooperatives and members they serve," Klopfenstein said. "That education is critical to making informed decisions about Ohio's energy future."

Klopfenstein described the work often associated with lobbying as legislative education, noting that virtually every business is affected

by legislation in some way.

"When I think about who I would consider allies, this PAC is an ally," Klopfenstein said. "The individual contributions may be small, but collectively, they are critically important to the future of not only electric cooperatives, but Ohio as a whole."

"As we're all aware, one of the big issues that is talked about today is affordability," Manchester said. "And your energy prices are a huge part of that."

She highlighted House Bill 15, legislation that was championed by Klopfenstein in the Ohio House, which she said has improved Ohio's ability to utilize its energy resources and attract additional generation to the state.

Manchester recognized the role electric cooperatives played in the development of the legislation and its potential impact on maintaining affordable and reliable electricity for Ohio consumers.

The evening also featured a presentation from Kevin Zemanek, Assistant Vice President of Operations for Buckeye Power, the wholesale power provider for both Paulding Putnam and Midwest Electric.

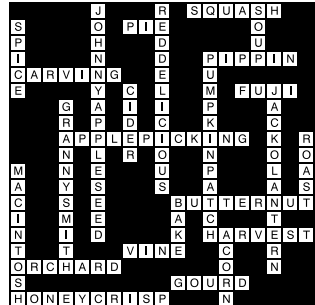
Zemanek discussed the growing demand for electricity from large energy users, including data centers, and the steps being taken to protect electric reliability and ensure that the costs associated with those large loads are appropriately allocated. Currently, neither Paulding Put-

nam nor Midwest Electric serves any data centers, but both cooperatives are preparing for the future to ensure their members are protected and do not bear the costs associated with new large energy users.

He explained that Buckeye Power has implemented a separate rate for data centers that ensures the costs associated with serving these large new loads are allocated directly to the data centers, rather than being spread across the cooperative's membership. He discussed requirements and proposed changes at the state and federal levels that would require new large loads to bring their own generation.

"These are two proactive things the Buckeye Board did over the past year," Zemanek said, referring to the generation and rate measures. "I think we've gone into a really good position, a really good place for our grid. Reliability is the number one topic, and then also affordability."

The evening began with a complimentary Italian dinner and concluded with a Q&A session, allowing members to interact directly with



Crossword solution from page 9

Klopfenstein and Manchester.

America's Electric Cooperatives PAC is a bipartisan political action committee focused on issues affecting electric cooperatives and the communities they serve. The PAC works to support policies that help keep members' energy bills affordable, improve quality of life, protect jobs and strengthen Ohio's economy while ensuring policymakers have accurate information about the electric cooperative industry.

Both Paulding Putnam and Midwest Electric Cooperatives are political leaders in the state of Ohio, with more than 1,400 America's Electric Cooperative PAC members.

DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION AWARDS \$2,000 GRANT FOR DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS



Pictured are Zeke Tracy - Defiance Main Street & Visitors Bureau Executive Director, and Drew Shindler - Defiance Area Foundation Board Vice President.

The Defiance Area Foundation has awarded a \$2,000 grant to Defiance Main Street & Visitors Bureau during its 2026 Spring Grant Cycle. Funding for the grant was provided through the Defiance Area Foundation Community Fund.

The grant will support the replacement of 22 second-story windows in the Defiance Main Street & Visitors Bureau building. The project is designed to improve the building's energy efficiency, ap-

pearance, and long-term sustainability while helping preserve an important downtown asset.

Defiance Main Street & Visitors Bureau plays a vital role in promoting downtown revitalization, supporting local businesses, and enhancing the visitor experience throughout Defiance County. The window replacement project represents an investment in the continued growth and vitality of downtown Defiance.

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Parade Route:

The map shows the parade route starting at Payne Elementary School (marked 'Parade Starts Here'). The route proceeds east on Oak St, passing the School Parking Lot and the 613/Townline St. intersection. It then turns north on Main St (SR 49), passing the 4-way Flashing light and the Flashing light, and ends at Payne Community Park. Other landmarks shown include Dollar General, Payne Grain Towers, and the Railroad. A blue dotted line indicates the parade route along Main St.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2026		
TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
8:00 AM	PAYNE PARK	FISHING TOURNAMENT
9:00 AM	NAZARENE CHURCH	RESOURCE FAIR
9:00 AM	PAYNE PARK	LIPPERT'S SOFTBALL GAMES
9:00 AM	PAYNE PARK	MARKET BAZAAR
10:00 AM	NAZARENE CHURCH	COLOR FUN RUN/WALK
10:00 AM	PAYNE PARK	WOODBURN LIONS DONUT SALE
10:00 AM	VAN CREST	CRUISE IN 10AM - 2PM
11:00 AM	PAYNE PARK	THE THIRSTY DINER - FEATURING LEMON SHAKE-UPS, DAIQUIRIS & COTTON CANDY
	PAYNE PARK	BIG GUYS FIREHOUSE BBQ 11AM - 4PM OR TILL GONE
10:30 AM	TBD	CANDY FUN RUN
3:00 PM	SCHOOL	PARADE LINE UP
3:30 PM	SCHOOL TO PARK	PARADE STARTS
4:00 PM	PAYNE PARK	MUSIC BY: COLUMBIA ROSE
4:00 PM	PAYNE PARK	A BALLOON ABOVE-BALLOON ART
		INDIANA WILD - PETTINGZOO
		JAKZ BOUNCES HOUSE
5:30-8:30PM	PAYNE PARK	MUSIC BY: RAPID FIRE
5:00 PM	PAYNE PARK	LASERTAG TOURNAMENT
5:00 PM	PAYNE PARK	BLESSING, AWARD & SPEECHES
8:30PM - 12:00AM		MUSIC BY CROSSROADS
9:30 PM	PAYNE PARK	**** FIREWORKS ****
12:00 AM		CONTINGENT EVENING CONCLUDES
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2026		
10:30 AM	PAYNE PARK	CHURCH SERVICE-UNDER THE TENT
		• HOTDOGS & CHIPS LUNCHEON IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE