

MOLITORS CELEBRATE 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Michael and Donna (Hobeck) Molitor were married September 17, 1966 in St. Anthony Catholic Church in Hillsdale, Michigan.

The couple has been blessed with five children: Chad (Kim) Molitor, Joan Taylor, Gretchen (Chad)

Williamson, Beth (Jason) Thornell and Maria (Troy) Fleming. They have 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

The couple will celebrate together with their family at a later date.

matters addressed in executive session to maintain confidentiality while discussions continue.

Copsey also reported on business occupancy within the Small Business Innovation Center, noting continued interest in the available office spaces and steady activity among current tenants. Board members shared details from a recent positive meeting with the Paulding County Commissioners, highlighting strong collaboration and support for countywide development initiatives.

A significant portion of the meeting focused on long-term financial sustainability for the PCED office. Board members discussed strategies to strengthen recurring income and reviewed what a future compensation and benefits package may look like for the next office employee hire, ensuring the organization remains competitive and prepared for future staffing needs.

The board also confirmed that the Annual Business and Industry Recognition Banquet will be held on November 10 at Grant's Catering in Antwerp, where local businesses and community partners will gather to highlight the 2026 year in review and acknowledge the economic growth throughout Paulding County. RSVP's for the event are open now.

PAULDING COUNTY WRESTLERS SHINE AT WILD, WILD MIDWEST NATIONAL DUALS



Pictured left to right is Landon Dasher, Ben Gurney, Colton Kimmel, Stroker Etter, Camden Kimmel. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

Five Paulding County wrestlers represented the area on a national stage September 5 and 6, competing with the Emyre Wrestling Team at the Wild, Wild Midwest National Duals in Noblesville, Indiana. The event brought together high school wrestlers from across the region for a demanding weekend of dual-team competition.

The Paulding County group included three Wayne Trace wrestlers and two Paulding wrestlers. Four of the competitors are seniors, while

one is a sophomore, giving the county a strong mix of veteran leadership and developing talent as offseason competition continues.

Paulding senior Stroker Etter led the way in the 215-pound weight class, finishing the weekend with a perfect 6-0 record. Etter's dominant performance included three pins, a hard-fought 5-2 decision and two forfeit victories, making him one of the standout performers for the local contingent.

(Continued on Page 3)

PAULDING COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD REVIEWS DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY, AND UPCOMING BANQUET

The Paulding County Economic Development (PCED)

Board of Directors met this week to review ongoing development activity and discuss organizational planning for the year ahead. Director Tim Copsey provided updates on several projects underway across the county, including



CONCRETE & EXCAVATING

26 SERVING OVER YEARS

• Foundations • Driveways • Stamped
• Patios • Sidewalks • Excavating

260-403-3438



JUST ME

FALL OPEN HOUSE

Address:
8641 County Road 144
Paulding, Ohio 45879
Phone:
419-769-8876
Hours:
Friday Sept. 18, 10-6
Saturday Sept. 19, 10-2



LOCAL COMIC WRITER LARRY BROOKS STAHL TAKES ORIGINAL HERO ON MIDWEST SIGNING TOUR

What began as a lifelong interest in comic books has developed into a growing career for area writer Larry Brooks Stahl, whose work is now appearing in nationally distributed comics and taking him to shops and conventions throughout the Midwest.

Stahl recently reached a milestone with the debut of his original superhero, Midwest Man of Action, in Exciting Comics #62. The issue was released Aug. 12 and is part of the modern incarnation of the long-running Exciting Comics title. Online comic listings show the series is published by Antarctic Press and that the current run began in

(Continued on Page 5)

SCHMUCKER CONSTRUCTION

Pole Barns - Garages
Room Additions
Roofs - Decks & More
Licensed & Insured
40+ Years of Experience
260-417-2651

Paulding County's only... locally owned bank



the Antwerp Exchange Bank
Est. 1898
Member FDIC

Antwerp, Ohio
419-258-5351

Payne, Ohio
419-263-2705

Harlan, Indiana
260-657-1000

Paulding, Ohio
419-567-0999

Quality Work Over 25 years! Schmucker



Creative Design & Construction LLC.
ROOM ADDITIONS • GARAGES
NEW HOMES & POLE BARN
BASEMENTS
(Foundation, Walls & Repair, Waterproofing)
Settling, Bowing, Cracking? No problem!
260-403-8949
Licensed • Bonded • Insured
Call for Estimates | creativedesignandconstructionllc.com



RAINTECH SEAMLESS GUTTERS

Jeff Hitzeman
Steve Hitzeman
5229 CR 192
Antwerp, OH 45813
419-258-1818
Cleaning • Screening • Repair • Free Estimates

Five Star Construction LLC

Room Additions • Garages • Roofing
Pole Barns • Decks • Siding & Concrete
Menno Lengacher
260-740-0071
Licensed & Insured
Doing Quality Work for Over 30 Years!

Local Advertisers appreciating local news

Alaska Breeze	6
Alspach-Gerahart Myers obit	2
Antwerp Exchange Bank	1
Creative Design & Construction	1
Den Herder	2
Derck's Landscaping	8
Dooley Funeral Home	2
Ebels Customer Appreciation	7
Edward Jones	5
Ehle Sales & Svc	11
Eichers Woodworking	8
Five Star Const	1
Grabill Truss	4
Guilford Auction	10
Hicksville Seventh Day Adventist	7
Innovative Assembly HW	11
Just Me	1
Klopfenstein Repair	8
Krazy Krafters	2
Paulding Commissioners	6
Paulding Co Sheriff Sales	9
Paulding Veteran's Service	3
PCH Fall Health Fair	6
PUZZLE – Sudoku	9
Rain Tech	1
Road Apple Cruise-In	4
Ron Burt Ohio Sports Blitz	8
Sauder Feeds	8
Schmucker Const	1
T&C Concrete	1
United Edge Estate Auction	7
WCCB Auction	12
Woodlan HS Reunion	11
Zimmerman Grass Fed Beef	3

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

Community Calendar

TUE & WED

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

September 14

- Soarin' Hawk visits Johnson Memorial Library, Hicksville, 3:30p
- Essential Oils w/Judy @ Payne Library, 6p

September 15

- Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet @ Grant's, 6p

September 16

- Digital Navigation @ PATH Ctr., Defiance, 10:30-11:30a

September 17

- Senior Saints Concert @ Huber Opera House, Hicksville, OH, 7p
- Digital Navigation @ Paulding Co. Senior Center, 9a-3p

September 20

- Flat Rock Creek Vintage Truck Show @ PC History Museum, 10a-3p
- Fall Revival Services @ Auglaize Chapel Church of God, Oakwood, 10a, 6p (thru 9/23 @ 7p)

September 22

- Free Expungement Education Event @ Ivy Tech, 6p
- Ministry w/the Aging Conference @ The Town House, FW, 8a-3p
- A Night w/ Bluey @ Paulding Library, 5:30p



Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

OBITUARIES



CONVOY, OH:
Bonita Adileen Myers of Convoy went to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, September 5, 2026.

Bonita was born at home on Thanksgiving Day, November 30, 1933, to Wesley and Ica (Matthews) Custer. She grew up on the family farm outside of Rockford along with older sister Josephine and younger twin sister Bonnie. After graduating from Rockford High School in 1952, she served as the school secretary prior to moving to Convoy to start her family after marrying Lester W Myers on June 14, 1958.

She is survived by daughter Karen and son David (Robin) both of Convoy, sister-in-law Beverly Marsee and eight nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters, brothers-in-law; Robert Muhlenkamp, William Ehrsam, Fred Marsee and her beloved husband Lester.

Throughout the years, she spoke fondly of the memories of the students and staff she met during her time as secretary at the Rockford school. Along with memories of attendance at the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Rockford and Sugar Ridge Church of God in Convoy, Bonita had accepted the gift of God's salvation through Jesus Christ and was looking forward to reuniting with loved ones.

Private services are planned. Honoring Lester and Bonita's wishes, they will be interred together in Convoy I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Crestview Heritage Board, 9193 Lincoln Hwy, Van Wert, OH, 45891-8300.

Arrangements entrusted to Alspach-Gearhart Funeral Home & Crematory. Condolences may be expressed at www.alspachgearhart.com.

PAULDING COUNTY LAND BANK BUYS ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES

PAULDING - The Paulding County Land Reutilization Committee met to review several ongoing projects across the county. The meeting highlighted steady progress across multiple revitalization efforts as the Land Bank continues its work to return underused properties to productive community use.

The board announced the purchase of three new properties—201 N. First Street in Oakwood, 10397 State Route 49 in Payne, and 413-415 W.

River Street in Antwerp. All projects have mowing and upkeep already scheduled.

Progress continues within the county's brownfield program. The new Oakwood property has been approved for funding through the Ohio Department of Development, and the Antwerp site will be submitted for consideration. Brief updates were also shared on the former Grizzly and Stokely properties, while new environmental assessments from Tetra Tech have begun at 124 S. Main Street in Payne, 501 E. Perry Street in Paulding, and 501 E. North Avenue in Oakwood.

Under the Welcome Home Ohio (WHO) program, residential Project #3 at 621 Sugar Street in Paulding is nearing completion. A shed will be delivered to the property, an appraisal has been ordered. An open house will be scheduled once these steps are finalized. Planning is underway for two new-build projects in the next WHO funding cycle.

The board approved bidding for the 2026-27 residential blight removal program, with work on fifteen projects expected to begin around the county later this fall.

Additional discussions included:

- the potential sale of Land Bank owned property in Scott, Ohio

- reported an account balance of \$304,755.73

- Noted the Fall Ohio Land Bank Conference will take place in Springfield, Ohio on October 22.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

God/Jesus

Teacher: "Do you know who God is?" Kindergartener: "Our Savior!"

Teacher: "What did Jesus do?" 2nd Grader: "He died on the cross and came back in three days."

2nd Grader: "Why does Jesus have holes in His hands?"

2nd Grader: "God is the King of all Kings!"

2nd Grader: "Can God tell Santa Clause if we are good?"

3rd Grader 1: "Mrs. Laukhuf, why are we here?"

3rd Grader 2: "Because God made us and loves us and created us for a reason!"

Teacher: "Who is Jesus?"

4th Grader 1: "Jesus is the Chosen One." 4th Grader 2: "Jesus is God's Son"

Teacher: "What makes Jesus different?" 5th Graders: "He's perfect, never sinned, Son of God, Lord and Savior"

Bible

Teacher: "What is this?"

OPERATION K.A.V.I.C. RECEIVES \$1,500 GRANT FROM DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE



Pictured with the grant are (L to R) Bryan Keller - CEO Keller Logistics Group and Lynn Speiser - Moose Lodge Vice President.

Congratulations to Operation KAVIC for receiving a \$1,500 grant from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. Defiance Moose Lodge holds a donor advised fund under the umbrella of the Defiance Area Foundation.

Operation K.A.V.I.C. provides financial assistance to local veterans, active-duty

military personnel, reservists, National Guard members, and their families who are facing unexpected hardships. The program helps fill gaps where traditional veterans' benefits may not apply, assisting with needs such as housing, utilities, medical expenses, vehicle repairs, and other emergency costs.

AUGLAIZE CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD TO HOLD FALL REVIVAL SERVICES



OAKWOOD — Auglaize Chapel Church of God will hold Fall Revival Services Sept. 20-23, featuring Rev. Ray Houser as guest speaker.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, and at 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Sept. 21-23. The church is located at 22652 County Road 60, Oakwood.

Houser grew up in Wichita, Kansas, and received bachelor's and master's degrees in ministry from Anderson University, as well as a master's degree in management from Indiana Wesleyan University. He is an ordained minister in the Church of God (Anderson, Indiana).

During his years in ministry, Houser served churches in Kentucky and California and planted a new congregation in Clarksville, Indiana. He later spent 18 years as pastor of First Church of God, now South Creek

(Holding up a Bible) Kindergartener: "The Biblebook"

1st Grader: "The Bible is how we hear from God." 2nd Grader: "The Bible is a message from God."

2nd Grader: "We learn about God in the God book."

Teacher: "The Bible is for?"

2nd Grader: "Everybody in the world."

Teacher: What is the Bible?" 3rd Grader 1: "The Bible is stories about Jesus so we can be saved." Student: "God's Word for us." 6th Grader 1: "A book about miracles and God's work." 6th Grader 2: "What His chosen people have done."

A 4th grader described the Bible as "Trendy."

Student: "The Bible has stuff that happened long before IT"

Church, in Kokomo, Indiana. Since leaving the Kokomo church in 2010, he has served churches in Indiana, Illinois, Mississippi and Washington as an interim pastor.

Houser also served as administrator of his wife's ministry, Tina Houser Ministries, which trained people in creative children's ministry. Following Tina's death in late 2024, Houser became pastor of Heritage Church at Liberty Ridge Senior Center.

Houser says two major passions have guided his ministry: helping plateaued or declining churches experience renewed growth and encouraging churches to reach the next generation through effective ministry to children, youth and young adults. He believes struggling churches can find new hope by becoming agents of God's love, hope and forgiveness in their communities.

Houser and his wife also co-wrote two "Fun Family Devotions" books. He shares additional thoughts about church and ministry through his "Next Chapter" blog.

For more information about the Fall Revival Services, contact Auglaize Chapel Church of God at 419-594-2441.

Teacher: "Who wrote the Bible?" Student: "God gave people the words to say."

DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO HOST INFORMATION SESSIONS ON PROPOSED 2026 LEVY

Defiance Public Library System (DPLS) has scheduled three public information sessions to provide county residents with details about the proposed library levy on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

The proposed 1.65-mill levy would run for 35 years and consists of a 0.75-mill renewal of the library's existing operating levy, and a 0.9-mill increase to support the addition of an annex building across the street from the Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort

Scripture of the Week

"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."

— Isaiah 46:4

ALLOW GOD TO REPAIR YOUR HEART



Do you know that anger is the underlying cause of most emotional disorders? When you peel back the layers of emotional disorders like depression, you find anger lying deep within the core of your soul, controlling your heart. Perhaps you're angry with yourself or someone else. Maybe it's time to let go of what you've been holding on to for so long.

Give it to God. If you give it to Him, He can fix it. If you don't give it to Him, how can He fix it? Take a deep breath and let Him into your heart.

Scripture tells us in Luke 6:45 (NIV), "A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."

What is stored up in your heart?

I believe that, in order to stay spiritually healthy, we have to do daily spiritual maintenance. We must examine our heart's motives for what we say and do. I find that doing this in God's presence allows His healing power to come in and make the necessary corrections in our hearts.

Everything requires maintenance, yes, even our hearts. So set aside time every day and allow God to work on your heart. He will have your heart in tip-top shape in no time. Satisfaction guaranteed, or you can have your old heart back.

Smile; Jesus loves you, and so do I.

Peace and Love
Pastor Dwayne

St., as well as renovations at the Carnegie building. The sessions will explain the proposed levy, how funds would be used, and the connection between the levy and the library system's planned expansion.

Residents will have an opportunity to ask Library Director Cara Potter questions about the proposal. Light refreshments will be provided.

Information sessions are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, September 30, at 1 p.m. at Defiance Public Library

- Monday, October 5, at 5 p.m. at Johnson Memorial Library, 116 W. High St., Hicksville

- Tuesday, October 6, at 6 p.m. at Defiance Public Library

All community members are welcome to attend, and no registration is needed.

For more information, visit defiancelibrary.org/annex or contact the library at 419-782-1456.

ANTWERP EDGES PAULDING IN CLOSE THREE-TEAM GOLF MATCH

Antwerp boys' golf came away with a narrow victory over Paulding and Fairview Thursday, September 10, at Pond-a-River Golf Course.

Antwerp posted a team score of 147, edging Paulding by one stroke to claim first place. Paulding finished second with a 148, while Fairview recorded a 181 to finish third.

The Archers were led by

Emerson Morrow, who carded a 35 to share medalist honors with Paulding's Cameron Williams, who also shot a 35. Antwerp's Lincoln Lucas added a 36, while Noah Lucas and Kyler Johnson each finished with a 38. Isaac Meyer rounded out Antwerp's varsity scoring with a 49.

For Paulding, Williams' 35 led the way, followed by Jack Daeger and Tyler Goyings, who each shot 37. Gannon Parrett recorded a 39, while Tim Font III shot 46 and Nolan Schlatter finished with a 50.

Fairview was paced by Jonah Shininger, who shot a 41, and Anthony Singer, who carded a 42. Caleb Rohrs added a 48, with Princeton Meyer shooting 50 and Will Mavis and Logan Bok each posting 54.

The varsity team standings were:

1. Antwerp — 147
2. Paulding — 148
3. Fairview — 181

In junior varsity action, Paulding's Chase Manz shot a 49 and Gavin Parrett carded a 54. Antwerp's Austin Fish finished with a 50, while a score for Kravston Eicher was not available on the score sheet.

The one-stroke margin made for a particularly competitive match, with Antwerp getting just enough from its top four golfers to slip past Paulding for the team victory.

DOOLEY

FUNERAL HOME

A Life Story Funeral Home

- Burial & Cremation - Ceremonies
- Pre-Funding Options
- Cemetery Monuments

Serving You
From Our Ideal Locations

202 W. River Street • Antwerp, OH
419-258-5684

5761 State Route 500 • Payne, OH
419-263-0000

dooleyfuneralhome.com

Den Herder

Funeral Home

"Our Family Serving Yours Since 1912"

John W. Den Herder, Funeral Director
William J. Den Herder, Funeral Director

419-399-2866
www.denherderfh.com

1000 W Wayne St.
Paulding, OH 45879



THE TUNES, THE PAST AND THE ICE CREAM TRUCK

Penny For Your Thoughts

By: Nancy Whitaker

Can you hear what I hear? There are certain sounds that take you back to a different era. It is melodic and could be a children's song it plays and it is the sound of an ice cream truck.

On hearing the music, children would reach in their pockets to see if they had any coins.

And if they had no coins they could hit up mom or dad for the sound of the ice cream truck is a signal that summer is alive, that someone is outside, that the day still belongs to the neighborhood. A quiet block becomes a small sprinting crowd with children and adults wanting the cool refreshments that a ice cream truck or wagon had.

The history of ice cream street sellers dates back to the nineteenth century and is shaped by advances in sanitation.

Children in the 1970s and 1980s also ran toward the truck as soon as the same recognizable music was heard.

The main difference is that the treats sold back then such as Mickey Mouse shaped ice-cream bars have been replaced by whatever cartoon characters are popular.

While much has changed since peddlers first sold dishes of ice cream from carts cooled with ice blocks, for the last few generations, not much has changed about the ice cream truck itself.

While some companies now allow parents to track the truck with GPS, the time-honored set-up is still the same: Customers approach a truck with an open side window, review the menu, and place an order.

So now as we look at the menu in the 1950s let's see what kind of treats they have. Also our coins are important too. Let's see.:

WHAT'S ON THE TRUCK?

Popsicles and Twin Pops: 5 cents to 10 cents.

Ice Cream Sandwiches and Fudge Bars: 10 cents.

Good Humor Bars: 10 cents to 25 cents (depending

on the specific bar and the late-60s inflation).

Soft Serve Cones: 15 cents to 25 cents

Specialty Sundaes or Banana Splits: 25 cents to 50 cents (never costing close to a full dollar)

After getting our treats, we would gather on the grass and see what everyone got. Yes and



we did trade bites of something to see if anyone else liked it.

I think the ice cream truck did occasionally come into our small town. Plus it was always fun and exciting in those days and it would still be exciting today to see one and hear the tunes it also carried down the streets. I better save up a bit more coins cause prices are a lot higher today.

Average Price Today by Item Type

Item Type/Price Range/Examples

Basic Novelties \$2.50 – \$5.00 Ice cream sandwiches, Rocket Pops, Drumsticks

Premium Character Bars \$4.00 – \$7.00 Sponge-Bob, Sonic the Hedgehog, Spider-Man bars

Soft Serve \$3.50 – \$6.50 Standard vanilla or chocolate cones (dipped cones cost more)

Scoops \$4.00 – \$8.00 Single or double scoops of hard-packed ice cream

Specialty Items \$6.00 – \$11.00 Milkshakes, sundaes, floats, or banana split

I figured up how many coins I would need to buy somethings from the ice cream truck in about 1960. I decided to try a small item of what they had on the menu and my total was .65 cents.

Now let's proceed up to the prices of today:

I will take a Rocket pop for 2.50

A Spider-Man character bar. \$4

A small banana split for \$6.

My total was 12.50

I chose items that the ice cream trucks carried in earlier times.

Looks like I might have to

RAZO SPEAKS TO THE KIWANIS



Members of the Kiwanis Club recently had the privilege of learning about the rich history of Crane Township during a presentation by local historian Carol Razo.

Razo presented her "Driving History Tour of Crane Township," sharing stories, historical information, photographs, and maps highlighting significant places throughout the township. Razo was invited to speak by fellow Kiwanian Bob West and was introduced by Barb Searing.

As part of her efforts to preserve and share local history, Razo has created a booklet featuring a driving tour of numerous historical locations throughout Crane Township. The booklet includes a map, historical photographs, descriptions, and interesting details about each location. Copies are available at the local Paulding County Carnegie Library.

Among the locations featured in the booklet are New

Rochester Park, which served as the first county seat of Paulding County; Cecil Bridge Park; the former ghost towns of Henpeck, Knoxdale, and Furnace; Forrest Woods Nature Preserve; Forder Bridge; Dead Man's Curve; and Six-Mile Reservoir.

The tour provides an opportunity for residents and visitors to discover the history behind many familiar locations and learn about the people, communities, and events that helped shape Crane Township and the surrounding area.

Kiwanis members expressed their appreciation to Razo for sharing her extensive historical knowledge and for her dedication to preserving the area's local heritage. Her booklet offers a unique way for residents to explore Crane Township while gaining a greater appreciation for the history found throughout the community.

save up a few more Pennie's and get me a popsicle.

Did you ever get anything from an ice cream truck? What and how were they decorated? Do you remember the prices? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

(Wrestling,
Continued from Page 1)

Fellow Paulding senior Landon Dasher also turned in a strong showing at 157 pounds. Dasher finished 4-2 over the two-day tournament, collecting three pins and one forfeit victory as he helped pace the Emyre Wrestling Team lineup.

Wayne Trace senior Colton Kimmel competed at 126 pounds and matched Dasher's 4-2 record. Kimmel earned three of his victories by pin and added a 6-3 decision, showing consistency throughout the weekend against a challenging field.

Wayne Trace senior Ben Gurney wrestled in the 138-pound weight class and finished 2-4. Gurney's wins came by an 11-3 decision and a forfeit, adding valuable points and experience for the team during the national duals format.

Wayne Trace sophomore Camden Kimmel rounded out the Paulding County group at the event. Kimmel competed to a 1-5 record, earning his victory by pin and gaining important mat time against strong off-season competition.

Overall, the five Paulding

County wrestlers combined for several key wins, highlighted by multiple pinfall victories across the lineup. Congratulations to Stroker Etter, Landon Dasher, Colton Kimmel, Ben Gurney and Camden Kimmel on representing Paulding County, Paulding High School and Wayne Trace High School with strong efforts in Noblesville. Best of luck to all wrestlers as they continue their off-season schedules and prepare for the upcoming wrestling season.

**Why Wait
to Put Your
Stamp
on Life?**

HERE LIES
HENRY BLAKE
HE STEPPED
ON THE GAS.
INSTEAD OF
THE BRAKE

**Get your
stamp now!**

West Bend Printing
419-258-2000
info@westbendnews.net

Mr Earl Lee Riser
430 Sunrise Blvd
Antwerp, OH 45813

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

James Guy Hudkins Sr. was born in February 1893 in West Union, Doddridge County, West Virginia. He was the son of Byron J. Hudkins, born in September 1859, and Laura Emorigee (Brown) Hudkins, born January 25, 1863. The couple was married in 1886.

By 1900, the couple, along with their children, Folsom R., born in 1888; Ami P., born in 1890; James G., born in 1893; and Paul B., born in 1895, were living in West Union, West Virginia. Byron was a watch and clock repairman. James attended school through the end of the eighth grade, when he quit.

By 1910, the family was still living in West Union. In 1911, Byron and Laura were divorced. In 1912, Byron married Bertha M. Mayhugh. In 1913, a daughter, Francis, was born. On May 14, 1914, Byron became postmaster of Amma, Roane County, West Virginia. All the children were in school. Byron later became a physician after brief training and education.

On March 20, 1917, Laura Hudkins passed away.

On April 27, 1918, James joined the National Army out of Akron, Ohio. He served in Company K, 315th Infantry, until May 25, 1918. He then served with the Engineers Training Regiment at Camp Humphreys, Virginia, until August 23, 1918.

James was promoted to Sergeant on September 16, 1918, and to Sergeant First Class on December 10, 1918. He then served with Company C, 209th Engineers, until he was honorably discharged on February 4, 1919.

After coming home, James

was living at 1920 Camden Street, Ward 1, Akron, Ohio. In 1922, James married Irma E. Gill in Wood County, West Virginia. She was born in 1903 in West Virginia. On July 22, 1924, a son, James Guy Hudkins Jr., was born in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

By 1930, the Hudkins family was living at 1557 Front Street in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. James was a tire builder in a rubber factory. By 1940, James and his family were still living at the same residence. James was working as a shipping clerk at the rubber factory, and James Jr. was in school.

In 1942, James Sr. was required to register for the World War II draft. James' father, Byron, passed away on August 29, 1944.

By 1950, James and Irma were still living at the same house in Cuyahoga Falls. James continued working as a shipping clerk at the rubber factory. James Jr. was teaching at Kent State University. He, too, had registered for the World War II draft.

Irma passed away in 1959 and is buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

On December 18, 1963, James Guy Hudkins Sr. passed away at his home. He was buried with full military rites conducted by American Legion Post #281. James Guy Hudkins Jr. later retired from education and passed away in 1993.

Now, you, the reader, are probably wondering why I wrote this article. Well, now for the rest of the story.

I met a collector of military items from Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. He found out that I had a World War I saddle pad from the 9th Ohio Cavalry that he wanted. He has the saddle that was issued with the pad.

He offered in trade a World War I saddle belonging to—you guessed it—James Guy Hudkins Sr.

I met him in Napoleon at the Henry County Fairgrounds for "Pickers Paradise."

I am currently restoring this saddle.

Until Next Time

The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

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

There are two basic services the agency provides:

1 – EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – Provide short term financial assistance to eligible veterans and their families who demonstrate a need. This includes, but is not limited to, food, gas, mortgage/rent and assistance with utility payments.

2 – CLAIMS ASSISTANCE – Provide services for veterans and other claimants for help with VA claims for any federal, state, or local benefits.

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

**Our office hours are Tuesday thru Friday,
9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Arrangements can be made for after
office hours appointments**

Any questions, please call 419-399-8285

Krazy Krafter's & FRIENDS

ANNUAL SALE
Fri., Sept 25 • 9a-4p
Sat., Sept 26 • 9a-3p
108 W. Canal St, Antwerp, OH
Grab a Bite from:
El Nopal Mexican Food Truck

100% GRASS-FED BEEF AND PASTURE-RAISED PIGS FOR SALE

Ready for Butcher

Call 574-202-2237

Lavon & April Zimmerman
Fort Wayne, IN

YEARS AGO IN PAULDING COUNTY



The Grizzly Bears baseball team, sponsored by Grizzly Manufacturing Co. in Paulding. This photo was taken in the early 1950s. Players included, front row from left – John Scarbrough, Gene Scarbrough, Jim Fullmer, Don Adams, Harold Sinn, Dick Elston; back – Bill Sinn, Junior Sinn, Billy Rowe, Gerald Sinn, Don Sinn, Elmer Adams.

By: MELINDA KRICK
40 Years Ago
From the Paulding
Progress, Sept. 17 1986:

Dr. Earl Butts, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, was the guest speaker at the Paulding County Farm Bureau meeting Sept. 11.

St. John Lutheran Church, Briceton, will celebrate its 100th anniversary with special events on Sept. 20-21.

Residents of Grover Hill and the immediate area are facing a problem with disposal of wastewater. A public hearing has been set at Grover Hill Elementary School to discuss sewage collection and treatment alternatives open to the village.

Members of the Visiting Nurse Auxiliary considered plans for the annual Christmas Walk, to take place in a number of homes in the Haviland-Latty Area.

Defiance County American Association of Retired Persons Inc. (AARP) is sponsoring a new chapter in Paulding.

Five Span Marina is sponsoring the Auglaize Crappie Tournament Oct. 4, a first for the establishment.

55 Years Ago
From the Paulding
Progress, Sept. 15, 1971:

The Paulding water treatment plant set a record, pumping 19,627,000 gallons during August, due to the amount of water needed for Stokely tomato factory processing. The plant operator, Phil Hull, has been working 14-16 hours daily, seven days a week. Also, the village administrator reported the swimming pool situation is in "bad shape" as the income was only \$5,952.40 up to Aug. 31, compared to about \$7,600 last year.

H. Kent Mawer is the new Sears authorized catalog sales merchant for Paulding.

Bryan's Bar, owned and operated by Eugene "Tuffy" Bryan, is now open at 107 W. Perry St., serving breakfast, lunch and snacks. Assisting Tuffy will be Bud Ross.

The Payne-Blue Creek-Grover Hill school consolidation opened with 1,686 students.

75 Years Ago
From the Paulding
Progress, Sept. 20, 1951:

A new church edifice, recently completed by the Latty Apostolic Christian Church, opened to visitors at special worship services. Formal dedication services will be held Sept. 30. Ground was broken for the new church in the fall of 1949.

The county's first case of polio this year has been reported.

A Mid-Western Ohio Semi-Pro Baseball Tournament will be held at Grizzly Ball Park, Grizzly, Grover Hill, Middle Point and Edgerton, four of the outstanding teams in this part of the state, will play a four-team tournament.

E.E. Rush, proprietor of the Vagabond Village, has donated special award trophies for the Paulding High School football and basketball teams. The trophies will be awarded on the basis of sportsmanship, aptitude and grades.

Some 4-H winners at this year's Paulding County Fair: Dairy Showmanship, Jim Overmyer; Swine Showmanship, Russell Stoller; Sheep Showmanship, James Johanns. Individual Market Pigs, Burl Barnes Jr.; Dairy Cow, Jim Overmyer; Dairy Heifer, Richard Yoh; Market Lambs, Allen Overmyer; Steers, John Eibling; Beef Steers, John Eibling. Champion steer fitted by John Eibling, Payne, weighing 1,215 lbs. bought by Stucky Farm Equipment Co. at 37 cents a pound; Champion market pig fitted by Burl Barnes Jr., weight 225 lbs., bought by Stucky Farm Equipment for 25 cents a pound.

125 Years Ago
From the Paulding County
Republican, Sept. 19, 1901:

A nation mourns our martyred President William McKinley, who died at 2:15 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at the hand of an assassin. The new president is Theodore Roosevelt.

The big fair is now in full swing with everything indicating the best fair ever held in the county. The grounds have a new Art Hall, new speed barn and stock sheds, new fences and first class accommodations. The Wiseleys have on exhibition their famous herd of Poland China swine. Thomas Barbart of Carryall Township shows his fine herd of cattle. Mrs. J.E. Dix of Paulding made 109 entries in the vegetable department. There are now on the grounds about a dozen running horses and 39 entries in the six harness events. Balloon ascension and parachute drop by Miss Lillian LaFay every day.

From the Paulding Democrat, Sept. 19, 1901:

Two men from Payne were instantly killed when a building they were working on moving in Edgerton, Ind., collapsed without warning.

Last Saturday night, someone tramped down nearly all the flowers in one of the beautiful flower beds on our courthouse square. The ladies of Paulding have given such care and time to our public flower beds that this is simply outrageous.

Oakwood's main street is badly torn up just now and farmers are obliged to hitch their teams in the side streets while the pike is being built through town. The city fathers are putting in iron hitching racks for the public.

Township trustees have condemned the bridge that crosses the Little Auglaize River on the Hamer Road.

M.N. Ridenour as principal, and Bessie Graham in the lower room, will begin their school in the Briceton district next Monday.

THE MIDNIGHT HOUR

One of the greatest stories in the Bible of Paul and Silas breaking out of jail is not just a story. It's a miracle that has many implications.

They had planned it a trip to Asia, and God said no, then they planned a trip to Borneo and God said no. In following God's will they end up in dire circumstances, in a Roman jail, a dungeon in stocks with a guard. Now they're in dire circumstances and it's time to pray.

Midnight is a good time to sing and pray. I guess anytime is a good time to pray but this was a special prayer meeting. They prayed so hard they rocked the jail and I suppose the guard wondered "what in the world was going on?"

11:50 time to start singing, the clock is ticking. At 12:00 we're going to have a miracle and let's get ready. It's getting close, the hands will soon be straight up. I can just hear them singing at the top of their lungs, stopping long enough to say to God, "Get us out of here."



In obeying God they had faced terrible circumstances. They had been beaten, and in those days when you received a beating, they beat you so hard that your bones stuck out. All of this for obeying what God told him to do. But the result, the jail completely demolished, the jailer and his family coming to Faith and the resulting miracles that happened.

Each of us has faced our midnight crisis and the only thing we can do is sing and pray. The clock is ticking, let's get ready time to pray.

James Neuhaus

PROMEDICA COMMUNITY EVENTS IN OCTOBER

ProMedica will offer the following community events in October:

Oct. 5, 2026 – ProMedica Weight Loss Surgery Support Group – The ProMedica Weight Loss Surgery Support Group is designed for patients who have undergone weight loss surgery or for community members seeking more information about this procedure. The group meets on the first Monday of every month at the ProMedica Health & Wellness Center, Education Conference Rooms 1 & 2 (5700 Monroe Street, Sylvania, OH 43560), beginning at 6 p.m. No registration is required.

Oct. 10, 2026 – BE FAST 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk – The annual BE FAST 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk is held to support stroke awareness and honor stroke survivors and their families. One hundred percent of the proceeds from registration, donations, and the raffle go directly to The ProMedica Foundation Stroke Patient Assistance Fund. The fund can cover the cost of medications, health equipment, health supplies, transportation to and from appointments and rent/utilities for patients with limited financial means because of their stroke. For more information or to register, visit the

race website: <https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Tolledo/BEFAST5kRunWalk>

Oct. 15, 2026 – Northeast Ohio Amputee Support Group – The Northeast Ohio Amputee Support Group is a peer-led group focused on connection, shared experience and real-world guidance. New amputees, long-term amputees, caregivers, supporters and anyone impacted by limb loss are encouraged to attend. The group meets on the third Thursday of every month at the ProMedica Health & Wellness Center, Community Room 1 (5700 Monroe Street, Sylvania, OH 43560), beginning at 4 p.m. No registration is required. For more information, call 440-988-5770.

Oct. 2026 – ProMedica Ronald McDonald Care Mobile – The ProMedica Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is a child-focused mobile clinic offering sick visits, physicals, immunizations and more. The clinic is open Monday through Thursday every week. For questions or to schedule an appointment, please call or text 567-389-2841. Walk-ins are welcome. Locations vary; please see the online Community Calendar for location details: <https://www.promedica.org/classes-and-events/calendar-view>

24th Annual Road Apple Cruise-In No Judge, Fun Cruise-In

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Main Street, Grabill, IN

Registration begins at 9 am Car Show begins at 11 am
Registration only \$20

Make check payable to:
Grabill Country Fair • PO Box 245 • Grabill, IN 46741

Road Apple Cruise-In t-shirts will be given to the first 125 registered, and dash plaques will be given to all Road Apple Cruise-In participants

Grand Prize, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd prizes awarded at 3:00 pm

Drawings for prizes every 15 minutes

Great Food, Flea Market

DJ Mike "Buff" Johnson from 11 am - 3 pm
"Bringing you music that changed our lives"

Bring a canned good to help support the Grabill Food Bank

For more information or a pre-registration form, please call
Jim at 260-627-2012 -or- email roadapplecruisein@yahoo.com

For the latest info, like our Facebook page: Road Apple Cruise In

Sponsored by
Grabill Country Fair • Grabill Chamber of Commerce
Ridgway Performance • Brindle Products

24th Road Apple Cruise-In Registration Form
Deadline: September 19, 2026

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____ Email Address _____

Circle T-Shirt Size: MED LG XL 2XL (\$2 extra) 3XL (\$2 extra)
(1 shirt per registration)

Grabill Truss

14005 DAVID LANE • GRABILL IN 46741

WHOLESALE • RETAIL

Trusses you can
TRUST & Service
you can depend on!

Serving the
Area Over
24 Years.
Locally Owned
and
Operated.

Stop by our shop today and
see why we've become the shop
to build your trusses.

Farm • Commercial • Residential
260-627-0933 • grabilltruss@gmail.com

fax# 260-627-0934

WWW.GRABILLTRUSS.NET

OFF STAGE PRODUCTIONS ANNOUNCES CAST OF OUR FALL COMEDY



We are proud to announce the cast and crew for "As Long as We Both Shall Live" by Sean Grennan. The cast is as follows:

Addison Ashe: Julie Suever
Jamie Wilcox: Travis Nihiser

Mrs. Wilcox: Stephanie Wagner
Raul Montalban: Dizzy Lantz

Rev. Mountain: Daniel Sanderson
DIRECTOR: Matt Krol

ASSISTANT/STAGE

MANAGER: Michelle Foster

COSTUMER: Lisa Eichler

SYNOPSIS: Quirky genius

Addison Ashe has finally met

a man who can keep up with

her -- the wealthy and charming

Jamie Wilcox. But marrying

with his disapproving mother,

as well as her favorite over-

the-top wedding planner,

Raul. When Raul is poisoned

at the rehearsal dinner, tensions

between the clever bride

and her mother-in-law to be

go from heated to full-on inferno

when Mrs. Wilcox

points to Addison as the killer.

Can Addison solve the case

before sashaying down the

aisle, or is she in for a honey-

moon behind bars?

LOCATION: All shows will be in the Commons at Vantage Career Center, 818 N. Franklin Street in Van Wert, Ohio. Enter Door 13 off the back parking lot where plenty of parking spaces are available.

RESERVATIONS: Reservations for Members open Monday, September 28, 2026. Reservations for the General Public open Wednesday, September 30, 2026. Call the box office number 419-605-6708 on or after these days to reserve your tables and seats! Box Office Hours: Monday through Saturday - Noon until 6:00 p.m. No Sunday calls, please. All shows require reservations, please, so we may be certain of the amount of food or popcorn needed for that evening. Thank you!

SHOW DATES: October 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 & 25:

Friday doors open at 7:00, show 7:30. Saturday doors open 6:00, dinner 6:30, show 7:30. Sunday doors open 12:30, dinner 1:00, show 2:00.

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc (www.playscripts.com)



SIMPLE BUDGETING TIPS THAT FIT REAL LIFE

If you've just started managing your own finances, recommitted to doing it well or noticed your spending isn't making you as happy as you'd hoped, a budget might be exactly what you need. When you know where your money is going, you're likely to feel more in control and more confident your finances reflect what actually matters to you.

A simple budgeting framework to start: The 50/30/20 rule

One of the easiest ways to structure a budget is the 50/30/20 rule. The concept is refreshingly straightforward: Put 50% of your after-tax income toward necessities (housing, groceries, utilities, transportation), 30% toward wants (dining out, entertainment, streaming subscriptions) and 20% toward savings or paying down debt.

The 50/30/20 rule is a great foundation, but you may need to adjust it a little. If you live in a high-cost city, housing alone might require more than half your paycheck. Or you may have high income and can save more than 20%. Think of the 50/30/20 rule as a starting point you can adjust as your life evolves.

Not sure where your money goes?

That's completely normal. If you honestly don't know what you spend each month, try a low-pressure approach first. Spend a few months simply observing. Check your accounts without judgment, noting money coming in and going out. Think of it as a financial check-in rather than a report card. You can't change the past, but you can absolutely adjust for the future.

From there, small steps go a long way. Even spending 15 minutes a week on your budget can make the whole process feel far less daunting.

Make technology your easy button

Some budgeting apps do the routine work for you, syncing with your accounts and tracking spending automatically. Others are more hands-on, encouraging you to map out your spending plan

The West Bend News is published weekly for residents of northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio. The publication is wholly owned by West Bend Printing & Publishing Inc.

Subscription information for the West Bend News follows: If you would like to have the West Bend News newspaper delivered to your home, subscriptions are \$62.00 per year. The newspapers are available for free at pickup locations throughout Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio.

All content submitted & printed in the West Bend News becomes the property and copyright of West Bend Printing and Publishing Inc corporation. Any and all reproduction requires prior consent by the Publisher. Any submissions may be edited or rejected by the editor.

in advance. There's likely one out there for every style of budgeting. The goal is to find a system you'll actually use and stick with.

When the numbers feel discouraging

Sometimes looking at spending brings up more stress than relief. If that happens, start by shifting your perspective. Focus on the expenses that brought you real value — a modest gift that meant the world to a friend or how your rent provides a comfortable, stable life. Then look for changes that align your spending with your values. Substituting expenses, reducing expenses or creating more income could all be used to help you keep your spending below your income.

Build a buffer

If you can, consider building a small buffer into your budget for unexpected expenses such as birthdays, minor repairs or spontaneous plans. Adding perhaps 3% of your income or a set dollar amount, like \$200, helps keep those costs from throwing your whole plan off course.

The bottom line

With a few simple steps, budgeting becomes easier to stick with and more meaningful over time. At its core, it's a way to align your money with what matters while enjoying today and planning for tomorrow.

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

(COMICS Continued from Page 1)

2019.

The accomplishment has also attracted attention within the comic-book community. In June, Stahl appeared on the 22 Panels comic book podcast for a 90-minute interview devoted in part to the debut of Midwest Man of Action in Exciting Comics #62.

Stahl's path to publication has developed quickly. In October 2024, at age 24, he described himself online as a lifelong comic fan who had just completed the first issue of his first comic. That project was a horror story titled Out for Blood: Live, which Stahl envisioned as a five-issue miniseries. The story centers on a homeless and divorced father forced into a deadly live

ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH RECEIVES \$1,000 GRANT FOR FOOD PANTRY



Pictured with the grant are (L to R) Roberta Philpot - Moose Lodge Treasurer and Cindy Wendell - Zion's Lutheran Church Member and Pantry Volunteer.

Congratulations to Zion's Lutheran Church for receiving a \$1,000 from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 in August. This grant will be used for the Food Pantry inside of

Zion's church. Defiance Moose Lodge holds a donor advised fund under the umbrella of the Defiance Area Foundation.

game show while trying to get his son back. At the time, Stahl was working toward finding an artist and eventually pitching the project to publishers.

Since then, his writing credits have expanded beyond that initial project. Earlier this year, Stahl's short horror story "In A Pinch" appeared in Antarctic Press' Horror Comics: Leprechauns #1. Canadian comic-news outlet True North Country Comics reported that the story was written by Stahl with artwork by Eric Olcsvary. Olcsvary's professional portfolio also lists the project, describing it as a four-page story for the Antarctic Press anthology.

Stahl has also been building an audience through appearances and signings. An advertised March 19 appearance placed him at an in-store signing in Lima, and his current "Midwest Man of Signings Tour Redux" is taking him through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and New York.

According to Stahl's tour

announcement, stops included Freedom Comics in Toledo on Aug. 28; the Fort Wayne Comic and Toy Show on Sept. 5; Summit Comics and Games on Sept. 10; Comics, Games, and Stuff in Bryan on Sept. 11; The Rcade Comics in Fort Wayne on Sept. 18; Fountain City Fandemonium in Bryan on Sept. 26; a Chicago-area appearance Sept. 30; Howling Pages in Chicago on Oct. 3; and New York Comic Con Oct. 8-11.

The tour gives Stahl an opportunity to meet readers,

(Continued on Page 7)

READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS

Antwerp: Antwerp Library, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Antwerp General, 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

Read it online for FREE at westbendnews.net

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.

Start signing up for

Home Delivery

Receive 52 issues for only \$62.00 per year. What a great deal!

Delivery to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Is this a gift?

Yes

No

From:

Name _____

Contact: _____

If your business or organization would like to bring in potential clients, contact us about being a customer pick-up location for the WBN.

Mail this form along with your check to:

West Bend News
PO Box 262
Antwerp, OH 45813

Your subscription will begin with the next edition that is printed after receiving your request.

JEFFERSON RALLIES LATE TO EDGE PAULDING, 21-20



Paulding Senior Jordan Manz earns another touchdown as he drives into the end zone, scoring for the Panthers. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

DELPHOS — Paulding built a 13-point halftime advantage behind a big night from its passing game, but Delphos rallied with two fourth-quarter touchdowns to hand the Panthers a heartbreaking 21-20 loss Friday, September 4.

Jefferson opened the scoring late in the first quarter when Jaxon Buzard recovered a fumble for a touchdown, giving the Wildcats a 7-0 advantage. Paulding responded in a big way during the second quarter, scoring three times through the air.

Quarterback Ridge Hunt connected with Jordan Manz for a 13-yard touchdown with 11:08 remaining in the half to tie the game at 7-7. Less than two minutes later, Hunt found Grady Arend for a 22-yard touchdown and a 14-7 Paulding lead.

The Panthers struck again before halftime when Hunt and Manz connected on a 70-yard touchdown pass. The extra point was unsuccessful, but Paulding carried a 20-7 advantage into the break.

Neither team scored in the third quarter before Jefferson mounted its comeback. Kellen Brotherhood scored on a 10-yard run with 11:55 remaining to pull the Wildcats within 20-14. Jefferson then completed the rally with 3:46 left when Luke Rode scored from one yard out. The ensuing extra point gave the Wildcats the 21-20 lead.

Hunt completed 14 of 28 passes for 255 yards and three touchdowns. Manz was his leading target, hauling in six passes for 138 yards and two touchdowns. Jalen Manz caught two passes for 53 yards, while Arend finished with two receptions for 26 yards and a touchdown.

Paulding finished with 281 yards of total offense, with 255 coming through the air. Jefferson accumulated 257 total yards and did most of its damage on the ground, rushing for 209 yards on 44 attempts.

Defensively, Zach Salas led Paulding with 14 tackles, while Jalen Manz recorded nine. Javvon Stiltner added eight tackles, including two tackles for loss, and Avery Cooper finished with five tackles and a sack. Jordan Manz recorded Paulding's lone interception.

Despite holding the lead for much of the contest, the Panthers were unable to fend off Jefferson's late charge as the Wildcats escaped with the one-point victory.

SOME TICKS CAN SURVIVE FROM 1 TO 3 WEEKS ON HOME FLOORING

It's fairly common for members of the public to ask bug experts if ticks that hitchhike into a house on people or dogs can actually survive indoors for any length of time.

A new study provides the first scientific evidence that the answer is yes, showing that two species of ticks can live at least one week, and up to about three weeks, on hard-surface and carpeted floors.

The Ohio State University study focused on lone star and Gulf Coast ticks, both of which are capable of transmitting pathogens that can make people and animals sick. Survival rates of each species were assessed in five types of common home flooring: tile, wood, vinyl, and short-pile and shag-like carpet.

(Continued on Page 7)

LADY PANTHERS SWEEP ANTWERP IN VARSITY, JV VOLLEYBALL ACTION



Paulding Senior Tori Schlatter bumps the ball back to the Archers as she helps the Panthers dominate the first match. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

PAULDING — The Paulding Lady Panthers enjoyed a successful night on the volleyball court Tuesday, September 8, as both the varsity and junior varsity squads picked up victories over visiting Antwerp.

The Paulding varsity turned in a straight-set victory over the Lady Archers, winning 25-13, 25-14 and 25-18.

Addison Arend led the Lady Panthers' attack with eight kills and an ace, while Karli Breedlove recorded seven kills, three aces and two digs while going a perfect 7-for-7 in serve receptions. Kayleigh Dunham and Kayde Kuckuck each added five kills. Dunham also recorded two blocks, while Kuckuck contributed two aces, two blocks

and four digs.

Estie Pease helped direct the Paulding offense with 18 assists while also recording five aces and 10 digs. Tori Schlatter finished with 10 digs and was 12-for-13 in serve receptions. Libby Breier added an ace and five digs.

Elliette Roughton contributed two kills and three blocks at the net, while Luci Martinez added an ace for the Lady Panthers.

Paulding's junior varsity team also swept Antwerp, posting convincing 25-11 and 25-3 victories.

The Lady Panthers' freshmen squad faced McComb rather than Antwerp and completed the successful evening for Paulding volleyball with a 25-13, 25-9 victory.



Antwerp senior Alexis Otto picks up an ACE while she redeems a point for the Archers. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

Fall

HEALTH FAIR

PLEASE JOIN US!

FOUR DAYS. ONE CONVENIENT LOCATION.

DATES: Tuesday, October 20th through Friday, October 23rd, 2026

LOCATION: Black Swamp Nature Center
753 Fairground Drive • Paulding, Ohio 45879

HOURS: 7:00 am - 9:00 am

AVAILABLE BLOOD TESTING

Comprehensive Health Panel	\$30.00
Thyroid Screening	\$15.00
Hepatitis C Screening	\$15.00
Hemoglobin A1C	\$15.00
PSA	\$20.00
Vitamin D	\$20.00

Registration available the day of fair or pre-registration packets are available at all Paulding County Hospital locations and online at pauldingcountyhospital.com. Cash and check accepted the day of the fair. Credit Card accepted ONLY when pre-registered.

PAULDING
COUNTY HOSPITAL

1035 West Wayne Street • Paulding, Ohio 45879 • 419.399.4080 • pauldingcountyhospital.com

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

Alaska Breeze

Heating And Cooling

Sales/Service/Installation

(We Know Quality Air!)

(419) 496-7952

Servicing All Of Northwest Ohio/Michigan

PAULDING FFA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO THE CHAPTER!



Pictured here are some of the FFA officers welcoming and having new member Kathrine Arend with her dad Nick sign in before the meeting.

By: Paulding FFA Reporter, Makenna Manz

On Tuesday, September 1st, the Paulding FFA Chapter held its first meeting of the 2026-2027 school year. This kickoff meeting included first-year FFA members as well as any returning members and their parents to give them an introduction to the Paulding FFA Chapter. Over 65 members and parents attended, along with many FFA Alumni. Dinner was provided by the FFA Alumni with their classic sausage sandwiches as well as chocolate chip cookies and lemonade. The meeting was arranged into two stations for the members. The stations included officers ex-

plaining different CDEs, hands-on activities, and ice-breakers so members could get to know each other through fun games in the shop and get to know the officer team. While new members were going through these stations with the officers, their parents were with the FFA advisors receiving a walkthrough of the chapter's expectations, opportunities, and events. This meeting provided an excellent opportunity for parents and students to better know this year's officers, advisors, and the chapter. The Paulding FFA is excited for a new school year full of new memories and experiences!

(Ticks, Continued from Page 6)

Overall, Gulf Coast ticks survived for significantly longer periods of time than lone star ticks, but in an unexpected finding, lone star ticks lived longer overall in long-pile carpet.

The findings underscore the necessity of taking protective measures to prevent tick bites, the researchers say. These include using tick prevention products for people and pets and, once inside, thoroughly checking an animal for ticks with a brush or a lint roller and immediately bagging clothes or putting them in the dryer.

"The ultimate goal from a public health perspective is to reinforce that ticks brought into the home on pets or people could be a risk, and hopefully having some data around that will compel people to say, 'OK, doing tick checks is really important,'" said co-senior author Risa Pesapane, associate professor of veterinary preventive medicine at Ohio State.

The research was published online March 13 in the Journal of Vector Ecology.

Total reported tick-borne disease cases in the United States increased by 40% from 2019 to 2022, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The ticks in the study, Gulf Coast (Amblyomma maculatum) and lone star (Amblyomma americanum) ticks, are commonly found in the eastern U.S. and feed on a variety of birds and mammals. Gulf Coast ticks can transmit several spotted fever diseases, and lone star ticks can transmit ehrlichiosis. In addition, a compound in lone star tick saliva can induce alpha-gal syndrome, a potentially life-threatening allergy to a molecule in red meat and other mammal products.

For the study, Sabet tested the survival time of 90 ticks per species placed in three rounds of experiments on each of the five floor types. Ticks were individually covered with a cup so they couldn't escape, but they could move around. Two rounds of the experiments compared survival to control ticks kept in a growth chamber to confirm experimental tick deaths were related to the flooring conditions.

In nature, ticks feed once per life cycle. Ticks in the experiments were adults that had not yet fed.

"Generally, what we're talking about here is hitchhiking ticks that have come in on clothes or pets that have not yet bitten and are actively looking for a host," said Pesapane, who also has a faculty appointment in Ohio State's School of Environment and Natural Resources. "They would've been looking for a host to feed from in someone's home."

Sabet monitored the ticks daily, with a few exceptions, completing over 4,600 individual observations.

The average overall survival time of Gulf Coast ticks was about 18 days, and for lone star ticks, 11 days. The longest survival time for Gulf Coast ticks was an average of 25 days on vinyl and the shortest, 10 days on long-pile carpet. Average survival time of lone star ticks was the longest, almost 15 days, on long-pile carpet and shortest on tile – about seven days.

The cause of death was presumed to be desiccation, or loss of moisture. Meanwhile, some of the control ticks kept at ideal temperatures and humidity levels in the lab survived for more than a year.

"The tick life cycle is usually at least two years, typically. And the longevity of that tick is based on its ability to maintain moisture," Pesapane said. "And certainly, the conditions in a home are desiccating conditions, but this shows that ticks are not going to die immediately."

"Pinpointing exactly how long a tick might survive in a home is really difficult because people's homes are going to vary in their environmental conditions. But for the first time, this study puts some guardrails on that estimate,

FLAT ROCK CREEK FALL TRUCK SHOW CELEBRATES 25TH YEAR AT HISTORY MUSEUM



Naomi and Odie Kauser with the 1947 Chevrolet owned by their father Zak.

The 25th annual Flat Rock Creek Fall Truck Show will be held on Sunday, September 20 at the Paulding County History Museum from 10:00-3:00 PM, rain or shine. As a strong supporter of the Historical Society, the late John Henry Kauser began the show in 2000 (2020 was canceled due to COVID) to benefit the museum and attract more visitors. The Kauser family and friends are carrying on the tradition today and intend to remain one of the museum's major fundraisers. The Paul-

ding County Fireman's Association will host a pancake & sausage breakfast at the fairgrounds. There will be a free-will lunch provided inside the recently renovated museum kitchen from 11:00 AM -1:00 PM. Deja Brew by Cassy coffee truck, Fat Pig Smokehouse food truck, and the Grover Hill Lions Club homemade ice cream will also be on the grounds along with a few vendors. The Auburn Heritage Truck Club meeting will take place at 1:30 PM inside the museum.

and it shows us that ticks can survive for at least a week."

Samuel Ward, assistant professor of entomology at Ohio State, was an additional co-senior author of the study.

This work was supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

IGNITE OHIO 2026
PENTECOST POWER CONTINUES
REVIVAL. REFORMATION. RELEASE.

Hicksville Seventh Day Adventist Church
105 Fountain St.
Hicksville, OH 43526

SEPTEMBER 19-26
7:00 P.M.
20+ SIMULTANEOUS PROCLAMATION INITIATIVES

Seventh-day
Adventist Church
OHIO CONFERENCE

UNITED EDGE
REAL ESTATE AND AUCTION CO., LLC

KEESLER ESTATE ONLINE AUCTION

'14 Ford F-150 - Ranger Bass Boat - JD Mower - Honda Motorcycle - Kawasaki ATV - Firearms & Ammo - Shop Items

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH @ 7:00 PM ET ONLINE ONLY

Location: Edgerton, Ohio 43517

Highlight Items: Sportsman Items (Firearms, Ammo, Tree Stands/Blinds), Meat Processing Equipment, 2014 Ford F-150 Pick Up, 1988 Ranger Boats Fiberglass Bass Boat, 2023 John Deere Z530R Zero-Turn Mower, 2009 Honda Shadow VT750 Cruiser Motorcycle, Kawasaki Lakota 300 Four-Wheeler, Tools, Power Tools, Camping Gear, and Fishing/Tackle Gear.

Estate of Mike Keesler

REGISTER TO BID · UnitedEdgeUE

(419) 298-1100 Info@UnitedEdgeUE.com
153 N Michigan Ave, Edgerton, OH 43517

Darren Bok, CAI, CAS, #57199670989, UE# 201800074 • 15% BP Capped at \$750 Per Lot

(Continued from Page 5)

sign copies of his work and introduce new audiences to Midwest Man of Action. He is also bringing copies of his newest book and previous projects to appearances.

Stahl has continued promoting his work while also writing about the wider comic-book industry. In a July post, he encouraged readers to order Exciting Comics #62 before its final-order deadline and noted his personal connection to the issue.

For a young writer who was still looking for an artist for his first comic less than two years ago, the progression has been substantial. Stahl has moved from developing an independent horror concept to having stories published by Antarctic Press, creating his own superhero and traveling throughout the region to put his work directly into the hands of comic-book readers.

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!

419.587.3524
ebelsorders@gmail.com
17146 St. Rt. 114
Grover Hill, OH 45849

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

THE LEFT TURN



Mason Luttrell 2026 Oakshade Raceway Dominator Super Stock Track Champion. Photo by Charlie Orns.

By: Ron Burt

Thursday, September 10th, kicked off the 56th World 100 Week at the historic Eldora Speedway for the DIRTcar Late Models. The top drivers from around the U.S. and Canada merge on The Big E and see if they can win part of the \$680,200 purse. The World 100 Champion will take home \$100,000.00 and every driver starting the 100 lap feature Saturday will get at least \$5,600.00 to start the race. Most of the Lucas Oil Series and World of Outlaw series drivers will compete along with drivers from other series. Thursday and Friday after qualifying and heat races, there will be 2 prelims each night paying each winner \$12,000.00. Unfortunately, at press-time on Thursday Eldora had a rain delay.

Friday, September 4th, Attica Raceway Park was hit by rain and making racing conditions unsafe. Two big events had been planned and were canceled. The Attica Ambush for the All Star Circuit of Champions 410 Winged Sprints and the Stephen Wagner Memorial for the DIRTcar Late Models. It would have been a big pay day; the Sprints were going to pay \$7,850 to win and the Late Models \$15049. The Late Model race will not be made up in 2026.

Dustin Daggett swept the weekend features for the Great Lakes Super Sprints Saturday at Wiston Speedway in Rothbury MI and Sunday at Crystal Speedway. With good solid

finishes both nights Max Stanbaugh won the 2026 Season Tour Championship for the 360 GLSS and the North Division Points Championship. In other Great Lakes Sprint news, Korbyn Hayslett won the Season Championship for the 410 Non-Wing Great Lakes Traditional Sprints and Justin Ward captured his 4th straight Great Lakes Lightning Sprint Championship.

The Great Lakes 360 Super Sprints return to Eldora Speedway, for the Annual 4 Crown Weekend. The three days will also include 410 USAC AMSOIL Sprints, USAC National Midgets, and USAC Silver Crown Cars.

Feature winners at Angola Motorsports Park, Saturday, July 5th, Late Model Tony Dager, Modified Johnathon Gatton, Street Stock Tyler Clark, Modified FWD Derek Simon and Hornet Joshy Jones. The 2027 Angola Motorsports Park Schedule is posted on the track's Facebook page.

The Annual Hammer Down Showdown is set for Saturday, September 26th at Oakshade Raceway in Wauseon. This puts the Oakshade Dominator Stocks against the Fremont Trucks. The winner will get \$1,000.00. The Late Model Sportsmen and Sport Compacts will also be racing. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out! www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz/

DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO HOST WORKSHOP ON MAKING TIME TO WRITE

Finding time to write can be difficult when life is full of competing demands. Defiance Public Library will host "Making Time to Write When Life Is Busy," a free workshop for adults who love to write but struggle to fit writing into their lives.

The workshop will take place Sept. 29 at 5:30 p.m. at Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., and will be led by Dr. Bailey Lang.

Conventional writing advice such as "write every day" does not work for every writer. Work, family responsibilities and other demands can make it difficult to find the time and energy to write, and some writers may even feel guilty for prioritizing their creativity.

During the workshop, participants will explore strategies for creating a writing practice that fits their individual lives and goals. The session will focus on mindset shifts that can help writers re-center creativity, along with simple ways to make writing feel more enjoyable and achievable.

Participants will leave with practical tools for reclaiming their creative practice and putting words on the page, even when life feels especially busy.

The program is free and open to all adults, but registration is required. To register, visit defiancelibrary.org/write or call 419-782-1456. The registration deadline is 5 p.m. Sept. 28.

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

OHIO STATE LIMA ANNOUNCES 1+3 HORTICULTURE AND CROP SCIENCE PATHWAY FOUNDATION CLASSES WILL BEGIN AUTUMN SEMESTER 2027

The Ohio State University at Lima will soon offer the foundational coursework for Horticulture and Crop Science to students interested in working in one of the state's top fields. The 1+3 program pathway through the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences will launch in autumn semester 2027 at the Lima campus.

Students will complete one year at Ohio State Lima before transitioning to the Columbus campus to complete their Bachelor of Science in Horticulture and Crop Science or to CFAES Wooster to earn an associate degree at Ohio State's Agricultural Technical Institute.

"Introducing Horticulture and Crop Sciences to Ohio State Lima isn't just about adding a major — it's about directly connecting our campus to the agricultural engine that drives northwest Ohio," said Margaret Young, dean and director at Ohio State Lima. "By offering this first year locally, we are opening doors for students to begin world-class agricultural training right in their backyard, equipping the next generation of innovators to sustain and grow our region's most vital industry."

Horticulture and Crop Science is broken down into six areas of specialization: agroecology, agronomy, controlled environment agriculture, horticulture, plant biosciences and turfgrass science. Study in these areas leads to a large va-

GROVER HILL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Grover Hill Elementary Student of the Month for September. Pictured from left to right: Front row: Paislee Bissell, Jimmy Priest, Abram Flint, Alex Rojas Palma, Brexty Gabrio and Zoey Dias. Back row: Raena Stoller, Kaylee Stoller, Aleyah Stoller, Sadie Noffsinger, Sloane Sinn, Clara Laukhuf and Tessa Stoller. Not pictured: Aaron Kline, Oaklee Sinn, Xavier Morales and Makenna Miller.

FAIRVIEW FFA WRAPS UP A SUCCESSFUL FAIR SEASON



Fairview FFA members at Ag Olympics following the pig catch

The past few months have been busy for Fairview FFA members as they prepared for one of the biggest weeks of the year, the Defiance County Fair. From working with livestock throughout the summer to getting everything ready at the fairgrounds, members put in countless hours before fair week even began.

Throughout the summer, members worked hard preparing their livestock projects for the fair. This included feeding, caring for, practicing with, and getting their animals show-ready. Some members even traveled to the Ohio State Fair and various jackpot shows throughout the summer. Members exhibited a variety of livestock during the

fair, including rabbits, cattle, poultry, hogs, goats, sheep, dogs, and horses.

Their hard work throughout the summer was shown in the ring as members represented Fairview FFA with their different projects.

Fairview FFA members were involved in much more than just livestock shows. Members also participated in activities such as the Ag Olympics, antique tractor parade, straw stacking contest, and much more! During the straw stacking contest, the Fairview FFA girls even came out on top against the boys!

Fairview FFA was also represented through the Defiance County Junior Fair Royalty program.

Ruby Elston, Lauren Speiser, and Brooklyn Zeedyk had the opportunity to represent Fairview FFA and the Junior Fair while taking part in different events throughout the week.

Although fair week is always busy, it allows members to make memories, spend time together, compete, and show off the hard work they have put in throughout the year. Whether members were in the show ring, participating in an activity, helping behind the scenes, or cheering on their friends, there was always something happening.

gion than we have graduates to fill."

The ongoing regenerative ag project at the Ohio State

Lima farm serves as a local living laboratory, advancing sustainable farming practices and (Continued on Page 9)

22319 Ward Rd., Woodburn, IN 46797 • 260-632-1065
ewslc@emypeople.net
eicherwoodworkingshop.com



EICHER'S WOODWORKING SHOP
WOODBURN, IN

- Granite & Formica & Quartz Countertops
- And Much More
- 3600 Square Ft. Store & Display

Furniture Store Hours:
M-F 8-4:30; Sat 9-12; Closed Sun

ASE KLOPFENSTEIN REPAIR ASE
AUTO • TRUCK • FARM • INDUSTRIAL

Major & Minor Repairs • Complete Vehicle Maintenance
AC Service & Repair
Diesel Service • Complete Engine Rebuilding
DOT Inspections • ASE Certified Staff

Tim & Victor Klopfenstein 19718 Notestine Road
657-5700 shop Woodburn, IN 46797

The Left Turn
Your Source For Tri-State Racing

Ohio Sport Blitz Facebook Live with Ron Burt

www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz

Sauder Feeds Inc. **Local Manufacturer of Quality Animal Feeds Since 1920**

Visit us for all of your animal feed needs.
Special requests? Give us a call, we do custom formulations.

P.O. Box 130 • Grabill, IN 46741 • (800) 589-2196
www.sauderfeeds.com info@sauderfeeds.com

DERCK'S LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES

15193 Rd. 45
Antwerp, Ohio 45813
419-399-0978

MULCH COLORS:
Red, Brown and Black
Black Dirt, Small Gravel and River Rock
Call for Special Orders

PAULDING FFA ENJOYS OAKWOOD LABOR DAY PARADE



Pictured here are the members of the Paulding FFA parade who walked in the Oakwood Labor Day parade with our banner.

By: Paulding FFA

Reporter, Makenna Manz

On Monday, September 7th the Paulding FFA Chapter had 37 members walk in the Annual Oakwood Homecoming parade to represent our

chapter. They carried a FFA banner and FFA members handed out candy to the parade goers. Our members really enjoyed celebrating Oakwood's Labor Day events. We always look forward to this

event to kick off our school year as a chapter. It was such a fun and great opportunity for the FFA Chapter to support our local community and learn by the FFA motto of living to serve!

Students interested in the new pathway can schedule a visit at Ohio State Lima today by emailing lima-askabuckeye@osu.edu, or visiting lima.osu.edu to learn more about the campus.

ILLICIT FENTANYL USE IS MORE THAN DOUBLE MEDICAL USE IN US

The largest study to date that quantifies and compares medical and illegal use of fentanyl in the United States suggests that illicit use is more than twice as common as medically based use.

The analysis also shows the risk of a nonfatal overdose is up to three-fold higher in illicit users compared to patients exposed to fentanyl in a medical setting or through a prescription.

Overall, the study found that illicit-source fentanyl exposure is linked to a significantly higher risk of opioid-related harmful outcomes than medical-source exposure.

Almost 300,000 people from a dataset of 300 million patients were divided into two groups based primarily on urine drug test results, with illicit-source users constituting 71.1% of the study cohort, compared to 28.9% medical-source users.

The analysis also showed that among all states, illicit fentanyl use is most common in Ohio.

The study was published Aug. 14, 2026, in eClinicalMedicine.

Data on patients screened for fentanyl exposure from 2015 to 2023 came from Epic Cosmos, a large U.S. electronic health record dataset. First author Seungyeon Lee, a PhD student in Zhang's lab, conducted the analysis linking urine drug test results with medication records to group patients by medical or illicit use.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that's up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Its main clinical use is to treat severe pain, especially after surgery and for advanced cancers. Fentanyl is among the synthetic opioids that contribute to nearly 70% of overdose deaths, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In addition to categorizing fentanyl users, Lee conducted analyses to examine patterns of adverse outcomes in both illicit and medical-source users that emerged over time from 2015 to 2023 and to estimate short-term risks within 30 days of fentanyl initiation.

The negative outcomes linked to fentanyl use included nonfatal overdose, abuse or misuse, and dependence that leads to withdrawal symptoms when use stops. Fatal overdoses were not included in this work because causes of death were not part of the Epic dataset.

The temporal analysis showed illicit fentanyl users had a higher prevalence of all three negative outcomes compared to medical users, and by 2023, the prevalence of nonfatal overdose was four-fold higher for illicit users than for medical-source fentanyl patients, at 18.6% of illicit users compared to 4.3% of medical users.

In the short-term risk analysis, after adjusting for a variety of health conditions and demographics, results showed

The West Bend News

Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

that illicit-source fentanyl initiation was associated with a two- to three-fold higher risk of nonfatal overdose, abuse and dependence within 30 days compared to medical-source initiation.

The analysis also showed that, compared to medical exposure to fentanyl, illicit fentanyl users were younger and less likely to be married, had a higher concentration of fentanyl detected in their urine drug test, and were more likely to have a mental health or substance use disorder.

Medical-source users were more likely than illicit-source users to have a chronic condition, and patients with chronic conditions were more likely to have more frequent healthcare utilization and greater exposure to opioid medications.

Geographically, Ohio had the highest proportion of il-

licit-source fentanyl users – 12.2% – followed by Massachusetts (10.5%) and California (8.8%). Medical-source exposure was most common in North Carolina (10.6%), Ohio (10.5%) and California (10.3%).

Opioid regulations have been focused on medical-source opioid drugs, including fentanyl, but the researchers say the availability of new data on the widespread illicit use of fentanyl and related health dangers highlights a need for additional policy action.

For example, the examination of patient data revealed a transition from medical-source fentanyl use to illicit-source use among some patients. The Zhang lab's next step will be analyzing patterns related to this transition, with hopes that the findings could assist with policymaking strategies.

ANTWERP ROLLS PAST HILLTOP, 48-12



Antwerp senior Michael Rohrs moves the ball near the end zone for the Archers in the third quarter. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

ANTWERP — The Antwerp Archers put together a dominant offensive performance Friday night, September 4, piling up 371 yards of offense on the way to a 48-12 victory over Hilltop.

Antwerp wasted little time taking control, scoring eight points in the opening quarter before erupting for 18 more in the second. The Archers car-

ried a 26-12 advantage into halftime and shut out Hilltop the rest of the way, adding 15 points in the third quarter and seven in the fourth. HILLTOP GAME OFFENSIVE STATS. pdf

The Antwerp ground game proved difficult for the Cadets to contain. The Archers rushed 44 times for 269 yards, averaging 6.1 yards per carry

and scoring six rushing touchdowns.

Ryder Hines led the charge with a huge night, carrying seven times for 150 yards and four touchdowns. Luke Jones added 52 yards and a touchdown on five attempts, while Parker Lucas rushed 10 times for 30 yards and a score. Robert Montgomery contributed 37 yards on seven carries.

Quarterback Carson Hughes completed five of six passes for 37 yards, while Hines completed seven of 17 attempts for 65 yards. Brayden Fuller led Antwerp's receivers with eight catches for 79 yards. Michael Rohrs added three receptions for 19 yards, and Parker Bermejo had one catch for four yards. HILLTOP GAME OFFENSIVE STATS. pdf

Antwerp's defense also made its presence felt, holding Hilltop to 257 total yards and just 49 yards rushing. The Archers intercepted four passes, with Lucas, Bermejo, Rohrs and Gabriel Wenzlick each recording a pick. Lucas returned his interception 30 yards for a touchdown.

Hines finished as Antwerp's leading scorer with 26 points on four touchdowns and a two-point conversion. Lucas accounted for 12 points with his rushing and interception-return touchdowns, while Jones scored six. Rohrs and Pearce Cottrell each added a two-point conversion.

The Archers' ability to control the ground game and force turnovers helped turn the contest decisively in their favor as Antwerp came away with the 48-12 home victory.

(Continued from Page 8)

hands-on learning. Interested students will be able to engage in research as early as their first year in the program.

"Agriculture is not just a legacy in northwest Ohio. It is the economic lifeblood of our region," Young said. "By expanding our hands-on research and building direct career pathways in crop science and horticulture, we are keeping our sharpest agricultural talent rooted in our local economy, driving innovation right where our community needs it most."

Qualifying students who enroll for their first year at a regional campus are eligible to participate in the Regional Campus Commitment Program, which provides eligible new first-year students with the opportunity to attend Ohio State tuition-free.

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.sheriffssaleauction.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.sheriffssaleauction.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

Joshua A. Koltak, Attorney for Plaintiff

CIVIC THEATRE TAKES HOME TOP HONORS AT OCTA FEST



The results are in from Labor Day weekend, and Van Wert Civic Theatre is coming home from the Ohio Community Theatre Association State Conference in Lima with a long list of awards for their excerpt performance of Bonnie & Clyde. Competing alongside 14 other top community theatre groups from across Ohio, VWCT's performance earned high praise from the state adjudicators across acting, directing, musical performance, and technical design.

OCTA State Conference Award Winners from VWCT

Merit in Acting: Amy Booley

Excellence in Musical Performance: Hannah Davis

Excellence in Musical Performance: Nick Long

Excellence in Musical Performance: Doug Long Jr.

Outstanding in Ensemble: Bonnie & Clyde Cast

Outstanding in Direction: Jerry Zimmerman

Outstanding in Musical Direction: Terri Spencer

Outstanding in Lighting Design: Joe Falk & Mary Ann Falk

Outstanding in Musical Performance: Ashton Szabados

Outstanding in Musical Performance: Cheyenne Weber

Among the most celebrated achievements of the weekend was the Outstanding in Ensemble award. This coveted honor recognizes the complete dedication, commitment, and unity of the cast and crew to every single moment of the show. Other performers and crew whose hard work contributed to this outstanding team effort included Joe Warnement, Taylor Hessel, Kimmy Warnecke, Amanda Block, Kristin Lee (Choreography), Alea Rex, Grayson Baker, Abbie Mengerink, Dianna Hicks, Sean Carpenter, Doug Grooms,

Roger Rex, Ellie Warnement, Evan Falk (Sound), and Snug Roberts (Stage Manager).

Didn't get to see Bonnie & Clyde? VWCT has something just as fabulous lined up next! Catch the high-flying musical comedy Catch Me If You Can, opening September 17. Based on the hit movie and unbelievable true story, this fast-paced show follows the adventures of teenage con artist Frank Abagnale Jr. as he runs from the FBI. Admission is just \$18 with a senior discount ticket available for \$16. Reserve your tickets online right now at vwct.org or by calling 419.238.9689.

Show dates are September 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26 at 7:30 PM, with Sunday matinees on September 20 and 27 at 2:00 PM. We cannot wait to welcome you to the theater located at 118 S. Race Street, Van Wert, OH 45891.

CHECK OUT THE SAVINGS: ACPL LIBRARY CARDS NOW UNLOCK MORE LOCAL DISCOUNTS

The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) is giving residents even more reasons to carry their library cards. In celebration of National Library Card Sign-Up Month, ACPL is releasing a new batch of limited-edition library cards featuring artwork inspired by Fort Wayne's vibrant mural scene, while expanding opportunities for cardholders to save at local businesses through the 2026-27 Community Discount Program.

Beginning September 1, library users can choose from limited-edition cards featuring the work of mural artists Yis "Noségo" Goodwin (Untitled), Shayla Thomas-Wieland (Urban Beauty) and Ricco Diamante (The Seed of Life).

And for soccer fans, ACPL previously announced a special limited-edition card featuring Friendly the Goalrilla, mascot of the Fort Wayne Football Club. The cards celebrate the creativity and character of Fort Wayne while giving residents another way to carry a piece of their community wherever they go.

"We wanted this year's cards to reflect the community we serve," said Chris Ford, Marketing Manager for ACPL. "Fort Wayne has an incredible creative community, and these cards give people a chance to show that off every day - while saving money!"

Also beginning September 1 through August 31, 2027, ACPL cardholders can also use their cards to receive special discounts and offers at participating local businesses through the 2026-27 ACPL Community Discount Pro-

gram. Cardholders simply show their ACPL library card at participating businesses to receive their offers. The program is designed to help residents discover local businesses while supporting the organizations that help make Allen County thrive.

This year's participating businesses offer savings on everything from food and entertainment to shopping, services, education, and family activities. Offers include:

- Food and drink specials, including Crescendo, Iggy's Gourmet Subs, Sassie Cakes, Well Grounded Café, Pasta di Guy, Savvy Sliders, Tall Rabbit Café + Community, and The Abstract.
- Entertainment discounts, Putt-Putt Golf and Race Zone Go-Karts, PSM Icehouse, and Combat Ops Entertainment and discounted laser tag at LaserX.

Offers vary by business, and some include exclusions or restrictions. The complete list of participating businesses and current offers is available at acpl.info/community-discounts.

"To us, this is another way the library card connects people to their community," said Ford. "You can use it to borrow a book, stream a movie, learn a new skill, find a job—or save money while trying a new local restaurant or activity. The possibilities are pretty remarkable for one little card."

ACPL is also fine free, meaning cardholders are not charged for overdue materials, and previous overdue fines have been forgiven. Cardholders remain responsible for lost or damaged materials.

People who already have a card can visit an ACPL location with photo ID to receive a free replacement if their card

is lost, damaged—or if they simply want to switch to one of the new limited-edition designs. ACPL library cards are free to all Allen County residents and individuals who attend or work at a school in Allen County. Residents outside of Allen County can access ACPL services through a subscription card for a modest annual fee.

This September, get the card. Support local artists and businesses. Save around town. And discover where your library card can take you.

DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM ANNOUNCES ANNUAL 'BOOK NERD' CHALLENGE FOR TEENS

Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to put their reading skills to the test during Defiance Public Library System's annual Book Nerd Challenge, taking place Oct. 1-31.

Participants can complete the challenge by reading or listening to at least three books that fit categories on the Book Nerd Challenge reading list. Reading lists will be available at the Defiance, Sherwood and Hicksville libraries. The reading list can also be downloaded at defiancelibrary.org/nerd.

After completing the challenge, participants should return their completed form to the library or email it to prellstab@defiancelibrary.org to be entered into a drawing for a \$20 gift card. Prizes include gift cards to Phoenix Theatres, McDonald's, BIGGBY Coffee, Amazon, and Walmart, along with books and other prizes.

Winners will be notified

by phone no later than Nov. 6.

The Book Nerd Challenge is sponsored by the Friends of Defiance Public Library.

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

WEST BEND PRINTING EXPANDS, NOT LEAVES, ANTWERP

Rumors have been floating around Antwerp lately like leaves coming off the trees in the fall. Depending on which version you hear, West Bend Printing is closing, moving to Defiance, abandoning Antwerp, upset with village government or perhaps packing everything up in the middle of the night.

Fortunately, none of those versions are true.

West Bend Printing & Publishing is not closing its Antwerp location and is not moving out of Antwerp. Instead, the company is expanding with the recent acquisition of the Hilltop Printing facility in Defiance.

The expansion comes as West Bend Printing has simply outgrown the space available at its Antwerp facility. After more than 20 years in business, the company needed additional production space to continue growing and serving its customers.

The Hilltop Printing building provides a much larger facility that was already designed and used for commercial printing. Finding comparable production space in Antwerp was not a realistic option, making the Defiance facility a natural fit for the company's needs.

Some production will gradually be shifted to Defiance, where the additional space and existing printing equipment will allow West Bend Printing to expand its capabilities. The Antwerp office, however, will remain open and continue serving customers just as it has for more than two decades.

The addition of the Defiance location also gives the company a broader geographic reach. While Antwerp remains convenient for customers in western Paulding County and northeast Indiana, the Defiance location will make West Bend Printing more accessible to customers in other portions of Paulding County as well as Defiance and the surrounding area.

The expansion is another step in the evolution of a company that began in Antwerp more than 20 years ago and has continued adding services and capabilities as customer needs have changed.

So, despite the more colorful stories making their way around town, there was no fight with village council, no retaliatory move over government printing work and no secret plan to close the Antwerp doors.

The explanation is considerably less dramatic: West Bend Printing needed more room.

Rather than leaving the community where the business began, the company is growing from one location to two — continuing its operations in Antwerp while adding the space and capabilities available at the former Hilltop Printing facility in Defiance.

HERITAGE PULLS AWAY IN SECOND HALF TO TOP WOODLAN, 33-14



Senior Ashtin Jacquay tackles the Patriot ball carrier. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

WOODBURN — The Woodlan Warriors suffered their first loss of the season Friday, September 4, as visiting Heritage used a strong second half to pull away for a 33-14 victory.

Heritage struck first with a touchdown in the opening quarter, but Woodlan answered in the second period. The Warriors put seven points on the board while holding the Patriots scoreless in the quarter, sending the teams into halftime tied at 7-7.

The game turned decisively after the break. Heritage erupted for 20 unanswered points in the third quarter to build a 27-7 advantage heading into the final period.

Woodlan continued to battle and added another touchdown in the fourth quarter, but Heritage responded with six more points to secure the 33-14 victory.

The loss dropped Woodlan to 2-1 on the season, while Heritage improved to 3-0.

Both teams return to Allen County action Friday, September 11. Woodlan will travel to Bluffton to face an undefeated Tigers squad, while Heritage will host South Adams.

PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26 – 10:00AM

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, FURNITURE, REAL ESTATE & GATOR

See our website: Guilford-realestate.com for a complete list of photos

Real Estate sells at Noon, Gator & Guns immediately after

LOCATION: 16652 Road 7, Antwerp, OH

FURNITURE: Maple Hutch, Maple Farmhouse table, Antique Oak Buffet, Antique oak China Cupboard, Corner curio Cabinet, 8 Maple Chairs, Recliners, couches, art deco dresser, adjustable bed, End Tables, occasional chairs, Dressers, nightstands, office chair, file cabinet, knee hole desk, Oak Clawfoot table, Rocking chair

HOUSEHOLD: Stemware, Mikasa China, picture frames, small appliances, lamps, pictures, framed advertising, Holmes Humidifier, Electric heaters, Pots & Pans, Treadmill, international harvester toy tractors, Shark Vac system, Binoculars, wheelchair, walker, flat screen televisions, lamps, Silverware, Sony C.D. Player, antique clocks, lots of misc. glassware & collectables. TVs

MUSICAL: Roland Amplifier, Ibanez Bass, Kustom Speakers, Bone foot pedal, Pair Samsung speakers, Podium Pro Audio MX700, set of Peavey speakers, Roland Mixing amplifier, Ibanez Bass, Kustom Speaker, pair of Samson Speakers, Mic Stands, Podium Pro Audio MX 700

CHRISTMAS: Nutcrackers, Christmas trees, Holiday collectables, ornaments, Christmas bulbs

FROM THE BARN: John Deere Gator, Log Chains, paint sprayer, Pole saw, air compressor, Edmund Scientific telescope, power washer, tools, weedwhacker, hand tools

GUN: Stevens 12-gauge model 9476 single barrel shotgun, Marlin Model 25 .22 rifle, Ruger Impact .22 Caliber 5.5 mm, Master Mag .410-gauge model CC660,

TERMS personal property: Cash or Check w/ID Real Estate: \$5,000 Down day of sale, balance in 30 days.

AUCTIONEERS: Donna Baldwin, Shawn Booher, Steve Zuber; **Ringmen:** Oley McMichael, and Bruce Guilford

OWNERS: Karen Fenker, Thomas & Steven Schlib

Bruce Guilford
Real Estate & Auctioneering

419-576-6668 | www.guilford-realestate.com

KELLER FAMILY FOUNDATION NAMED PLATINUM SPONSOR OF 2026 DAF GALA



2026 Gala Platinum Sponsor: The Keller Family Foundation

Pictured are Bryan Keller, Mary Keller Mulvaney and Chris Yoder -DAF Executive Director.

The Defiance Area Foundation is pleased to recognize the Keller Family Foundation as a Platinum Sponsor of the 2026 Gala, Bow Ties & Boas, with a generous \$10,000 sponsorship.

Their continued support helps make the Foundation's signature fundraising event possible while strengthening the Defiance Area Foundation Community Fund, which provides flexible resources to address local needs and support opportunities throughout Defiance County.

The Foundation is grateful to the Keller Family Foundation for its continued generosity, partnership, and commitment to making a lasting difference in the community.

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

JUSTICE ANIMAL RESCUE RECEIVES \$2,000 GRANT FROM DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE



Pictured with the grant are (L to R) Lynn Spicer - Moose Lodge Vice President, Natashaia Justice - Co-Founder of JAR, Riley Justice, Katie Kinner - JAR Board Member, Lee Justice - Co-Founder of JAR and Brooklyn Kinner - JAR Board Member. Also pictured are rescue pets Chuck, Tina, Baby Blake and Boo.

Congratulations to Justice Animal Rescue for receiving a \$2,000 donation from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 during their August grants. The Defiance Moose Lodge holds a fund under the Defiance Area Foundation umbrella.

JAR plans to use this grant money to continue saving in their Relocation fund. Currently JAR is located outside of Grover Hill, but has hopes to move closer to Defiance, Ohio.

HELP WANTED:

Innovative Assembly Services, LLC
109 Victory Lane, Antwerp, OH 45813
Phone: 419-399-3886
Email: InnovativeAssemblySvc@outlook.com
Family owned business located in Antwerp, Ohio looking for general labor associates to do light manufacturing and assembly. Will provide on the job training. Hours are Monday-Friday from 5:00 am-1:30 pm. Competitive wages, vacation and personal leave after probationary period.

To apply contact us via phone or email

WOODLAN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1966 60th REUNION

September 25, 2026
11:00 a.m.

Country Heritage Winery

185 Co. Rd. 68
LaOtto, IN 46763
(260) 637-2980



Jerry Ehle
866-340-0445
SchraderFortWayne.com
Serving Northeast Indiana & Northwest Ohio
SCHRADER
Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.

Classified Ads Sell it in the Classifieds!

Classified ads are \$8.50 for 20 words or less and \$.15 for each additional word.
Bold is \$1.00 additional.
Ph: (419) 258-2000 • Email: info@westbendnews.net
P.O. Box 262, Antwerp, OH 45813
Classifieds MUST be paid up front!!

TOM TRAUTERMAN
ESTATE SALE: Antiques, Indian artifacts, Antique tools, Bottles, Railroad lanterns, Military, Knick-knacks, Lots more... 9 to 6 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. 4730 Rd 192 Antwerp. P

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

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

DESIGN-PRINT-ADVERTISE: West Bend Printing can get you what you need FAST! Call or stop in today! 419-258-2000. Or in Defiance at 419.782.9898

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

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Vinal V. McClure, Grover Hill, pleaded guilty to a prohibited turn violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

David L. Fisher, Antwerp, pleaded guilty to a confinement of dog violation. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. Fisher was sentenced to five days in jail, all of which were suspended.

Kirslynn P. Camposano, Paulding, driving under a financial responsibility suspension, dismissed.

Shane E. Keller, Oakwood, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Joshua D. Jones, Van Wert, pleaded guilty to two counts of abandoning animals. He was fined \$100 on each count and ordered to pay \$197 in court costs. Jones was sentenced to 90 days in jail on each count, all of which were suspended. He was placed on standard probation and ordered to complete an evaluation and recommendations, 40 hours of community service, a Keeping It in Check class, online classes and a risk assessment. Jones was also ordered not to have any companion animals.

Joel I. Denoyer, Saint Louis, Missouri, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Ethan A. Gribble, Oakwood, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

PAULDING COUNTY BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND , EDUCATION COLLABORATION

PAULDING— The recently awarded 3-Star Paulding County Business Advisory Council (BAC) convened this week, drawing an impressive turnout of 30 community members, including business leaders, educators, workforce partners, and local political representatives. Strong attendance continues to demonstrate the community's shared commitment to understanding and addressing the needs essential to keeping the Paulding County workforce sustainable and competitive.

A key focus of the meeting was the introduction of the new JobsOhio Tech Path program, designed to strengthen internal technology-focused career pathways for students across the region. Attendees also received updates on the revamped Tech Cred program, which provides reimbursement opportunities for employers investing in employee upskilling.

Paulding County Economic Development Director Tim Copsey shared details about the upcoming "Build Your Future" hands-on career exploration event at the Van Wert County Fairgrounds. Students from several regional schools—including all three Paulding County districts—will participate in interactive skill-based activities. InSource and Paulding County Hospital will each host stations this year, offering students from both in and out of the county, direct exposure to local career opportunities.

Workforce readiness remained a central discussion point as businesses continue preparing for the ongoing retirement of "baby-boomer" age workers and the increasing number of new jobs emerging from regional business growth. Colleges, employers, and political representatives were given time to share updates and resources before school leaders provided district-specific highlights:

- Antwerp Local Schools — Antwerp has hired a new Agriculture Educator while also reinstating Junior Achievement programming and will again host the Junior High Career Connections Day in February.
- Paulding Exempted Village Schools — The district has incorporated welding curriculum directly into the school day, expanding opportunities for students interested in skilled trades.
- Wayne Trace Local Schools — Leaders shared progress on the new STEAM Center building project at the high school and announced the upcoming Grover Hill Elementary STEAM & Literacy Night taking place in October.

The meeting also included a lunch sponsored by the Paulding Eagles, continuing a valued tradition of community support. The BAC remains a driving force in advancing workforce development, strengthening school-business partnerships, and moving Paulding County forward.

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

PAULDING COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Miller announced that the Paulding County Grand Jury indicted (4) persons on Thursday, September 10, 2026

Darin Lee Conley (05/13/1986), Hicksville, Ohio; three counts of complicity in the commission of an offense, each a fifth-degree felony.

Gary Eugene Schaffer (01/18/1976), Cecil, Ohio; aggravated menacing, a fifth-degree felony.

Alfred B. Conner (02/21/1954), Paulding, Ohio; murder, an unclassified felony, with a three-year firearm specification.

Carl Egler (02/15/1978), Defiance, Ohio; 20 counts of pandering obscenity involving a minor or impaired person, each a fourth-degree felony.

WEST BEND PRINTING & PUBLISHING

CUSTOM PRINTING — OUR PRINTING DIVISION IS —

EXPANDING & SEEKING TO ADD TO OUR PRODUCTION STAFF!

JOIN A GROWING TEAM

- Dependable
- Innovative
- Teachable
- Able to lift 50+ pounds
- Looking for a community driven career

\$ Pay Based on Experience!

Submit resumes to info@westbendprinting.com OR Drop off at 101 N Main St. Antwerp, OH Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm

LOCAL WORK. STRONG TEAM. BRIGHTER FUTURE.

YOU'RE INVITED!

ANNUAL WCCH

BENEFIT AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

BEGINS AT 4PM



WOODBURN
CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S
HOME



KINGDOM FELLOWSHIP

Join friends and neighbors for a meaningful evening.



A DELICIOUS MEAL

Enjoy a great dinner with your family.



OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPACT CHILDREN

Every bid and every gift helps change a child's life in Christ.



SILENT AUCTION
& DINNER
BEGINS AT 4:00 PM



LIVE AUCTION
BEGINS AT 5:00 PM



WOODLAN JUNIOR / HIGH SCHOOL

17215 Woodburn Rd. • Woodburn, IN 46797

HELP US MEET THE \$35,000 CHALLENGE!

Two generous Premier Event Sponsors — Nucor Building Systems and an anonymous family — have committed a combined \$35,000 to the 2026 WCCH Benefit Auction.

Now they challenge our community to match it!

\$11,200 RAISED TOWARD THE \$35,000 MATCH!



\$11,200 RAISED

\$35,000 GOAL

Sponsorship matching is a terrific way for churches, families, and businesses to impact children.

All sponsorship funds help children thrive at WCCH regardless of their family's financial participation.

EVENT SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES



PREMIER EVENT SPONSOR \$20,000



DIAMOND SPONSOR \$2,000



GOLD SPONSOR \$1,000



SILVER SPONSOR \$750



BRONZE SPONSOR \$500



Your partnership helps provide Christ-centered hope, healing and a home for children in need.

BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY!

WCCHONLINE.ORG | 260-632-5551



WCCH exists to proclaim Christ-centered hope and healing into the lives of discouraged children.



Subject to 4% convenience fee.