

TWO LOCATIONS. SAME GREAT LOCAL SERVICE. WEST BEND PRINTING & PUBLISHING EXPANDS WITH ACQUISITION OF HILLTOP PRINTING



Pictured above are (left) Bryce Steiner, owner of West Bend Printing & Publishing, Inc. in Antwerp, OH, with Verle Harner, previous owner of Hilltop Printing in Defiance, OH.

ANTWERP, Ohio — West Bend Printing & Publishing, Inc. is proud to announce the acquisition of Hilltop Printing of Defiance, ensuring that one of Northwest Ohio's long-standing commercial printing companies will continue serving customers under local

ownership.

Hilltop Printing, established in 1970 and owned by Verle Harner, has built a strong reputation for quality, reliability and personal service for more than five decades. Under the agreement, ownership of the business and prop-

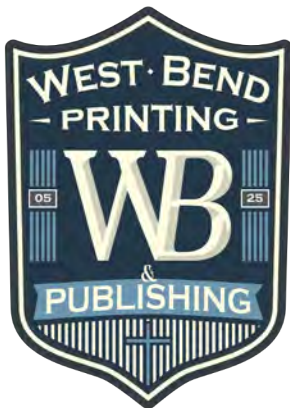


Hilltop Printing in Defiance Ohio has been in operations since 1970 under the ownership of Verle Harner who recently decided to to sell to Bryce Steiner for West Bend Printing & Publishing, Inc.

place orders and arrange pickup through either the Antwerp or Defiance location.

"I'm pleased that Hilltop Printing will continue serving the community under local ownership. Bryce and his team understand the importance of taking care of customers, and I believe they're the right people to carry the business forward," Harner said.

Plans are already underway to evaluate new equipment, improve the facility and continue investing in the future of printing in the area.



West Bend Printing & Publishing, Inc. Just celebrated their 20th year in business in 2025, and now will offer two convenient locations – Antwerp & Defiance – for customers & clients to order and pick up their printing & signage orders

erty will transfer to Peace in the Valley Property LLC, with West Bend Printing & Publishing operating the business.

"This is not about changing what customers value about Hilltop Printing," said Bryce Steiner, owner of West Bend Printing & Publishing. "This is about continuing Verle's legacy, caring for his customers, and expanding what we can do together for the communities we both serve."

The acquisition brings together two locally owned businesses with shared values and a passion for high-quality print. Customers can expect the same great service from the team they know at Hilltop, now with access to additional equipment, capabilities and resources.

The Hilltop location in Defiance gives West Bend nearly three and a half times the production and warehouse space it currently has, creating room for future expansion, additional equipment and more opportunities to better serve customers throughout the region.

Expanding to Serve YOU Better!

This acquisition is about expansion, not abandonment. West Bend Printing & Publishing remains deeply committed to its customers in Paulding County and the surrounding communities. The office in Antwerp will continue to operate as always.

By expanding into Defiance, the company is positioning itself to better serve both existing and new customers with more space, more capabilities and more convenience. Customers will be able to

(Continued on Page 3)

GENEALOGY AUTHOR AND RESEARCHER SUNNY MORTON TO PRESENT FREE SEMINAR AT DEFIANCE COLLEGE



Author & Genealogist, Sunny Morton

DEFIANCE, OHIO – Genealogy enthusiasts and family historians are invited to a free seminar featuring author and genealogist Sunny Morton on Saturday, September 26, at the Serrick Center, 202 E. Sessions Ave., on the Defiance College campus.

The program is presented by Defiance Public Library.

Morton will present two sessions offering practical strategies for researching family history and overcoming common genealogy challenges.

The first session, "Fable or Fact? Verifying Old Family Stories" will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will explore ways researchers can evaluate family stories and determine whether long-held traditions are supported by historical evidence.

Following an hour-long lunch break, Morton will present "Using U.S. Church Records as a Brick Wall Strategy" at 1 p.m. The session will examine how church records can provide valuable clues when traditional genealogical research reaches a dead end.

Morton is the author of "Searching for Sisters: A Guide to Researching Catholic Nuns in the United States" and co-authored "How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records: A Genealogist's Guide."

Both sessions are free and open to all adults. Registration is required, and attendees can register at defiancelibrary.org/seminar or by calling 419-782-1456. The registration deadline is 5:00 p.m. Friday, September 25.

FATAL SHOOTING

Washington Township, Paulding County, OH – At 10:30 P.M. on Monday August 31, 2026, deputies were called to 19915 Road 72 for a male that was shot.

Deputies found 34-year-old Logan D. Moss from Mark Center, Ohio in the driveway suffering from a gunshot wound. Deputies rendered

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

Community Calendar

TUE & WED

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

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 Opens @ Weller Farms
- Defiance Libraries Closed for Labor Day

September 8

- PC Democrat Party Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p
- Defiance Library Finance Comm. Meeting @ Nelie Gary Reading Rm., 4p

September 9

- Defiance Libraries Closed for Staff In-Service
- Personnel Comm. Meeting @ Defiance Library, 5p

September 10

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



Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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OBITUARIES



ANDERSON, IN:

Nila Jean Utterback, 91 of Anderson, and formerly of Tipton, passed away on Sunday, August 30, 2026 in Anderson. Nila Jean was born in Paulding, Ohio and raised in Payne, Ohio. She also lived in Willshire, Lakeview, and Gallipolis, all in Ohio, Highland, Indiana and then to Tipton while moving her family as her husband John's pastoral assignments changed. Nila Jean's parents were Lewis H. & Bernice A. (Gebhart) Shaffer. She married John E. Utterback on September 5, 1953 and he preceded her in death on March 14, 2016.

Nila Jean had several different jobs throughout her life including working as a model for L.S. Ayres, a retail display manager, restaurant hostess, high school supervisor aide and she worked at the Emanuel Lutheran Church child care. She was a longtime member of the First Church of the Nazarene and a graduate of the Helen Wells Modeling Agency. Nila Jean enjoyed floral arranging and decorating. Nila also enjoyed collecting and restoring dolls. She loved watching Westerns on TV, especially John Wayne! But her number one activity was shopping!

Survivors include her three children, Jackie Greene and husband Eric, Alexandria, Jay Utterback and wife Karen, Indianapolis and Amy Roberts and husband Wade of Anderson. Nila Jean has six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one sister and brother-in-law, Betty & David Barkley.

Nila Jean's funeral will be held in Payne, Ohio. Her funeral will be at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, September 4 at the Dooley Funeral Home, 5761 State Route 500, Payne, Ohio, 45880 with Rev. David Stout presiding. Burial will follow in Wiltzie Cemetery, also in Payne. Visitation will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Young-Nichols Funeral Home is assisting Nila Jean's family with her arrangements. Online condolences may be left on her obituary page at www.young-nichols.com. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee, 38105.



COLUMBUS, OH:

Gladys A. Dachenhaus, age 93, of Columbus, OH, formerly of Paulding, OH passed away on Monday, August 24, 2026 at the Columbus Alzheimer's Care Center.

She was born at the Norden family homestead in Napoleon, OH on March 19, 1933 to her late parents Ferdinand and Mathilda (Badenhop) Norden. On March 19, 1960, she married James J. Dachenhaus who preceded her in death in 1983.

Gladys was a devoted member of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Paulding, OH where she worked as the secretary for the church as well as being a member of the Rachel Circle, Worship and Music Committee, sang in the church choir, member of the church council, and teaching Sunday school. In early years, she was also a Boy Scout Den Mother.

She loved spending time with her grandchildren, playing Nickel-Nickel card game, listening to Hymns, Polkas and Big Band music and watching OSU football and westerns on TV.

She will be lovingly missed by her children: Jay (Beth) Dachenhaus, Paulding, OH; Dawn Dachenhaus, Delaware, OH; Stacy (Tyler) Reed, Grove City, OH; grandchildren: Elizabeth (Brian Cole) Dachenhaus, Delaney Dachenhaus and Lauren and Spencer Reed; brother, Dan Norden, Deerfield, OH.

Gladys is also preceded in death by her brothers: Leonard Norden and Norman Norden; sisters: Florence Behnfeldt, Mary Ann Iliff, and Margaret Lanzer; four grandchildren.

Memorial service at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Paulding, OH with Rev. Clyde Singh officiating on Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 11:00 am. Inurnment will follow at St. Paul Cemetery, Paulding Township.

Calling hours at the church before the services Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 10:00 am until time of services.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Gladys' memory to the Alzheimer's Association.

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



PAULDING, OH:

Charlotte R. Russell, age 88, passed away on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at CHP Inpatient Hospice, Defiance, Ohio.

Charlotte was born on November 3, 1937, in Greencastle, Indiana, a daughter of the late George and Marguerite (Black) Scott. On September 6, 1963, she married Lloyd W. "Bill" Russell, who preceded her in death in 2002.

Throughout her working years, Charlotte was a familiar face to many in the community. She spent many years serving as the kitchen manager at Auglaize Country Club and later worked at Ace Hardware. Charlotte was a devoted mother and grandmother who treasured her family and the time spent with those she loved. Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were an important part of her life and brought her much joy through the years.



COOPER FARMS TO HOST 19th ANNUAL TURKEY TROT

ST. HENRY, Ohio — Cooper Farms has opened registration for its 19th annual Turkey Trot 5K, with proceeds from this year's event benefitting EverHeart Hospice.

The all-ages race will be held Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Cooper Farms Turkey Harvesting Plant, 1 Cooper Farms Drive, St. Henry. Registration will open at 9 a.m., with the race beginning at 10 a.m.

"We're excited to be back for the 19th running of this exciting event," race organizer Tonya Huber said. "We look forward to this every year. It's a great chance to gather, enjoy a healthy activity, and, of course, help raise money for such a great organization, EverHeart Hospice."

The Turkey Trot features age divisions ranging from 9 and younger through 60 and older. Awards will be presented to the top male and female runners in each age group, along with awards for the top overall male and female finishers.

The flat, 3.1-mile course will start and finish at Cooper Farms and will feature splits at each mile. Water will be available along the course, and chip timing will be provided by Speedy Feet.

Refreshments will be provided to all runners following the race, including a to-go turkey meal. Door prizes will also be awarded.

Participants are encouraged to pre-register. Registration options, fees and deadlines are available through RunSignUp by searching for "Cooper Farms Turkey Trot 5K," through Speedy Feet, or by following the registration link available on the Cooper Farms website.

All proceeds from the event will benefit EverHeart

(Continued from Page 1)

aid to Moss until Grover Hill EMS arrived on scene and took over medical care. Moss was transported to Ohio Health in Van Wert, Ohio where he was pronounced dead.

The home owner, Alfred B. Conner, age 72, was taken into custody for shooting Moss. Conner was transported to a local hospital to be medically assessed before incarceration.

Charlotte will be sadly missed by her daughter, Kristine (Chad) Lantow of Paulding; five grandchildren, April Daubenspeck, Adam Himself, Sarah Gerencser, Kaitlin Bortel, and Thomas Lantow; great grandchildren: Ayla, Colton, Payton, Aedyn.

In addition to her parents and husband, Bill, Charlotte was preceded in death by her daughter, Debra Himself; and siblings, Barbara Bevan, Mary Pierce, Janet Secrest, Steven Scott, Sarah Wilson, and George "Butch" Scott.

Private services will be held at the convenience of the family.

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

Hospice.

For additional information, contact race organizer Tonya Huber at tonyah@cooperfarms.com.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL NO-TILL

Diesel fuel and fertilizer prices are soaring motivating farmers to look for ways to reduce costs. This past year, many Midwest farmers started no-tilling to reduce fuel costs. With healthier soils, fertilizer costs should decrease. Healthy soils promote higher microbial levels. Each soil microbe is a soluble bag of fertilizer and your nutrient use efficiency improves, so less commercial fertilizer is needed. The soil has a huge bank of tied up plant nutrients just waiting for healthy soil microbial populations to release them to plant roots. Starting no-till is the first step.

Soil compaction is usually a big problem. Excess tillage and a lack of roots in the soil profile causes soil to lack the soil organic matter (SOM) to form healthy soil macro-aggregates. The roots form macro-aggregates with the help of soil microbes. The macro-aggregates store active carbon (glues for good soil structure), improve water infiltration, increase water storage. Micro-aggregates allow good gas exchange of air (oxygen) to roots and good respiration or carbon dioxide flow from roots to leaves for photosynthesis. Cover crops with deep roots (cereal rye, rye grass, sunflower, radish) can break up about one foot of soil compaction per year. Only use a deep ripper if the soil is very dry, otherwise the ripper smears the sidewalls. Higher SOM levels from no-till and cover crops hold up heavy equipment.

Nutrient stratification of phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) does occur but it is not a concern in no-till. With better soil structure and water infiltration, the nutrients move down to the roots. About 40% of a plant's roots are in the top 6 inches of topsoil and another 30% in the next 6 inches. Fertilizer naturally stratifies in the top soil

He will be charged initially with one count of Murder, an unclassified Felony. The case will soon be handed over to the Prosecuting Attorney for further review.

Assisting the Sheriff's Office at the scene was the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Grover Hill EMS, Scott EMS and Paulding County Prosecutor Matthew A. Miller.

No further information is expected to be released as the investigation is ongoing.

Scripture of the Week

"Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us."

— 2 Timothy 1:13-14

WHOSE REPORT WILL YOU BELIEVE?



ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE, ARE WE IN THE LAST DAYS?

This question has been presented to me many times. It's a very thought-provoking question. The concept of the "last days" or "end times" is a significant theme in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. Various passages discuss prophetic signs, events, and humanity's spiritual condition as indicators of these last days. Today I will only touch on a few of them.

I won't dive very deep into this topic because I am not a theologian. I'm just a non-denominational pastor, filled with the Holy Spirit, serving in an interim position at a Presbyterian church. For some, that could be a sign of the end times (smile). But for me, I see it as many members, one body, with Christ as the head. 1 Corinthians 12.

Here is the Scripture from Matthew 24:6-8 (NIV):

6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Just look at the news; these events are happening every day.

To include wars, natural disasters, and the rise of false

prophets. The apostle Paul also discusses the last days in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV):

1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,

4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—

5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

This describes a world filled with selfishness, conflict, and a departure from faith. Does it look and sound familiar? As in something you witness every day?

I don't know about you, but I sure has made an impression on my spirit. A life-changing one, prompting me to be more Christlike in my actions, words, and thoughts, and to solidify my faith.

Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV) states:

"24 Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

When we were immature, we believed anything, but now that we have matured, whose report will you believe? WE SHALL BELIEVE THE REPORT OF THE LORD!

Peace & Love,
—Pastor Dwayne

layers and is not a problem as long as a field has good soil structure. Forests and prairie have naturally stratified soils but very little nutrient runoff because they have high SOM and good soil structure.

Weed control is an issue in all fields. While Glyphosate (Roundup) is used on about 85% of all farms, clethodim (Select) is a good grass killer to kill cereal rye. Glyphosate is a major chelator of micronutrients and should not be used after soybeans start to flower. Herbicide trait resistance for 2-4D (Enlist), dicamba (Xtendflex), and glu-

fosinate (Liberty) are all options to help control weeds. Dicamba helps control water hemp and Palmer amaranth but is highly volatile and may damage sensitive crops when it vaporizes.

On equipment, no-till farmers have little or no tillage equipment, but may need to do some modifications to their planters. Heavier bearings and harder, heavier disc openers may be needed versus OEM blades for better longevity and better residue control, especially in no-till and cover crops. Many farmers take the front coulter off

HAVE A WEDDING, ENGAGEMENT OR ANNIVERSARY?

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(pictures are extra)

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GOING TO AN AMISH RECEPTION

Penny For your Thoughts By: Nancy Whitaker

I was very fortunate to be invited to an Amish wedding reception. The sweet Amish gal that cleans my house, invited me and said any friends of mine could come too. We were very excited to get invited and began to wonder what an Amish wedding would be like. I asked Naomi, my Amish friend, what the bride would wear. I said, "I bet she will wear white for her wedding."

Naomi replied, "No, Amish brides wear black dresses with a white prayer cloth over it."

Actually this Amish family has 16 children and resides close to Geneva, Ind.

We did learn that the Amish usually get married on a week day. This day was set for Tuesday, Sept 1. What we were invited to was a reception for family and friends.

The actual ceremony was to take place on Friday. Another reception would be held on the day of the wedding

An Amish wedding can last all day starting in the morning and lasting into the evening. The closeness of family is part of what makes the Amish community such a tight-knit group and choosing a spouse to build a family with is a crucial and joyous element of that.

Being we were friends of the family, we knew we should dress conservative. However, it was to be 94 degrees outside that day and we knew it was going to be a hot day. The reception was to be held at the bride-to-be parents' home in a big cement like building.

The invitation we received stated the address of the event, but we did not know the directions. Two different routes to

get there was on the internet and we had them all, and we all wanted to take our own way. We got lost and at one time had navigated to Chattanooga Ohio. After stopping to ask directions we were on our way.

Dating customs and wedding traditions among the Amish vary from community to community. While you can't assume one community will be just like another, you can bet they will be quite different from a typical English courting and wedding.

Dressed conservatively, we parked the car and walked thru a graveled driveway. My



friend Naomi came to greet us and she was barefooted but she was walking across the stone drive like she had shoes on. In fact quite a few young Amish gals were barefoot.

We went into the long cement building and long tables covered in blue table cloths and blue vases of flowers adorned the big room.

Each Amish lady was wearing dresses and bonnets, and the guys were all in dark pants and shirts.

After greeting us, we sat down at a long table on benches. Food was served as a buffet with chicken, mashed potatoes, noodles, corn, salad and pie. Water was drawn from the well and a big pitcher of cold well water was on the tables. What can I say? The food was perfectly cooked, pies were baked to perfection and the cold well water (which was located outside with a pump to pump out the water) eased our thirst.

Also passed around, was a big cardboard box full of all kinds of candy bars and also a box of combs for your hair.

The bride and groom were both in attendance and the bride was wearing the black dress with the white prayer cloth over it. There were a lot of children in attendance all attired in the traditional Amish clothing. There were a lot of babies there and the little baby girls had on their Amish clothing too. Everyone was happy and smiling and for a while you wished you were a part of the Amish community. I wanted the bride-to-be to open my gift as I had got them an automatic salt and pepper grinder. The grinders ran off of 4 batteries. She liked the gift and said she would be sure to use it.

We saw no cell phones, TVs or radios. In fact, a game

of volleyball was being played, the older men were visiting on the porch and outside were a bunch of women washing dishes in an enamel pan. They all smiled and told us goodbye.

This family has 16 children, 11 married and 5 still at home. There is no electricity, running water, furnaces, or showers. One thing I forgot to visit was the outhouse, I was curious but did not want to wait in line.

What a simple life style and what happiness they have, loving one another, helping one another without pride or prejudice. (We did not take any pictures).

Have you ever attended an Amish wedding or reception? Would you enjoy the simple pleasures of the Amish? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

THE HICKSVILLE BANK JOINS DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GALA AS FIRST-TIME SPONSOR



Pictured are (L to R) Mindy Bobay - Hicksville Bank President and CFO, Chris Yoder - DAF Executive Director and Greg Smitley - Hicksville Bank CEO.

The Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) is pleased to welcome The Hicksville Bank as a first-time sponsor of the 2026 Gala, Bow Ties & Boas, with a generous \$2,000 Bronze Sponsorship.

Their 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 needs and opportunities throughout Defiance County.

The Defiance Area Foundation is grateful to The Hicksville Bank for its new partnership and commitment to the community.

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

and healthy predators (owls, American falcon, fox, coyotes) help keep vole populations under control. Good soil health and a balanced soil ecosystems of predators and prey can greatly reduce slug and vole damage damage.

Do biologicals work in no-till? That depends upon your microbial population and existing soil health. Many conventional tilled fields lack good mycorrhizal fungi (MF) populations and also good predators (protozoa and beneficial nematodes). The MF are good root extenders bringing back water, P, and micronutrients while improving soil structure. The protozoa and nematodes consume bacteria and other soil organisms, releasing tied up nitrogen (N) to growing plants. Biologicals

can help get poorly degraded soils back in shape.

One of the first places to start is with a good soil test and good harvest data. Variable rate fertilizer can be placed in zones where it is needed to get better crop growth. Tillage often smooths out fertilizer applications but that does not happen in no-till. No-till often requires a little more N up front (especially on corn (40-70#/Acre). As you build soil health, the soil microbes also need and use fertilizer (N-P-K) to grow and can initially compete for nutrients until a balanced soil with good soil health is obtained.

—James J. Hoorman
Hoorman Soil Health Services

(Continued from Page 1)

West Bend Printing & Publishing thanks Harner for his trust and for the example he has set through more than 55 years of dedicated service to the community.

West Bend Printing & Publishing was founded in 2005 and provides commercial printing, graphic design, wide-format printing, signs, banners, vehicle graphics,

book publishing, direct mail and marketing services. The company also publishes the *West Bend News*, serving readers throughout Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana.

The Antwerp office is located at 101 N. Main St. and can be reached at 419-258-2000. The Defiance office is located at 1815 Baltimore St. and can be reached at 419-782-9898.

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

Samuel Reed Heller born October 12, 1890 in Norfolk, Virginia. The son of Edward W. born April 16, 1869 in Indianapolis, Indian. And Levina Elizabeth (Oswalt) Heller born December 6, 1870 in Poneto, Indiana.

This couple was married August 25, 1888 in Indiana. On February 21, 1889, a son, Jessie Clyde was born, followed by Verna May May 30, 1896, Russel Edson April 23, 1899. By 1900, the Heller family was living in Harrison, Indiana. Edward was a farmer and the Samuel was in school. On June 25, 1905, a daughter Minnie Marie was born, followed by Florence (Flossie) Irene March 5, 1908.

By 1910, the family was living on Walnut Street in Harrison, Indiana. Edward, still farming and Samuel, now eighteen, was working odd jobs. A son, Melvin Adolph was born May 28, 1910, he was a sickly child and passed away, August 11, 1910.

On November 10, 1911, a daughter Rosetta Helen, died at birth. In 1917, a daughter, Sylvia Margrinta died at birth. As the world went to war, the United States called for the registration of a draft.

On June 5, 1917, Samuel registered for the draft in Wells County, Indiana. Listed as medium height and build, brown eyes, brown hair, and single. He was living near Bluffton, Indiana. Samuel's brother, Russel Edson registered for the draft, June 5, 1917 at Wells County. Samuel enlisted into the military April 27, 1918. He served in the United States Medical Corp out of Indiana. During that timeframe, Jessie Clyde

Heller, caught influenza and pneumonia and passed away November 27, 1918. He was discharged February 3, 1919 with the rank of Private First Class. He was discharged at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. As for Russel Edson Heller, he was killed in action, October 11, 1918 in France.

On September 4, 1918, Samuel's mother, Levina, passed away from chronic pneumonia. She was buried in Paw Paw, Michigan. By 1920, Samuel was living in Paw Paw, Michigan on North Brown Street.

He was working as a driver for a company. Still single, his sister's Minnie, Flossie and Rosetta along with his father, Edward were living with him. By 1930, Samuel was living in Ft. Wayne, Indiana on 215 and a half Main Street in a boarding house. He was working as a glass cutter in a glass factory. Sometime after 1931, Samuel married a gal named, Lillian (Lida) May Donley, Bailey, Cramer, Myers, Beineke. Her first marriage was not to the Bailey man, records are not clear what his name was. She was born February 9, 1880 in Paulding County. On January 20, 1934, Samuel's father, Edward Heller passed away in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He was buried with his wife in Paw Paw, Michigan. In 1935, Samuel became ill. Samuel and Lillian were living at 2430 Elyetta Street in Ft. Wayne. In March of 1935, Samuel took ill in his bed and on June 25, 1935, and passed away. His cause of death was coronary occlusion. He was buried in Sherman Cemetery lot 24, space 4.

On July 9, 1935, Lillian applied for his Government Issue tombstone. August 8, 1935, application for his stone was accepted, and on September 9, 1935, the stone was shipped. It is unclear who installed his stone. On April 16, 1940, Lillian passed away in Defiance. She is buried with Samuel. Looks like she finally settled down.

... Until Next Time!

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The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

The Paulding County Veteran's Service Office is dedicated to aiding Paulding County veterans and their families in time of need.

There are two basic services the agency provides:

- 1 – EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – Provide short term financial assistance to eligible veterans and their families who demonstrate a need. This includes, but is not limited to, food, gas, mortgage/rent and assistance with utility payments.
- 2 – CLAIMS ASSISTANCE – Provide services for veterans and other claimants for help with VA claims for any federal, state, or local benefits.

We also provide reimbursement for the cost of transportation to VA medical facilities in our area, or in the case where the veteran cannot drive himself, we will provide a driver.

Our office hours are Tuesday thru Friday,
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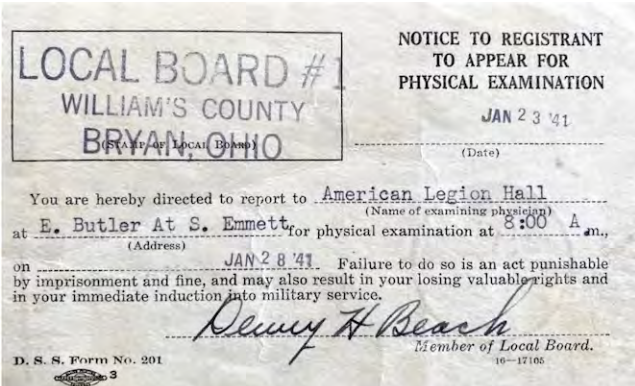
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SAFEKEEPING

Dotting My Teas

By: Marlene Oxender

A postcard – that’s all it was. A small piece of paper that had never been thrown away, stored for decades in a cardboard box.

My father was a young man when he received notice from the United States Selective Service to report to the American Legion Hall in Bryan, Ohio, on January 28th at 8 a.m. for a physical examination. The postcard is dated January 23, 1941. It states that failure to report was punishable by imprisonment and fine and could re-



sult in losing valuable rights.

Nearly 80 years after Dad had received the postcard, I found it in one of many boxes that had been stored on a shelf in my parents’ home.

As I read the words, I thought how my father had once read those same words. He would have held the card in his right hand. His thumb would have been in the same place as mine as he read the message on the postcard.

To him, the words meant his days ahead would be full of goodbyes. And full of uncertainty.

To me, the postcard was part of Dad’s story, and I already knew the ending. But it made me wonder about the beginning. And the middle.

In October of 1940, men between the ages of 21 and 35 were required to register with their local draft board, marking the start of the WWII draft process.

My father was standing in the post office when he read

those words for the first time. I wonder what his thoughts were. Did he turn to the person next to him and tell them the news?

He worked at Busy Corner, a store that was popular in Edgerton. Did he drive there to show them the postcard, or did he head to his parents’ home in Hicksville?

Dad wrote in his memoir that he’d been led to believe his military days would be completed in a year or so, but he came home nearly five years later. While he was gone, someone took care of his car and kept his papers and belongings safe until he returned.

I wonder how many of those postcards are still in existence. How many men kept that piece of paper?

Nearly all of us have a cardboard box tucked away somewhere in our home. It’s full of things we chose to keep. Our high school diploma is in that box, along with the tassel from our graduation cap. There may be a ticket stub from a concert back in 1979, programs from high school musicals, photos and scrapbooks, and a few papers with Xs and Os written at the bottom.

Had my father not saved the papers he once held in his hands, I would have missed part of his life story. I would not be able to share his experiences with others, and I could not have written my Picket Fences book.

My dad was from a large family, so becoming the father of eleven children may have seemed ordinary to him in some ways. But before Stevie’s birth, he could never have imagined becoming the father of a child with Down syndrome. Life has a way of putting postcards in our hands, quiet notices that let us know things will be changing.

My father didn’t choose the postcard that sent him off to war. And he didn’t choose the one that came years later when he learned Stevie would be different from the child he expected. I

can look at my father’s story and see the plot twists. I can write about the detours and delays. I can tell you about his cares and concerns.

When Dad placed the postcard in safekeeping back in the 1940s, he likely knew it would someday become a conversation piece. But he was a young man in the middle of his story, and his draft card remained in storage all the days of his life. He had never unpacked the card to show to others.

Someday, another hand will lift the lid on our cardboard box. They’ll see the paper trail we left behind and find answers to questions they didn’t know they had. They’ll learn more about the beginning and the middle of our life.

And since our box has room for one more piece of paper, we can surprise them by leaving a note. They’ll see our handwriting once again as they read the words we penned to them. They’ll turn to the closest person and tell them what they just found. And although the words in the letter already reside in their heart, they’ll appreciate the fresh batch of Xs and Os we left behind. They’ll feel our presence once again as they tuck that little piece of paper into their own box – one that will be opened years later by another pair of younger hands.

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

NORTHWEST STATE TO HOST 2026 ‘STATE OF THE COLLEGE’ ADDRESS



Dr. Todd Hernandez

ARCHBOLD — Northwest State Community College will host its 2026 “State of the College” address Wednesday, September 23, 2026 from 8:00-9:30 a.m. at the college’s Archbold campus.

NSCC President Dr. Todd Hernandez will deliver the annual address, providing updates on the college and discussing the role education plays as an economic engine in northwest Ohio. The event will bring together community stakeholders, including NSCC Board members, business leaders, elected officials, distinguished alumni and members of the media.

Shawn Hendrix, Talent Strategy Manager with JobOhio, will also speak during



Shawn Hendrix

the program and provide updates on workforce and talent initiatives at the state level.

The event will be held in Voinovich Auditorium, located on the west side of the Archbold campus in the “E” building. A complimentary breakfast will be provided prior to the presentations.

Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP by Sept. 18 to Katrina Adams at 419-267-1392 or kadams@NorthwestState.edu.

DOTTIE DAVIS TO DISCUSS ‘STRANGLER’ AT BOOK SIGNING EVENT

FORT WAYNE — Local author and retired Fort Wayne Police Department commander Dottie Davis will discuss her book, *Strangled: A Survivor’s Plea to Men Who Look the Other Way*, during a special community event on Thursday, Sept. 24.

The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Covenant United Methodist Church, 10001 Coldwater Road, Fort Wayne. Davis’ book addresses domestic violence and encourages men and others in the community to recognize abuse and speak out rather than remain silent.

The event is co-sponsored by the Woodland Book Club and Covenant United Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For additional information, text 562-505-5630.

MINISTRY WITH THE AGING CONFERENCE SET

FORT WAYNE — The 32nd Annual Ministry With the Aging Conference will be held Tuesday, Sept. 22, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Towne House, 2209 St. Joe Center Road, Fort Wayne.

This year’s conference, themed “Seasons of Caregiving,” will feature three keynote speakers: Dr. Nipun Chopra, associate professor of psychology and neuroscience at DePauw University and COO of Dextech Inc.; Rev. James Voorman, director of pastoral care at Lutheran Life Villages; and Erin Gerken, bereavement counselor at Luminary Hospice.

The day will begin with check-in and breakfast from 8-9 a.m., followed by keynote presentations throughout the morning and afternoon. Lunch is also included with registration. Four continuing education units (CEUs) are available for an additional fee.

Registration is now open. Parking will be available on the northwest side of the campus off Campus Court, with attendees entering through Door 2 and following signs to Towne Hall.



FEAR

Don’t know why I have been lately thinking about fear. Wondering how many emotions there are. Probably heard a sermon somewhere along the line. The Bible says it is a sin to worry. God forbids it. But how do you avoid it?

So many things happen that cause us to be concerned. Seems like the last administration had us completely confused as to what was going on, now we are 6 months in a war with no end in site, and the Ukraine war grinds on for years. Things are falling apart all around us yet the Bible tells us not to worry. It even says to have joy.

I’ve heard a lot of singing groups at Shipshewana and the one I remember most were siblings, two ladies and man.

They were very talented. The man had won Best Musical Christian Artist 5 years in a row. He played the trumpet and told us he practiced 2 hours every day. But the one lady stole the show.

An extremely attractive lady, she had been left at the altar by her fiance.

She never did marry. Now she takes care of her older mother. She has a neighbor that is a retired nurse that takes care of her mother when she is not there so she is free to travel. She said she had a gift and a ministry of helping people deal with the spirit of fear.

She said people afraid to fly, all kinds of fears, she has been able to help. She gave a 2-hour sermon in 5 minutes. The Bible addresses the problem of fear in Philippians 4:7-

RHODES STATE COLLEGE ANNOUNCES THE SUMMER 2026 DEAN’S LIST

LIMA, Ohio (August 20, 2026) — Rhodes State College is pleased to announce the Summer 2026 Dean’s List, recognizing students in the area who earned a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.

Bryan OH: Tara Michelle Morr

Cloverdale OH: Jocelyn Kristine Langhals

Columbus Grove OH: Saige Noel Frobase, Jeffrey Alan Herbst Jr, Kylee N Longworth, Gavin Patrick Schroeder, Dylan Thomas Siefker

Oakwood OH: Cooper John Wollam

Van Wert OH: Cylee Grubb, Sidney Jae Ryan, Sara Wenning

11.

1. rejoice always....No matter what the circumstances. In this world it seems like we go from one problem to the next. Just when things can't get any worse they do.

2. V5 Let your moderation be known to all men. Mrs G would say, "Christians should act with calm, gentle, reasonableness toward everyone, because God is always close by." The preacher would say that you must let everybody know what's got hold of you. Make it known.

3. V6 says with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving make your requests known to God. Replace worry with prayer, telling God what you need and thanking him for what He has already done. Don't get comfortable with being miserable.

Be careful where you place your attention. The devil has two access points, your eyes and your ears. The preacher gives one final example. He was in a meeting in China where they were meeting in a hidden place. The girl that was singing asked if she could sing two songs. She sang, "I've got the joy, joy, joy, deep in my heart. Deep in my heart to stay."

Her minister explained that her mother and father had been killed for the faith and that she probably would not live through the week, and sure enough she was captured, tortured, and killed.

PS... If you read what I write I appreciate you taking the time. I thank you and I appreciate feedback or ideas.

—James Neuhouser

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THOMPSON SPEAKS TO THE KIWANIS



The Paulding Kiwanis Club recently welcomed Quincy Thompson, Marketing Director of the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Van Wert, Ohio, as part of its Chamber Spotlight program.

Thompson was invited to speak to the club by fellow Kiwanis member and Paulding Chamber of Commerce Director Jen Rosebrook. During her visit, Thompson shared information about the Niswonger Performing Arts Center and highlighted some of the many performances and events that have been enjoyed by area audiences, along with an overview of the upcoming fall season.

Members had the opportunity to look through the Niswonger's Fall catalog, which features a variety of upcoming performances, including Puppy Pals, Darci Lynne, A Christmas Carol, and David Phelps.

Thompson also discussed

For more information about upcoming performances, programs, or membership opportunities, contact the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Van Wert.

HUSTED VIEWS STORM DAMAGE IN REYNOLDSBURG, MEETS WITH WORKING FAMILIES IN CINCINNATI

Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio) today visited Reynoldsburg to receive an update on storm damage and recovery efforts before traveling to Cincinnati to host a roundtable with working Ohioans from southwestern Ohio to discuss ways to make life more affordable.

"Today, I had the chance to again see firsthand how our communities are recovering from the storms we faced earlier this month. I requested expedited federal assistance because Ohio communities deserve the resources they need to recover and rebuild as quickly as possible. I also had the opportunity to hear directly from working Ohioans in Cincinnati about what we can do to make life more affordable. These conversations reinforce my priority as I serve in the U.S. Senate—to make sure Ohio families have more opportunities to save, spend and invest in the priorities that matter most to them," said Husted.

The Reynoldsburg visit comes after Husted wrote a letter to Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Cameron Hamilton and U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Kelly Loeffler requesting they begin conducting damage assessments in Ohio as soon as possible due to the repetitive and ongoing storm impacts.

At the roundtable, Husted met with academic, business, faith and community leaders to discuss his work in the Senate to make life more affordable for working families.

Husted supported the Working Families Tax Cuts Act to put more money back into the pockets of hardworking Ohioans by including:

- No tax on tips: More than 6 million taxpayers have benefited, providing relief for service workers who depend on gratuity.
- No tax on overtime: More than 25 million taxpayers have claimed the provision, giving essential workers—factory workers, linemen, police officers, nurses, and more—a new break on their hard-earned extra hours.
- A permanent 20% tax deduction for small businesses:

Delivering \$4,600 in average relief to 8 million entrepreneurs.

- Enhanced deductions for seniors: More than 30 million seniors have claimed the provision.
- An increased child tax credit of \$2,200: More than 34 million families have claimed the provision.
- A partially refundable adoption tax credit of up to \$5,000.
- Prevented a tax hike that would have cost the average family of four earning \$80,000 about \$1,700 MORE in federal taxes.

Husted introduced the Upward Mobility Act in January. The bill seeks to reform federal public assistance programs, end the benefits cliff and incentivize career growth. A benefits cliff occurs when Americans receiving federal public assistance experience a significant or complete loss of federal resources after a small increase in income. Americans receiving benefits may earn a raise or work more hours, but instead of increasing their total earnings, they end up worse off because their federal assistance drops sharply.

He also worked to pass the bipartisan 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act. This package is the largest housing bill to move through Congress in at least a decade.

The package reflects years of bipartisan, bicameral work and incorporates priorities from the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives and White House into a unified package to address America's housing affordability crisis. The legislation focuses on the root cause of rising housing costs by cutting red tape, unlocking housing supply, lowering costs for families, protecting taxpayers and preserving local control.

LATTA'S NUCLEAR REFUEL ACT ADVANCES OUT OF ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Bob Latta's (R-OH5) bipartisan legislation to streamline licensing requirements for nuclear fuel recycling facilities advanced out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce by a vote of 44-0.

H.R. 3978, the Nuclear

LIFEWISE ACADEMIES RECEIVE GRANTS FROM FITZENRIDER FUND FOR FAMILIES



In the photo (l-r) Seth Rogers - LifeWise Defiance and Ayersville Assistant Program Director, Chris Yoder - DAF Executive Director and Phil Nofziger - LifeWise Defiance and Ayersville Executive Director.

Congratulations LifeWise Academy-Defiance and LifeWise Academy - Ayersville for each receiving a \$5,004 grant from the Fitzenrider Fund for Families, a fund held under the umbrella of

the Defiance Area Foundation.

Each year, this fund created by the late Paul Fitzenrider, distributes grants to each of the LifeWise Academies in Defiance County.

READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS

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

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

Cecil: 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House

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

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

Junction: Dollar General, Cabbage Patch

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

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

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

Ney: Marathon

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

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

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

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

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

Scott: Scott Post Office

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

INDIANA LOCATIONS

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

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

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

Hoagland: Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market

Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain

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

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

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

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REFUEL Act, co-led by Congressman Scott Peters (D-CA50),

which will streamline nuclear regulatory licensing and increase investment of nuclear energy right here in the United States. Domestic recycling of used nuclear fuel would enhance the supply chain resilience and supply of nuclear fuel for advanced nuclear power plants.

"A robust and growing American nuclear industry is vital to meet our nation's rapidly increasing energy demand," Latta said. A resilient nuclear supply chain is critical for U.S. economic, energy, and national security. I'm proud this legislation will support our domestic nuclear fuel cycle and result in efficient permitting changes to extract additional energy out of spent fuel."

"Decommissioned nuclear sites like San Onofre just outside my district pose an ongoing contamination risk to our communities, our

ecosystems, and our oceans," said Peters. Congress can't wait any longer to deal with spent nuclear fuel. The good news is that we already know how to solve this. Recycling and reusing that fuel keeps it in reactors and out of our communities, while also giving us a reliable, emissions-free power as demand rises. That's what our Nuclear REFUEL Act can help achieve nationwide, and I'm glad to see it move out of committee and one step closer to putting nuclear waste to safe use, for good."

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EDON PULLS AWAY IN SECOND HALF TO DEFEAT ANTWERP, 35-12



Antwerp senior Gage Clevinger makes a good run, earning the first down, while leaving the Bombers defense laying on the ground. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

ANTWERP — Antwerp battled Edon through the opening half Friday night, but a strong second-half performance by the Bombers allowed Edon to pull away for a 35-12 victory on August 28.

The two teams played through a scoreless opening quarter before Antwerp broke through with six points in the second period. Edon answered with a touchdown of its own and carried a 7-6 advantage into halftime. The momentum remained with the Bombers after the break, as Edon scored 14 points in both the third and fourth quarters. Antwerp added six points in the third quarter but was held scoreless in the fourth.

Antwerp finished with 341 yards of total offense, edging Edon's 335 yards. The Archers did most of their damage on the ground, rushing 33 times for 173 yards, an average of 5.2 yards per carry.

Robert Montgomery led the Antwerp rushing attack with 47 yards on five carries, averaging 9.4 yards per attempt. Ryder Hines added 49 yards on 12 carries, Luke Jones rushed four times for 40 yards and Gage Clevinger contributed 37 yards on 12 attempts.

Through the air, Hines completed 10 of 21 passes for 155 yards and two touchdowns, while Carson Hughes completed two of five attempts for 13 yards. Antwerp finished 12-of-26 passing for 168 yards, but three interceptions proved costly.

Brayden Fuller was the Archers' top receiving threat, hauling in five passes for 91 yards and both Antwerp touchdowns. Gabriel Wenzlick added two catches for 47 yards, while Parker Bermejo, Weston Rhonehouse, Cadem Ingol, Michael Rohrs and Clevinger also recorded receptions.

Edon's offense was held to minus-15 rushing yards, with the stat sheet noting that total included a 22-yard loss on a bad snap. The Bombers instead did nearly all of their damage through the air, completing 35 of 46 passes for 350 yards and three touchdowns. Antwerp came away with one interception.

The Archers and Bombers each recorded 11 first downs. Antwerp was penalized nine times for 60 yards compared with five penalties for 45 yards for Edon. Both teams also lost one fumble.

Fuller contributed on special teams as well, returning a

punt 10 yards, while Clevinger had two kickoff returns for 21 yards and Parker Lucas returned three kicks for 43 yards. Wenzlick handled Antwerp's punting duties, averaging 25 yards on four punts.

The game was much closer statistically than the final score indicated, with only six yards separating the teams in total offense. After a scoreless first quarter and a one-point game at halftime, Edon took control over the final two quarters to secure the 35-12 victory.

PAULDING VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS NORTH CENTRAL ACROSS ALL THREE LEVELS

NORTH CENTRAL — Paulding volleyball enjoyed a clean sweep on Saturday, August 30, as the Panthers picked up victories at the freshman, junior varsity and varsity levels against North Central.

The varsity Panthers completed the day with a straight-set victory, taking the match 25-14, 25-14, 25-17.

Paulding featured a balanced attack at the net. Addison Arend led the Panthers with nine kills while adding three blocks and four digs. Kayde Kuckuck finished with seven kills and seven digs while going a perfect 10-for-10 on serve receptions.

Kayleigh Dunham contributed six kills and four blocks, while Karli Breedlove recorded four kills and eight digs. Anya Mead added two kills and three blocks.

Estie Pease directed the Paulding offense with 28 assists to go along with two kills, three aces and eight digs.

Defensively, Tori Schlatter turned in a strong performance with 13 digs and a perfect 14-for-14 effort on serve receptions. Schlatter also delivered five aces. Libby Breier added four digs and was 6-for-7 on receptions.

Paulding's younger squads were equally successful. The freshman Panthers won in two sets, 25-15 and 25-13, while the junior varsity team rolled to a 25-8, 25-6 victory.

The three victories capped a successful trip for Paulding, with the Panthers dropping just 79 total points across seven sets at the freshman, JV and varsity levels.

PAULDING VOLLEYBALL CONTINUES STRONG RUN WITH SWEEP AT BRYAN

BRYAN — The Paulding Panthers continued their strong stretch on the volleyball court Sunday, August 31, sweeping Bryan at the freshman, junior varsity and varsity levels.

The varsity Panthers earned a straight-set victory, 25-17, 26-24, 25-21. After taking the opening set by eight points, Paulding fought through a tight second set to earn the 26-24 win before closing out the match in the third.

Paulding's attack was led by Karli Breedlove and Kayde Kuckuck, who recorded 10 kills apiece. Breedlove also contributed five aces and nine digs, while Kuckuck finished with two aces and eight digs.

Addison Arend added nine kills and two blocks, while Kayleigh Dunham recorded three kills and four blocks. Anya Mead chipped in two kills.

Estie Pease helped direct the Panthers' offense with 24 assists while adding nine digs

and two blocks. Tori Schlatter contributed eight assists and eight digs while successfully handling 21 of 24 serve receptions.

Libby Breier recorded nine digs and two aces, and Jayla Griffith added two aces and two digs.

Paulding's younger teams also turned in convincing performances. The freshman Panthers cruised to a 25-12, 25-4 victory, while the junior varsity squad won 25-12, 25-13.

The victories came one day after Paulding swept North Central at all three levels, giving the Panthers another successful outing as the freshman, JV and varsity squads each left Bryan with wins.

PAULDING RUNNERS OPEN SEASON STRONG AT DEFIANCE EARLY BIRD INVITE

DEFIANCE — The Paulding cross country teams opened their season with a strong showing at the Defiance Early Bird Invite on Saturday, August 29, highlighted by a sixth-place finish from the Panther boys and a medal-winning performance from senior Achilles Mead.

Mead led Paulding's boys squad, placing 19th overall with a personal-record time of 17:06.56. He was one of three Panther runners to establish a new personal best at the season-opening meet. Paulding XC Results.pdf

Paulding placed four runners among the top 32. Senior Max Daeger finished 25th in 17:25.86, followed closely by senior Leonel Reyes in 26th with a personal-record 17:26.92. Senior Landon Grinnell crossed the line in 17:53.98 to take 32nd.

Sophomore Isaiah Koenig also recorded a personal best, finishing 76th in 19:39.43. Senior Thor Etter placed 139th in 23:11.81, junior Quinton Laker was 159th in 26:22.38 and sophomore Rooney Gutierrez Cortes finished 169th in 29:47.13.

The performance gave the Panther boys sixth place as a team and provided an encouraging start for an experienced group that advanced to the regional meet last season. Paulding's notes from the meet pointed to the team's tight-knit group of front runners and the way they push one another in practices and competition.

On the girls side, sophomore Dani Borland led Paulding with a 49th-place finish in 23:49.50. Freshman Maria Gastelum Lopez followed in 59th at 24:37.66, while junior Kyler Foor finished 63rd in 24:51.94. Sophomore Karlee Kohart recorded a time of 27:17.41 to place 93rd. No finishing time was recorded for junior Aly White.

Gastelum Lopez made a strong debut as a freshman, joining veteran runners Borland, Foor and Kohart in the Panther lineup. Borland, Gastelum Lopez and Foor finished within just over a minute of one another, giving Paulding a closely grouped trio early in the season.

Paulding also had competitors in the junior high races. Seventh-grader Maggie Webb led the Panther girls with a 62nd-place finish in 17:46.46. Eighth-grader Allie Manz placed 70th in 18:38.07, while eighth-grader Kaylee Pack was 78th in 20:08.45. Seventh-grader Landyn White repre-

(Continued on Page 7)

PANTHERS DOMINATE NORTH CENTRAL IN 46-0 SHUTOUT



Senior Jalen Manz is handed the ball and runs around into the end zone, scoring the last touchdown before the half. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

PAULDING — The Paulding Panthers turned in a dominant performance on both sides of the football Friday night, rolling past North Central 46-0 on August 28.

Paulding controlled the game from the outset, taking a 7-0 lead in the first quarter before exploding for 26 points in the second to carry a commanding 33-0 advantage into halftime. The Panthers added six more points in the third quarter and seven in the fourth to complete the shutout. Paulding vs North Central 2026.pdf

The Panthers piled up 373 yards of offense while holding North Central to minus-21 total yards. Paulding's defense was especially effective against the run, limiting North Central to minus-43 yards on 15 rushing attempts. The visitors managed just two first downs and completed five of 21 passes for 22 yards.

Paulding's offense did most of its damage through the air, finishing with 320 passing yards and six touchdowns. Ridge Hunt led the way, completing 16 of 24 passes for 230 yards and five touchdowns. Wes Grindstaff was 4-of-5 for 86 yards and another score, while Sawyer Hunt completed one pass for four yards. The

Panthers did not throw an interception.

Jordan Manz was Ridge Hunt's favorite target, catching seven passes for 127 yards and three touchdowns. Jalen Manz added three receptions for 47 yards and two scores, while Nick Baughman caught four passes for 60 yards. Grady Arend recorded two receptions for 40 yards and a touchdown, and Emmet Barnes added three catches for 31 yards.

Paulding opened the scoring with 10:22 remaining in the first quarter when Ridge Hunt connected with Jordan Manz for a 25-yard touchdown. The Panthers then broke the game open in the second quarter. Hunt found Jalen Manz for a 24-yard score before connecting with Jordan Manz for touchdowns of 20 and 10 yards. A six-yard touchdown pass from Hunt to Jalen Manz helped Paulding build its 33-0 halftime advantage.

The defense and special teams joined the scoring in the third quarter. Arend blocked a North Central punt and returned it for a touchdown, pushing the margin to 39-0.

Paulding finished the scoring with 7:36 remaining in the

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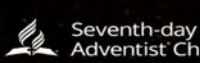
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fourth quarter when Grindstaff connected with Arend for a one-yard touchdown pass.

While the passing attack supplied most of the offense, Avery Cooper led Paulding on the ground with 34 yards on seven carries. Jalen Manz added 10 yards on one attempt as the Panthers finished with 53 rushing yards.

The Paulding defense was equally impressive. Jason Manz recorded an interception, while Grindstaff picked off two North Central passes. Javvon Stiltner led the Pan-

thers with five tackles, including four tackles for loss. Cooper had four tackles, four tackles for loss and a sack, while Jalen Manz finished with four tackles and a tackle for loss.

Paulding never needed to punt and finished with 11 first downs compared with only two for North Central. The Panthers ran 45 offensive plays and held North Central to negative total yardage in a complete performance that resulted in the 46-point shutout victory.

(Continued from Page 6)

resented Paulding in the junior high boys race, though no finishing time was recorded.

With three personal records, Mead's medal and a sixth-place boys team finish, the Defiance Early Bird Invite provided Paulding with a promising opening test as the Panthers begin the 2026 cross country season.

HICKSVILLE RALLIES PAST HILLTOP FOR FOUR-SET VOLLEYBALL VICTORY

Hicksville bounced back after dropping a close opening set to defeat Hilltop in four sets on August 31, improving the Aces' varsity record to 2-1.

Hilltop edged Hicksville 27-25 in a tightly contested first set, but the Aces responded quickly. Hicksville evened the match with a 25-16 victory in the second set before taking control with wins of 25-18 and 25-14 to close out the match.

Mika Inkrott led Hicksville's attack with 11 kills while adding four aces and 10 digs. McKenna Bergman contributed eight kills and four blocks, while Jocelyn Baldwin turned in a strong all-around performance with six kills, three aces, 12 digs and six blocks.

McKenna Baird directed the Aces' offense with 21 assists and also contributed four kills, two aces and 12 digs.

Hicksville received additional defensive contributions from Tori Wells, Verence Molina and Caddy Vasquez, who each recorded seven digs.

The Aces' junior varsity squad also came away with a victory, defeating Hilltop in straight sets, 25-18 and 25-21. The win moved Hicksville's JV record to 1-2.

After being pushed in the opening set of the varsity match, Hicksville responded by winning three consecutive sets to secure the victory and move above .500 on the season.

PAULDING GOLFERS FINISH SECOND IN THREE-TEAM MATCH

UPPER SANDUSKY — The Paulding boys golf team traveled to Lincoln Hills Golf Course on August 31, where the Panthers earned a

second-place finish in a three-team varsity match. Paulding posted a team score of 175 to finish behind Upper Sandusky and ahead of Tiffin Columbian.

Upper Sandusky captured the team victory with a 167, eight strokes ahead of Paulding. Tiffin Columbian finished third with a 193.

Upper Sandusky's Toby Holman earned match medalist honors after firing a 36, the lowest round of the competition. Teammates Levi Swavel and Jacob Romick followed with rounds of 42 and 44, respectively, while Seth Smith and Jack Beidelschies each carded a 45.

Paulding was led by a balanced group of scorers on its way to the 175 team total. Tim Font III recorded a 47 and Cameron Williams finished with a 49.

Tiffin Columbian was led by Finn Cooper with a 45. Blake Rhodes followed with a 47, Jackson Vallery shot a 49, Hayden Wagner finished with a 52 and Dylan Price carded a 62.

Upper Sandusky's strong 167 was enough to secure the victory, while Paulding's 175 placed the Panthers comfortably in second ahead of Tiffin Columbian's 193.

ANTWERP CROSS COUNTRY OPENS SEASON AT CELINA, SWEEPS HOME MEET

The Antwerp cross country teams opened their regular season with a pair of strong outings over the past week, beginning with the Celina Rotary Invitational on August 29 before returning home September 1 and sweeping the team competition against Edgerton, Hilltop, North Central and Montpelier.

At Celina, the Archers faced a large and competitive field, with Antwerp's varsity boys placing eighth among 13 schools. Jason McKay led the Archers with a 31st-place finish, followed by Braxton Peters, Gage Barker, Tucker Doster, Marshall Rice, Kahne Moore, Aiden Hook and Krayston Eicher.

Antwerp showed impressive depth at the front of the boys lineup, as the Archers' top five runners crossed the finish line within just 58 seconds of one another.

The Lady Archers turned in one of Antwerp's strongest

team finishes of the day, taking fourth place among 13 schools. Reese Durbin led the way with a 12th-place finish, followed by Gianna Laker, Gabriella Snyder, Emily Laker, Kora Zuber, Brooklynn Lawson, Aleta Sorrell, Annabelle Mowery and Heidi Rice.

Antwerp's junior high teams also competed against a large field at Celina. The boys finished 14th among 26 schools, led by Julian Rivera in 50th place. Luke Saylor, Bennett Graham, Cy Zuber, Quintin Reyes, Brock Barker and Avett Clem rounded out the Antwerp lineup.

The junior high girls placed 13th out of 26 teams. Destiny Getz paced the Archers with a 62nd-place finish, followed by Olivia Kosch, Josie Laker, Jocelyn Laker and Quinne Bradbury.

Just three days later, Antwerp returned to competition for its first home meet of the season, and the Archers made the most of the home course.

Antwerp hosted Edgerton, Hilltop, North Central and Montpelier on September 1, with all four Archer squads earning team victories.

The junior high boys were led by runner-up Julian Rivera. Cy Zuber, Luke Saylor, Bennett Graham, Quintin Reyes and Avett Clem followed as Antwerp secured the team win.

Destiny Getz went from leading Antwerp at Celina to winning the junior high girls race outright at the home meet. Jocelyn Laker, Josie Laker, Olivia Kosch and Quinne Bradbury followed Getz as the Archer girls also captured first place as a team.

The winning continued in the high school races. The Lady Archers claimed the team championship behind a second-place individual finish from Gabriella Snyder. Gianna Laker, Kora Zuber, Aleta Sorrell, Brooklynn Lawson and Heidi Rice followed for Antwerp.

The varsity boys completed the sweep with another first-place team performance. McKay led Antwerp for the second consecutive meet, this time finishing runner-up individually. Tucker Doster, Braxton Peters, Marshall Rice, Gage Barker, Aiden Hook, Kahne Moore and Krayston Eicher followed.

After facing a deep field at the Celina Rotary Invitational, Antwerp's runners responded with an impressive performance on their home course. With victories by the varsity boys, varsity girls, junior high boys and junior high girls, the Archers finished their first home meet with a clean sweep of the team titles.

DPLS PERSONNEL COMMITTEE TO MEET

[DEFIANCE] — The Personnel Committee of the Defiance Public Library System Board of Trustees will meet on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, beginning at

5:00PM at 311 Fort St. (white home across from Defiance Public Library), to discuss the following agenda items: director search strategy, update to the director's job description, proposed revisions to the DPLS Donated Time Off policy, updates to the 2027-29 Collective Bargaining Agreement, and staff vacation requests.

Meetings of the Board and its committees are open to the public.

DPLS FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Finance Committee of the Defiance Public Library System Board of Trustees will hold its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., Defiance, OH, beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Nellie Gary Reading Room to review the August financial reports. Meetings of the board and its committees are open to the public.

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THE LEFT TURN



Casey Noonan 2026 Late Model Track Champion at Oakshade Raceway Charlie Orns Photo.

By: Ron Burt

The USAC AMSOIL 410 Sprints were at "The Bullring", Kokomo Speedway for the Annual Smackdown. 50 cars registered to have a shot at Saturday \$30,000.00 to win. Thursday, August 27th Kyle Cummins had his car dialed in and won opening night and \$6,000.00. Friday, August 28th former Midwest Thunder Midget driver, Cale Coons found Victory Lane, and he collected his \$6,000.00 payday. When it comes to the big events it's hard to beat a driver with years of experience. Justin Grant drove like he owned the Bullring and won his 6th Kokomo Smackdown, and this was his 4th in a row. Grant earned \$35,000.00 counting the win and lap money. On the podium with the winner Kyle Cummins who started on the pole and Jacob Denny.

Attica Raceway Park had their normal Friday night show. Cap Henry won the 410 Winged Sprint Feature. Bryan Sebetto found victory lane in the 305 Sprint Class and Wooster Ohio's Doug Drown waved the checkered flag in the DIRTcar Late Models.

Mansfield Speedway hosted the Great Lakes Super Sprints and the Ohio Valley Late Models, Friday, August 28th. GLSS 360 Sprint driver, Darin Naida won the feature for the winged rockets and Mason Hannagan finished 6th and that was enough to win the 2026 GLSS Southern Championship. The DIRTcar Late Model Series winner was Corey DeLancey from Parkersburg WV.

Flat Rock Speedway Feature winners on Saturday, Factory Stocks Rayce Metdepennigen, Figure 8 Jeremy Vanderhoof, Street Stock B Main Harry Deacheaux II, Street Stock A Main Stevie Cronenwett Jr and Outlaw Super Late Model Paul Pelletier.

Millstream Speedway in Findlay had family night last Saturday. The USAC Thunder Midgets had a close and exciting feature. Bryce Massingill was able to keep in front of Matt Lux and Tyler Nelson for the win. The Great Lakes Super Sprints put on a competitive show with close racing. Darin Naida won his 2nd feature of the weekend. The Great Lakes Lightning Sprints were also in action. Greysen Thompson worked his way



Riley Mason wins Late Model Feature at Angola Motorsport Speedway. CJ Photography.

from 3rd to 1st in the A-Main. Zach Milbee won the DIRTcar Late Model Feature.

Angola Motorsport Speedway had 72 cars on Saturday night, featuring their Fab 5 plus the M.A.C.K.S. Feature winners, Late Model Riley Mason, Modifieds Tommy Cook, Street Stock Parker Moyer, FWD Outlaws David Fisher, Hornets Travis Barcus and M.A.C.K.S Joe Warner

Oakshade Raceway in Wauseon had their Season Championship and your feature winners, DIRTcar Late Models Casey Noonan (Unofficial 2026 Late Model Track Champion), Late Model Sportsmen Dylan Hough, Dominator Super Stocks Brad Eitnrear and Sport Compacts Ryan Okuley (2026 Unofficial Compact Track Champion).

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

HIGHWAY PATROL INVESTIGATING SCHOOL BUS CRASH

The Defiance Post of Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a minor injury school bus crash August 31, 2026, at approximately 7:28 A.M. The crash occurred on East High Street, near Columbus Street in The Village of Hicksville, Defiance County.

Brian L. Zeedyk, age 58, of Hicksville, Ohio, was operating a 2025 Blue Bird School Bus #7. Mr. Zeedyk was southwest bound on East High Street. When a northeast bound 16-year-old pedestrian was attempting to cross the roadway. The pedestrian stepped in front of the school bus and was struck. The pedestrian was treated at the scene for minor injuries. He was treated and released. There were no injuries reported by the school bus driver.

Alcohol and drug impairment is not suspected, and a safety belt was found to be in use at the time of the crash.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted on scene by Hicksville Police Department,

Hicksville Fire And EMS, and Hicksville Village School. The crash remains under investigation.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol reminds motorists to stop for school buses when flashing lights are visible and reminds pedestrians to look both ways prior to entering and crossing the roadway. The Patrol also reminds motorists to always wear safety belts and to never drive distracted.

COMMUNITY-FUNDED AED PROGRAM SAVES A LIFE IN NEW HAVEN

A collaborative community safety initiative proved its life-saving value Friday when a quick response by the New Haven Police Department (NHPD) helped revive a worker suffering from cardiac arrest.

On August 28, 2026, East Central Fire/EMS Territory was dispatched to Sanko Gosei

following reports of an unconscious, non-breathing worker. NHPD officers arrived on the scene prior to the arrival of East Central EMS personnel. Officer Pope immediately deployed the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) from his patrol vehicle, administered one shock, and performed CPR until paramedic crews took over care.

A short time later, the patient regained a pulse and was transported to a local hospital for continued treatment, with a return to baseline expected.

The AED utilized by Officer Pope was recently placed in service thanks to local businesses that provided donations to fund AED purchases for NHPD vehicles. Studies show that early CPR and rapid defibrillation are critical factors in surviving sudden cardiac arrest.

"In cardiac arrest emergencies, every second counts," said Julie Ehle, EMS Training Captain for East Central Fire and EMS Territory.

"This patient's outcome demonstrates the direct impact of our business community's support. Equipping law enforcement officers—who are often first to arrive on scene—with AEDs saves lives."

East Central Fire/EMS Territory aims to expand the program to ensure every local patrol vehicle is equipped with a defibrillator. Businesses or community members interested in donating to support future AED purchases are encouraged to contact East Central Fire/EMS Territory at jehle@newhaven.in.gov.

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Heather M. Moser, Cecil, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct following a bench trial. She was fined \$25 and ordered to pay \$159 in court costs. Moser was also ordered to maintain good behavior.

Chad A. Adams, Cecil, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. He was fined \$50 and ordered to pay \$166 in court costs. Adams was also ordered to maintain good behavior.

Bat E. Zorigtbaatar, Arlington, Virginia, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle without a valid operator's license. He was fined \$500 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. An overlength violation was dismissed.

Robert A. Scott, Oakwood,

CIVIC THEATRE HEADING TO STATE FESTIVAL



Pictured above are the VWCT Cast and Crew of Bonnie and Clyde at Northwest OCTA Regional Festival.

The stage is set and the get-away car is packed. Bonnie and Clyde ride again! Over Labor Day weekend, a 25-member ensemble of cast, crew, and directors from the Van Wert Civic Theatre (VWCT) will travel to Lima, Ohio, to represent Northwest Ohio at the Ohio Community Theatre Association (OCTA) State Conference.

VWCT is one of just 15 community theatre groups selected from across the state to perform at the three-day annual festival, held at the Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center in downtown Lima.

VWCT will take the stage on Sunday, September 6, at 2:30 PM to perform a 40-minute excerpt of their hit

musical production from September 2025, Bonnie & Clyde. Earning a spot at the state showcase is a significant achievement. After qualifying at the Northwest Regional OCTAFest earlier this summer, VWCT was selected to join 14 other regional excerpt winners for the statewide celebration of community theatre excellence.

The excerpt competition tests technical precision as much as performance quality: each group has strict time limits to load in their set pieces, present a seamless 40-minute cut of their show, and load off the stage under the eyes of state adjudicators. Theatres from around the state will spend the weekend taking part in professional theatre

workshops, networking with fellow groups from across Ohio, and watching performances from the participating theatres.

The festival culminates on Sunday evening with the annual OCTA Awards Banquet, where productions will be recognized with state honors for acting, vocal performance, directing, and technical execution.

Anyone can attend the Ohio Community Theatre Association festival. For registration information, visit the OCTA website at octa1953.org.

To learn more about Van Wert Civic Theatre and their upcoming season, visit vwct.org.

operating a vehicle under the influence, dismissed without prejudice. Court costs were waived.

Fikret Markisic, Kirkland, Quebec, pleaded guilty to a marked lanes violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

Ras S. Tafari, Haviland, pleaded guilty to a display of license plates violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Erin Karlstadt, Paulding, pleaded guilty to failure to control. She was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Donald M. Brown, Paulding, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. He was fined \$50 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Brown was also ordered to maintain good behavior.

Jonatan Altunar, Paulding, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle under the influence. He was fined \$565 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Altunar was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 177 days suspended, and his driver's license was suspended from June 14, 2026, through June 14, 2027. He may attend a driver intervention program in lieu of three days in jail. A failure to control charge was dismissed.

Israa A. El-Sabbagh, Warsaw, Indiana, pleaded guilty to operating an unsafe vehicle. She was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

Cynthia L. Morningstar, Melrose, driving under a financial responsibility suspension, was dismissed without prejudice. Court costs were waived.

Dylan J. Giesige, Saint Marys, pleaded guilty to driving while texting. No fine was imposed, and he was ordered

to pay \$95 in court costs.

Chase M. Hower, Lima, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Kayla K. Smith Bey, New Baltimore, Michigan, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 with no court costs assessed.

Mark A. McGill, Payne, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Amanda M. Strayer, Liberty Center, pleaded no contest and was found guilty of disorderly conduct. She was fined \$50 and ordered to pay \$187.79 in court costs. Strayer was also ordered to maintain good behavior.

Nathan Meglich, Antwerp, pleaded guilty to driving under a financial responsibility suspension. A \$100 fine was imposed but suspended, and he was ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Kevin W. Carlisle, Grover Hill, pleaded no contest and was found guilty of driving under a financial responsibility suspension. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Leah D. Grimes, Cecil, pleaded guilty to driving under a financial responsibility suspension. A \$100 fine was imposed but suspended, and she was ordered to pay \$97 in

court costs.

Steven J. Diltz, Delphos, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle under the influence. He was fined \$715 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Diltz was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 150 days suspended, and his driver's license was suspended from Sept. 14, 2026, through Sept. 14, 2028. He was placed on standard probation and ordered to complete 10 hours of community service, an online class and a risk assessment. Charges of left of center and littering were dismissed.

Parker L. Mapes, Oakwood, disorderly conduct, dismissed, with Mapes ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. He pled guilty to physical control of a vehicle while under the influence. He was fined \$250 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Mapes was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 174 days suspended, and his driver's license was suspended from July 4, 2026, through July 4, 2027. He may attend a driver intervention program in lieu of three days in jail and was ordered to provide proof of insurance. A left of center charge was dismissed.

Daniel R. Kuch, Defiance, pleaded guilty to a turn signal violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

The Left Turn

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SMALL FARMS GET HANDS-ON FOCUS AT FARM SCIENCE REVIEW



LONDON, Ohio — At a farm show also known for massive machinery and sprawling field demonstrations, some of the most useful lessons for small-scale farmers may come with a pair of sheep shears, a soil test or a portable greenhouse.

That's the idea behind the Small Farms Zone at the 2026 Farm Science Review, where people farming on fewer acres can find practical information tailored to their operations. Part of the Sept. 22-24 agricultural showcase hosted by The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), the Small Farms Zone serves people who raise livestock, grow crops or are just getting started.

This year's offerings range from sheep and goat care and poultry housing to choosing the right-sized tractor for a smaller farm. The lineup also includes soil testing with Wayne Dellinger, Ohio State Extension educator in Union County, and using portable greenhouses and hoop structures on small farms with Carri Jagger, Ohio State Extension educator in Morrow County.

For livestock producers, the programming also addresses practical challenges facing small and moderate-sized farms, including access to animal care and other spe-

cialized services.

Braden "Brady" Campbell, assistant professor in the CFAES Department of Animal Sciences and state small ruminant specialist with Ohio State University Extension, sees the Small Farms Zone as an important resource for Ohio farmers. The programming reflects CFAES' commitment to helping farmers of all sizes access the knowledge and resources they need.

Sheep and goats are one example of why that focus matters.

"Small ruminants can give people with limited acreage a practical entry point into livestock production, making small and moderate-sized farms an important part of the industry," Campbell said.

Ohio's average sheep flock comprises about 40 heads, he said. While larger operations are becoming more common, many of the state's sheep and goat producers raise livestock on relatively small acreages.

"Highlighting the needs of our small and moderate-sized operations is critical for the continued success of the small ruminant industry," Campbell said.

For new producers, getting started also means learning how to safely manage their animals and spot potential health problems.

"Finding someone to shear sheep is becoming more

difficult as fewer shearers are available for hire," he said. "Large-animal veterinarians are also in high demand."

At FSR, Campbell's demonstrations will give visitors a closer look at sheep shearing, hoof trimming, animal health and other basic care practices.

"Demonstrations provide practical and relevant skills and techniques that may be implemented in any small ruminant system to improve operation efficiency while focusing on animal and handler safety," he said.

The lessons aren't intended to replace veterinary care, Campbell said, but to help farmers recognize problems and communicate effectively with their veterinarian.

Visitors to FSR can watch the techniques in real time, ask questions and learn from other producers.

"I have also found that often the best teachers are our peers," Campbell said. "Learning from one another remains one of the most effective learning strategies."

That learning may extend beyond an individual operation. Campbell said the demonstrations may spark interest in further training or jobs in areas where skilled workers are needed.

"Whether you are an experienced producer or someone that is looking to get into the industry, there is something to learn for everyone," he said.

FIELD REPORTS FROM OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OFFICERS

Central Ohio – Wildlife District One

In January, State Wildlife Officer Jade Heizer, assigned to Fairfield County, received an anonymous report regarding an individual who harvested two white-tailed deer bucks during the 2025-26 season. Allegedly, the suspect's parent game-checked the second buck. Wildlife Officer Supervisor Tony Zerkle and Officer Heizer contacted the suspect, while State Wildlife Officers Josh Elster, assigned to Pickaway County, and Mark Williams, assigned to Franklin County, contacted the parent. The officers discovered the primary suspect harvested two bucks and falsely game-checked one. The individual was convicted of taking more than one antlered deer in a license year and paid \$4,048.56 in restitution as well as \$385 in fines and court costs. The suspect was also ordered to serve 60 days of jail time, suspended, and complete one year of probation. A 10-point buck was forfeited to the state.

State Wildlife Officer Maurice Irish, assigned to Delaware County, brought his patrol truck to "Ohio's Biggest and Best" Touch-A-Truck event at Olentangy Berlin High School. The well-attended event was hosted by Delaware County EMS, Berlin Township Fire Department, and a local radio station. Attendees had the opportunity to sit inside patrol vehicles; speak with local, county, and state first responders; and watch a helicopter take flight. Officer Irish answered questions from the community and provided information and resources on human-wildlife conflicts, hunting and fishing regulations, and public land access.

Northwest Ohio – Wildlife District Two

On the opening day of the

2025-26 white-tailed deer muzzleloader hunting season, State Wildlife Officer Ryan Burke, assigned to Hancock County, received a call regarding a possible wildlife violation for a deer killed the previous night on the caller's property. Officer Burke met with the caller, who showed him where a deer had been field-dressed. They followed tire tracks to the caller's neighbor. After contacting the suspect, Officer Burke discovered the neighbor had taken two does with a rifle. The deer and rifle were seized as evidence. The suspect was charged with taking white-tailed deer via unlawful means, failing to complete the game check process, and hunting without a valid permit. The hunter was found guilty in Findlay Municipal Court and paid \$768 in fines and court costs, including \$250 in restitution. The deer were donated to local food pantries.

State Wildlife Officer Ryan Kennedy, assigned to Hardin County, visited the Kenton High School Conservation Science Program during their annual hunter education course. The class is an incredibly popular hands-on elective focusing on wildlife conservation, habitat enhancement, and outdoor recreation, and the curriculum aligns with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Students gain real-world experience in topics such as hunting, fishing, trapping, shooting sports, and taxidermy. Officer Kennedy discussed hunting ethics with the class and answered questions. Many of the students did not grow up hunting, but since taking the course they have developed into hunters and taken up other outdoor interests.

Northeast Ohio – Wildlife District Three

In May, State Wildlife Officer Marty Cisine, assigned to Trumbull County, found an unoccupied vehicle crashed in a ditch on Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area. Due to circular tire track patterns in the gravel parking lot, Officer Cisine believed the vehicle was doing donuts before losing control and entering the ditch. He also observed alcoholic beverages in the front and back seat of the vehicle. Officer Cisine learned the vehicle belonged to an underage adult. A short time later, Officer Cisine contacted the owner of the vehicle and found the individual was in possession of alcohol and had done donuts in the vehicle before losing control. The alcohol was seized and disposed of. Officer Cisine issued the driver summonses for damaging the wildlife area and possessing or consuming alcohol underage. The individual pleaded guilty in court and was ordered to pay \$1,750 in fines and costs, complete 10 hours of community service work and one year of probation, and serve 180 days in jail, suspended.

State Wildlife Officer Matt Madgar, assigned to Geauga County, hosted a meeting in April for white-tailed deer processors and taxidermists in the local Amish communities to receive the training and certification for handling deer carcasses or parts from disease surveillance areas. More than 25 processors or taxidermists attended and obtained the certification by the end of the evening. In addition, other wildlife officers were present to answer questions and provide information. The meet-

The West Bend News

Sudoku Puzzle

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1		4		9		8		

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

ing included a demonstration from State Wildlife Officer Marino Pellegrini, assigned to Portage County, and his partner, K-9 Officer Moose, along with a drone demonstration from State Wildlife Officer Zach Hillman, assigned to Summit County.

Southeast Ohio – Wildlife District Four

State Wildlife Officer Ryan Donnelly, assigned to Athens County, received a report of a black walnut tree being stolen from Wallace O'Dowd Wildlife Area. Officer Donnelly reviewed footage of a truck and trailer leaving with the stolen timber. Officer Donnelly later located the truck and contacted the driver, who he discovered had stolen the timber. The individual was found guilty in Athens County Municipal Court and was ordered to pay \$900 in fines and court costs and \$980 in restitution for the tree.

State Wildlife Officer Darin Abbott, assigned to Lawrence County, served as a 4H judge for the Lawrence County Fair. Officer Abbott assisted in judging projects, including a poster competition, from a dozen shooting sports students from the ages of 9 to 15. The 4H members demonstrated their knowledge in firearm safety and hunting safety.

Southwest Ohio – Wildlife District Five

State Wildlife Officer Logan Ambrister, assigned to Shelby County, recently participated in a fishing event with the Girl Scouts of the USA at Lake Loramie State Park. Troops often attend hands-on workshops where girls learn how to bait hooks, cast rods, tie knots, and handle fish. Officer Ambrister assisted approximately 75 scouts with basic fishing skills.

(Continued from Page 10)

ON-LINE SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2329.153

Carrington Mortgage Services, Plaintiff,

vs.

Fernando Gonzalez III, ET AL., Defendants,

Case No. CI 25 078

Pursuant to an Order of Sale in the above-entitled action, the following real estate will be offered for sale:

205 Main St., Antwerp,
Parcel Number: 12-03S-007-00

A full legal description of this property is on record at the Paulding County Recorder's Office located in the Courthouse or at: www.uslandrecords.com

Said premises appraised at Sixty Thousand and NO/100 (\$60,000.00) Dollars and cannot be sold for less than two-thirds of that amount on the first sale date.

The first sale date will be on the September 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders must be registered with RealAuction for on-line bidding at:

<https://paulding.sheriffsaleauction.ohio.gov>.

Registration and deposits must be completed at least one week before the date of sale.

In the event this property does not sell on the above date, a second on-line auction will be held on October 8, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. On this date, there will be no minimum bid. However, the purchaser will be responsible for any costs, allowances, and taxes which the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.

The appraisal of this property was completed without an interior inspection. Neither the Sheriff's Office nor the appraisers are responsible for the condition of the property at the time the purchaser takes possession.

Purchasers are advised they have no legal right to access this property until the Sheriff's Deed has been filed with the Paulding County Recorder's Office.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand and No/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars will be due at the time of the sale. Balance of the purchase price shall be paid before the deed is recorded.

The successful bidder will have Thirty (30) days from the sale date to obtain an examination of title at their expense, if so desired. Should such examination disclose the title to be unmarketable by any defect in the court proceedings or the existence of any outstanding interest rendering the title unmarketable, the successful bidder has Thirty (30) days to file a written motion requesting the sale be set aside. If the court finds the title unmarketable, the court will refuse to confirm the sale or fix a reasonable time, not to exceed Ninety (90) days, within which the defect of title may be corrected.

Taxes shall be prorated to the date of the sale and paid from the sale proceeds.

Sheriff Jason K. Landers
Paulding County, Ohio
www.pauldingohsheriff.com

Benjamin M. Rodriguez, Attorney for Plaintiff

ON-LINE SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2329.153

Citizens National Bank of Bluffton, Plaintiff,

vs.

Dovetail Development, Ltd, ET AL., Defendants,

Case No. CI 22 109

Pursuant to an Order of Sale in the above-entitled action, the following real estate will be offered for sale:

209 W. Harrison St., Paulding,
Parcel Number: 30-24S-103-00 & 30-24S-104-00

A full legal description of this property is on record at the Paulding County Recorder's Office located in the Courthouse or at: www.uslandrecords.com

Said premises appraised at Forty-Eight Thousand and NO/100 (\$48,000.00) Dollars and cannot be sold for less than two-thirds of that amount on the first sale date.

The first sale date will be on the September 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders must be registered with RealAuction for on-line bidding at:

<https://paulding.sheriffsaleauction.ohio.gov>.

Registration and deposits must be completed at least one week before the date of sale.

In the event this property does not sell on the above date, a second on-line auction will be held on October 8, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. On this date, there will be no minimum bid. However, the purchaser will be responsible for any costs, allowances, and taxes which the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.

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Purchasers are advised they have no legal right to access this property until the Sheriff's Deed has been filed with the Paulding County Recorder's Office.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand and No/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars will be due at the time of the sale. Balance of the purchase price shall be paid before the deed is recorded.

The successful bidder will have Thirty (30) days from the sale date to obtain an examination of title at their expense, if so desired. Should such examination disclose the title to be unmarketable by any defect in the court proceedings or the existence of any outstanding interest rendering the title unmarketable, the successful bidder has Thirty (30) days to file a written motion requesting the sale be set aside. If the court finds the title unmarketable, the court will refuse to confirm the sale or fix a reasonable time, not to exceed Ninety (90) days, within which the defect of title may be corrected.

Taxes shall be prorated to the date of the sale and paid from the sale proceeds.

Sheriff Jason K. Landers
Paulding County, Ohio
www.pauldingohsheriff.com

Joshua A. Koltak, Attorney for Plaintiff

PARTNER LEVEL DONATION WITH GOODVILLE AND STRALEY INSURANCE SERVICES



Lifewise Central Local received a Partner Level Donation with Goodville Mutual Insurance and Straley Insurance matched that donation to total \$2,000. We are so appreciative of the community support.

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN SET TO OPEN AT VWCT



The chase is officially on! Van Wert Civic Theatre is incredibly proud to reveal the cast for the upcoming musical production of *Catch Me If You Can*, directed by Jerry Zimmerman with music direction by Terri Spencer and choreography by Noelle Warnement. Fly high with Frank Abagnale, Jr. in this high-energy musical comedy based on the hit film and incredible true story. From pilot to doctor to lawyer, follow the world's most charming con artist as he out runs the FBI in a globe-trotting chase filled with glamorous sets, spectacular dance numbers, and a swinging 60's score. Can the law catch him, or will Frank fly away with it all?

The cast features Ashton Szabados as Frank Abagnale, Jr., Nick Long as Agent Carl Hanratty, Drew Kantonen as Frank Abagnale, Sr., and Mary Ann Falk as Paula Abagnale. Cheyenne Weber stars as Brenda Strong alongside Kristin Lee as Carol Strong, Roger Rex as Roger Strong, and Nicole Merkel as

Cheryl Ann, with Grant Boecker, Brian Hill, and Marcus Kerns appearing as FBI agents.

The ensemble who play a variety of roles includes Amy Boley, Renae Boecker, Sean Carpenter, Anna Cassidy, Leah Garmatter, Dianna Hicks, Katelyn Knepper, Doug Long, Jr., Brianna Lugnbihl, Nicole Merkel, Alea Rex, Kimmy Warnecke, Noelle Warnement, Joe Warnement, and Jerry Zimmerman.

Get ready for an evening of big dance numbers, flashy sets, and an unforgettable cat-and-mouse game between Frank Jr. and the FBI. The box office opened to the public on September 3, 2026.

This musical, comedy flight departs on September 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., with Sunday matinees on September 20 and 27, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. We cannot wait to welcome you to the theater located at 118 S. Race Street, Van Wert, OH 45891. Visit vwct.org or call 419.238.9689 and prepare to be charmed.

(Continued from Page 9)

State Wildlife Officers Lucas Wildman, assigned to Clermont County, and Jacob Losekamp, assigned to Warren County, recently completed a case involving an individual who harvested a white-tailed deer before purchasing a deer permit. The suspect was issued a summons and pleaded no contest at trial. The individual was convicted of hunting without a deer permit and paid \$250 in fines and \$136 in court costs.

PARKVIEW HEALTH RECEIVES TWO PATIENT EXPERIENCE AWARDS FROM NRC HEALTH FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR PARKVIEW HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED

Parkview Health has once again been recognized with two patient experience awards by NRC Health.

Parkview received the Excellence in Patient Experience Award, which recognizes the top three medium-sized health systems, while Parkview Regional Medical Center (PRMC) received the Consumer Loyalty Award honoring the Top 10 hospitals with strong brand reputation and high patient recommendation scores.

It's the third time in four years Parkview has received the Excellence in Patient Experience Award and the second consecutive year the hospital received the Consumer Loyalty Award from NRC Health. In 2025, Parkview was the only hospital system in the U.S. to receive NRC's Excellence in Experience Management Award.

"Patient experience is an important part of delivering high-quality care," said Dr. Ray Dusman, president, physician and clinical enterprise, Parkview Health. "Ensuring that patients feel comfortable and safe, have their concerns heard and addressed, and receive care that matches their needs builds relationships and encourages patients to maintain a routine care schedule. When patients and their caregivers work collaboratively, outcomes improve."

The Excellence in Patient Experience Award celebrates organizations that are leading the way in patient-centered care. Selected based on their Real-time Net Pro-

vider Scores across a variety of care settings and organization types, these honorees are recognized for their dedication to creating experiences that put patients first and elevate the quality of care. Only three medium-sized health systems with five to 24 hospitals were recognized out of the 27 eligible.

The Consumer Loyalty Award recognizes hospitals that meet patients' expectations through positive experiences. To qualify, organizations must receive at least 150 Top-of-Mind mentions in NRC Health's national Market Insights study between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026, and have publicly reported CMS Would Recommend scores based on patients discharged during that time.

Parkview contracts with NRC Health as a third-party vendor to distribute, collect, aggregate and analyze responses from post-visit questionnaires completed by patients via email, text or phone. Patients provide ratings on different aspects of their recent visit and can also add comments about their experience. In 2025, more than 240,000 surveys were completed. Examples include:

"Parkview staff made me feel like the only patient there," wrote a Parkview Physicians Group - Family Medicine patient at the Glen-carin Boulevard office. "Everyone was professional, informative and respectful. They took the time to understand what I was saying and then took appropriate action to help."

"(My doctor) was highly recommended by a friend and I found out why. She is very thorough, compassionate, easy to talk to and treated me like a person instead of a number," a cardiology patient wrote.

"I never leave my appointment with any unanswered questions. He explains everything very thoroughly, and I trust him completely with my care," a gastrointestinal oncology patient said.

Parkview has been repeatedly recognized as a top health system for patient outcomes, quality and safety. Parkview was recently named among U.S. News & World Report's Best Hospitals list, including being nationally ranked for OB/GYN care; has had multiple hospitals recognized with Quality Leadership Awards from Vizient; and perennially is the state's top performer in the twice-annual Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades.

"The feedback we receive from patients helps us continually improve the experience we provide at Parkview," said Tanya Hammon, director of experience for Parkview Health. "We love to share the positive feedback we get with our doctors, nurses and caregivers to encourage them to keep up the great work. And when patients identify an issue in their care or raise concerns, it's an opportunity for us to learn, reevaluate our processes and make changes that benefit all our patients going forward."

To start care with Parkview or find a provider near you, visit <https://www.parkview.com/find-a-provider>.

NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXTENDS PRESIDENT HERNANDEZ'S CONTRACT



Pictured above are Dr. Todd Hernandez, NCSS President, with NSCC board chair, Mickey Schwarzbek.

Archbold, Ohio - The Northwest State Community College Board of Trustees met in regular session on Friday, August 28th at the Archbold Campus. A major highlight of the meeting came at the very end, when a motion was made to extend the contract of NSCC President Dr. Todd Hernandez. The motion was carried, and after the meeting concluded, Dr. Hernandez and Board Chair Mickey Schwarzbek signed the agreement.

MORE ON PRESIDENT HERNANDEZ

Dr. Todd Hernandez has been President of Northwest State since April 1, 2021. With this new contract extension, Hernandez will continue to lead the college at least through June 30, 2031. Hernandez continues his efforts to energize the northwest Ohio workforce, and provide great educational opportunity for students throughout the College's six-county service area of Williams, Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding and Van Wert counties with his "Elevate Northwest Ohio" initiative, which seeks to increase educational attainment to the region. Northwest State naturally plays a critical role in that endeavor.

Dr. Hernandez expressed his gratitude to the Board for the opportunity to continue to serve the College and the community in this capacity, and noted how this extension is a direct reflection on the great work the faculty, staff and administration are doing providing education, training and services to our community to help improve the lives of individuals and strengthen communities - which is essentially the

NSCC mission.

In other Board action:

- Approved the employment of Erin McDonough as Director of Development and Alumni Relations.
- Approved the promotion of Marianna Doolittle to Interim Dean-Arts & Sciences, Nicole Hand to Workforce & Apprentice Programs Manager, Colin Doolittle to Dean-Industrial Technologies & Black Swamp Safety Council, Brittany Chamberlain to Vice President-Human Resources & Leadership Development, Timothy Lucas to Electrical & Automation Training Coordinator, and Daniel Robarge to Equipment Specialist.
- Approved the transition of Katy McKelvey to Special Assistant to the President, and John Mueller to Faculty-Industrial Technology (Automation).
- Approved the transfer of \$750,000 of unallocated reserve funds to the contingency reserve fund.
- Approved the rescheduling of the October board meeting from October 16th to October 30th, to be held at the NSCC Van Wert Campus.
- Approved Faculty Workload Policy (amended), to comply with ORC 3345.45 (The Advance Ohio Higher Education Act).
- Approved new Cash on Hand Policy, regarding minimum cash reserves and financial reporting.
- Approved the local administering of state appropriated capital projects under \$4 million.
- Approved miscellaneous employment contracts, two retirements, and four resignations.

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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

CLOTHES FOR KIDS: ONE SHOPPER CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Pictured above are (l-r) Katie Groff and Mandi Kissner - C4K Leads.

A new outfit. A warm winter coat. A pair of shoes that fit.

For many of us, these may seem like simple necessities. But for a child who started the school year without something new to call their own, they can mean so much more. They can provide comfort, confidence and the reminder that someone in their community cares.

That is the heart behind Clothes for Kids (C4K), a community initiative of the Defiance Area Foundation. And this September, Clothes for Kids is once again asking Defiance County to step up and help make a difference for local children.

Last year, 197 donors helped provide clothing for 295 children across Defiance County, representing approximately \$62,569 in community impact. An additional \$17,587 in monetary donations helped the program purchase clothing for students who did not have an individual shopper.

But behind every number is a child.

Clothes for Kids began when local community philanthropist Sharron Farrell recognized that some families simply could not afford new clothing for their children. She took one step to help meet that need, and what began as a small effort has grown into a county-wide tradition of generosity that reaches hundreds of children each year.

Now, the program needs the community's help to continue that legacy.

Beginning September 8, community members can sign up to become Clothes for Kids shoppers.

Participating

schools will identify students and gather their clothing sizes throughout September. Shoppers will then be matched with a child and receive their size assignments from October 5-7.

From there, the fun begins: it's time to shop!

Shoppers purchase new clothing and essentials based on their child's sizes and return the items to the collection bins at the Defiance Elks by Friday, October 23. You don't have to make a huge gesture to make a meaningful difference. Sometimes it starts with simply choosing to shop for one child.

Ready to help? To become a Clothes for Kids shopper, email deficlothesforkids@gmail.com. Those who would rather make a monetary donation can visit DEFIANCEAREAFOUNDATION.ORG/COMMUNITY. Checks may also be mailed to the Defiance Area Foundation, 613 W. Third St., Defiance, OH 43512, with C4K in the memo line.

Together, our community can provide more than new clothing. We can give hundreds of local children a boost of confidence and show them that Defiance County cares.

RED CROWN ROT: OHIO GROWERS URGED TO SCOUT AS RESEARCHERS TRACK EMERGING SOYBEAN THREAT



One year after red crown rot of soybean was confirmed in Ohio for the first time, researchers at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) are asking growers to help answer a critical question: How widely has the potentially damaging disease spread?

The answer could have significant implications for Ohio soybean production. Red crown rot, caused by the soil-

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borne fungus *Calonectria ilicicola*, can persist in fields for years, making early detection and accurate diagnosis especially important.

"This is an important time to scout because red crown rot symptoms become most visible during the reproductive stages of soybean, particularly during pod fill," said Horacio Lopez-Nicora, associate professor of soybean pathology and nematology and a Provost's Early Career Scholar at CFAES. "August and September are an excellent window for growers to walk fields and look for patches of plants showing premature yellowing, interveinal chlorosis and necrosis, wilting, or plant death."

The recent record rainfall and resulting wet conditions make scouting particularly timely because red crown rot is favored by warm, wet soils.

CFAES researchers confirmed Ohio's first case in a Delaware County soybean field in 2025. A year later, they still don't know how widely the pathogen may be distributed across the state.

"That is one of the major questions we are trying to answer," Lopez-Nicora said. "Growers, crop consultants, and Ohio State University Extension educators can play an important role by scouting fields and submitting suspicious plants for diagnosis."

"The more samples we receive from across Ohio, the better we can begin to understand where this disease is occurring."

Question: What should I do if I suspect red crown rot in my soybeans?

Answer: Growers who suspect red crown rot or SDS can mail or deliver whole soybean plants, including roots, to Soybean Pathology and Nematology, 110 Kottman Hall, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210, for diagnostic testing at no charge.

The stakes are significant.

In states where red crown rot is established, yield losses in severely affected fields can reach 80%, while moderate disease pressure can reduce yields by 15% to 70%, Lopez-Nicora said.

"For Ohio, if the disease spreads unchecked, growers could face persistent yield re-

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duction and higher production costs year after year, threatening the profitability of the state's most widely planted crop," he said.

Complicating detection is red crown rot's resemblance to sudden death syndrome (SDS). Both can cause yellowing and browning between leaf veins that remain green.

Growers should dig up suspicious plants and examine the lower stem, crown and roots. Red crown rot can produce reddish discoloration near the soil line and small red fungal structures on crown

and root tissues.

With support from the Ohio Soybean Council and United Soybean Board, Ohio State's Soybean Pathology and Nematology program is offering diagnostic testing at no charge for soybean samples suspected of red crown rot or SDS. Each sample also helps CFAES researchers better understand where the diseases are occurring.

For growers, Lopez-Nicora's message is simple: "If you see suspicious symptoms, scout, dig and submit," he said. "Do not rely on the leaf symptoms alone. Dig up the entire plant, including the roots, and send it to us for diagnosis."

ODNR & GREAT OHIO LODGES TO HOST STATEWIDE DRONE SHOW

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), in partnership with Great Ohio Lodges, invites visitors to experience "Remember, Lights in the Sky" on Saturday, September 12. Nine state park lodges will host this one-of-a-kind evening where at 9 p.m. a synchronized illuminated drone show will light up the night sky across Ohio.

Great Ohio Lodges will host "Remember, Lights in the Sky" at 9:00 p.m. on September 12, featuring a synchronized illuminated drone show at nine state park lodges across Ohio.

This special statewide event honors America's 250th anniversary, accompanied by a solemn patriotic tribute marking the 25th anniversary of 9/11. Families, friends, and communities throughout Ohio are encouraged to come together for a night of reflection, gratitude, and celebration.

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

tion, gratitude, and celebration.

Each participating lodge will host a full day of activities—most of them free and open to the public. Visitors can also explore the state parks surrounding each lodge, enjoying trails, lakes, wildlife, and the outdoor recreation opportunities that make Ohio State Parks a top-rated destination.

Participating lodges include: Burr Oak State Park Lodge, Deer Creek State Park Lodge, Hueston Woods State Park Lodge, Hocking Hills State Park Lodge, Mohican State Park Lodge, Maumee Bay State Park Lodge, Punderson State Park Manor, Salt Fork State Park Lodge, Shawnee State Park Lodge

The synchronized show—"Remember, Lights in the Sky"—will serve as the evening's finale at 9:00 p.m. at each lodge, offering a powerful visual tribute to service, sacrifice, and the nation's enduring spirit as illuminated drones take to the sky.

Ohioans are welcome to visit one of the nine participating lodges, explore the surrounding state park, and take part in this extraordinary statewide moment.



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DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM NAMES ROB GIESIGE INTERIM DIRECTOR

The Defiance Public Library System (DPLS) Board of Trustees appointed Rob Giesige to serve as interim library director during its regular meeting Wednesday.

Since Aug. 10, DPLS Director Cara Potter has remained with the library system on a part-time basis following her relocation to Kalamazoo, Mich. Potter and Giesige will each work 20 hours per week during the transition. Potter's part-time appointment was initially established for 12 weeks and may be extended monthly as needed. The board referred the search for a permanent director to its personnel committee, which will meet in September.

Giesige's appointment is a subcontracted position, renewable monthly.

Giesige retired as CEO of the Four County ADAMhs Board in late 2023 after four years in the position. He previously served for 10 years as the organization's director of finance and administration.

Before joining the ADAMhs Board, Giesige served as treasurer of Paulding Exempted Village Schools and as chief fiscal officer for DPLS. He also spent 12 years as a state auditor, auditing governmental entities throughout the four-county area.

"My wife always came to the library, and when I worked as an auditor, I liked the people there," Giesige said, adding he has fond memories of bringing his sons to library programs and events.

PERI DIST 1 CHAPTER 30 MEETING DATE SET

Defiance County PERI District 1 Chapter 30 is meeting on Wed., September 16 at 1:00 p.m. Defiance County Senior Center, 140 E. Broadway St., Defiance, OH. Speakers will be Tim Holtsberry and Dana Phipps. All former retirees are urged to come. All are welcome and members are encouraged to attend.

ANTWERP VETERANS NAMES TO BE ENGRAVED

Veterans from the Antwerp Local School District who would like to be included on the granite tablets in the Veterans Memorial in Riverside Park can submit their information by picking up an application at the

Antwerp VFW, the Antwerp Town Hall, or by downloading it from the Village of Antwerp website. Former Antwerp residents who are Veterans are also eligible to be listed on the memorial. Engravings are done once a year in November and should be submitted by October 6th. The Veteran's discharge paperwork and check should be included with the application and can be mailed to Nancy Lichty at PO Box 538 or Keith West at PO Box 636 Antwerp OH 45813.

There is no charge for newly discharged Veterans.

FINANCIAL ADVISOR PHILIP RECKER OF EDWARD JONES RECEIVES CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® CERTIFICATION

Financial Advisor Philip Recker of the financial services firm Edward Jones in Paulding has received the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER®, or CFP®, certification, granted by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP Board).

Becoming a CFP® professional expands a financial advisor's knowledge base in the following areas:

- Financial management
- Tax-sensitive investment strategies
- Retirement savings
- Insurance planning
- Education planning
- Estate considerations

In addition to the education and examination components of certification, Recker also has committed to abiding by the CFP Board's Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct.

Recker's office is located at 108 E. Jackson St., Paulding, OH.

Recker and Branch Office Administrators Dianne Saylor and Stacy Jackson can be reached at 419-399-3767. You can also visit Recker's website at www.edward-jones.com/philip-recker.

HICKSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PARTICIPATING IN OHIO OPEN DOORS

Hicksville, OH - The Hicksville Historical Society will take part in Ohio Open Doors from September 10-20.

Visitors can discover Ohio's amazing heritage Sept 10 through Sept 20 as historic buildings and fascinating places across the state open their doors for special tours and events as part of

the Ohio History Connection's biennial event.

Admission to all Open Doors events is free. A list of statewide events and activities is available at ohiohistory.org/opendoors.

In Hicksville, the historic 1840 Land Office and the 1875 St. Paul's Episcopal Church - located beside and across the street from Johnson Memorial Library on West High Street - will be

open on Saturday, the 12th of September from 10 am to 1 pm. Take this opportunity to view these unique and well-preserved structures and all of the artifacts and memorabilia housed in them.

For more information, go to ohiohistory.org/opendoors, hicksvillehistoricalsociety.com, or on Facebook, Hicksville Historical Society Ohio.

LATTY COMMUNITY FESTIVAL SUPPORTS YOUTH FOUNDATION WITH DONATION



Pictured above (l-r) are Latty Community Festival representative Mary Goings handing the check to Latty Youth Foundation member Barb Sinn.

The Latty Youth Foundation benefitted from the Latty Community Festival in July. Mary Goings, Latty Festival Committee Member, presented a check to Barb Sinn, a member of the Latty Youth Foundation at the Latty Village Council Meeting. This money was donated during

the event.

The funds will be used to continue to make improvements to the Latty Ball Park, Concession Stand, and Shelter House area. The Festival Committee is grateful for the park improvements that has made this annual event so successful!

DONATED BENCHES ENHANCE DEFIANCE COUNTY RESERVOIR WALKING PATH



Local Defiance resident and Defiance Area Foundation Donor Advised Fund holder, Shelley Detwiler recently donated three park benches to the Defiance County Reservoir. These benches, installed by Mason Doda as a part of his Eagle Scout Project, can be found on the lower walking path. Pictured with a bench are (l-r) Shelley - DAF fund holder and Mason Doda - Eagle Scout.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION WEEK

September 21-26

GIVE AWAY:

- ALL BEEF Bundle
- Happy Camper Bundle
- 3 - \$50 gift cards

FRIDAY - FREE Hamburger Sandwich in the afternoon 11:30 - 5 pm

SATURDAY - FREE sausage sandwich 8 - 12:00 pm

5% STORE WIDE ON ALL RETAIL ITEMS • SAMPLES!

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ebelsorders@gmail.com
17146 St. Rt. 114
Grover Hill, OH 45849

HOURS
M-F, 8a - 5p;
Sat 8a - 12p

PAULDING COUNTY STATE OF OHIO HELP FRAME THE LAND USE PLAN

TAKE THE LAND USE PLAN SURVEY TODAY



SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Help us understand what's working, what needs improved & what matters most.



PLAN FOR WHAT'S NEXT

Your input will help guide decisions that: Shape the future growth of our community, protect our natural resources, and improve the quality of life for all residents.



BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Together, we can create a county that's better connected, resilient, and prepared for the future.

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
surveymonkey.com/r/mvpolanduseplansurvey



Thank you for participating!



Maumee Valley
Planning Organization

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