The WEST BEND NEWS
www.westbendnews.net
VOLUME 22 – ISSUE 41 | Good News for Good Communities - Serving Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana | MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026

ANTWERP EXCHANGE BANK CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW PAULDING LOCATION



The Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce joined Antwerp Exchange Bank (AEB), community members, customers and guests on Friday, October 2, to celebrate the grand opening of the bank's new Paulding location at 1099 Williams Street.

The celebration marked an exciting expansion for Antwerp Exchange Bank and its continued investment in Paulding County. Guests were invited to meet the AEB team, tour the new office and enjoy refreshments throughout the day, including coffee from Dixie Brew and ice cream from Bee's Ice Cream Co.

Founded in 1893, Antwerp Exchange Bank has served the area for more than 130 years. The locally rooted financial institution describes its mission as empowering the community through reliable and innovative financial solutions that support growth and stability. Community commitment, personalized customer service, integrity, innovation and resilience are among the bank's stated core values.

AEB's history began in Antwerp, where the bank was founded by A.P. Murphy and incorporated five years later. Over the generations, the bank has continued to grow while maintaining its focus on the communities and customers it serves.

The new Paulding office expands that local presence and provides another location for AEB to serve individuals, families, businesses and agricultural customers throughout the area.

The Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce congratulates Antwerp Exchange Bank and its team on this new chapter and welcomes their continued investment in the Paulding community.

Antwerp Exchange Bank – Paulding 1099 Williams Street Paulding, OH 45879 419-567-0999

For more information about Antwerp Exchange Bank and its services, visit antwerpexchangebank.com.

About Antwerp Exchange Bank

Antwerp Exchange Bank is a locally focused financial institution with roots dating to 1893. The bank provides personal, business, agricultural and mortgage lending services and emphasizes community involvement and personalized service. Its mission is centered on supporting the growth, stability and financial success of the communities it serves.

About the Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce

The Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce works to support, connect and promote businesses and organizations throughout Paulding County while encouraging economic vitality, community engagement and opportunities for growth.

PERI DIST 1 CHAPTER 30 MEETING DATE SET

Defiance County PERI District 1 Chapter 30 is meeting on Wednesday, October 21 at 1:00 p.m. Magpie Restaurant. ST RT 18, just North of Hicksville. Speakers will be Tim Holtsberry, John Hancock and Matt Koester. All former retirees are urged to come. All are welcome and all members are encouraged to attend.

FREE PARENTING SESSION TO FOCUS ON TANTRUMS AND EMOTIONAL REGULATION

Attention Parents, Caregivers, District Staff, Agencies, Community:

Triple P Positive Parenting Program - Free Parent Session: "Tantrums and Emotional Regulation" will be held Tuesday, October 27, 2026, from 5:30-7:00 p.m., at the the Paulding County Board of D.D., located at 451 McDonald Pike, Entrance/Door #4, Paulding. Baby-sitting not provided, nursing infants welcome. Participants will receive a $10 Amazon gift card and a children's book about emotional regulation.

This free parent session is presented by Stephanie Rine, Primary Care Triple P Coordinator & Consultant, and provided by: Paulding Co. Board of DD, Paulding Co. Family & Children First Council, Parent Mentor Program - Western Buckeye ESC, Children's Resource Center, and Ohio Children's Trust Fund. Registration is required so we know how many to plan for by contacting: Cathy Ruiz, Parent Mentor, cruiz@wbesc.org

FRIENDS OF THE ANTWERP LIBRARY LAUNCH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Friends of the Antwerp Branch Library are currently conducting their annual library membership drive. The library has much to offer the community, with its collection of books, magazines, DVD's, audio and ebooks, and computer access. Patrons may also check out specialty items such as craft equipment, media players and speakers, and traffic cones! The recent additions of a bike rack, handicapped- accessible entrance, and outdoor reading area enhance the public's library experience. As of September, 2026, the library had 5,744 patrons for the year, and a circulation of 32,095 books!

If you would like to support this very valuable community resource, please stop by the library for a membership form!

44TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT



Jeanette (Wilhelm) Prisk, featured guest at the 44th Women's Retreat at Paulding 1st Presbyterian Church on October 25th

First Presbyterian Church (EPC) in Paulding OH is hosting its 44th Annual Women's Retreat, "Neglect Not the Gift that is in Thee", on Saturday, October 24, 2026 from 9 am until 1:00 pm. Doors open at 8:30 am. The church is located at the corner of Caroline and Cherry Streets in Paulding, one block from the courthouse square.

This year, our featured guest, Jeanette (Wilhelm) Prisk, will speak about her faith journey and about finding and using our God-given gifts. While Jeanette grew up in the Paulding area and graduated from Wayne Trace High School, she and her husband Terry now live in Highland, Michigan. Jeanette is very involved in various ministries including 'Reach the Forgotten' jail ministry and 'Hope

(Continued on Page 3)

Local Advertisers appreciating local news

Alaska Breeze	7
Antwerp Exchange Bank	6
Antwerp Local School Gottke Public	9
Crane Twp Clean Up Day	1
Creative Design & Construction	1
Den Herder Funeral Home	2
Derck's Landscaping	8
Dooley Funeral Home	2
Ebel's Butcher Shop	6
Edward Jones Bryan Post	5
Schrader - Ehle	10
Eichers Woodworking	3
Five Star Construction	1
Gerbers Electric HW	11
Grabill Truss	10
Guilford Farmland & Woods Auction	12
Hicksville Village HW Admin.	11
Hicksville Village HW Parks Dir	11
Hicksville Village HW Water Super	11
Huber Opera House - Puffs	12
Innovative Assembly HW	11
Klopfenstein Repair	8
PC Comm PCH Board Position	9
PC Engineers HW Superintendent	11
PC Sheriff Sale CI 26 074	9
PC Veteran's Service	4
PCH 2026 Mammogram special	7
Puzzle – Sudoku	9
Rain Tech	1
Ron Burt Ohio Sports Blitz	8
Sauder Feeds	3
Schmucker Construction	1
T&C Concrete	1

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

Community Calendar

TUE & WED

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

October 13

- Trivia on Tap @ Iron Horse Brews, 6p
- Buck Cemetery History @ Defiance Library, 5:30p
- PC Retired Teachers Assoc. Meeting @ Paulding Pancake House, 11:30a
- Grape Jelly & Juice Canning Class @ Oakwood Library, 1p
- PC Democrat Party Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p

October 15

- Horticulture Hot Topic @ Paulding Library, 5:30p
- Eat Hog Not Turkey Supper @ OSU Ext. Bldg, Paulding, 5-6:30p
- Digital Navigation @ Paulding Co. Senior Center, 9a-3p

October 16

- Puffs @ Huber, Hicksville, 6p (dinner), 7p (show); also 10/17; 10/18, 2p (show only)

October 20

- Halloween Fun w/ WT Art Club @ Payne Library, 3-5p

October 21

- WBESC Board Meeting @ Paulding ESC Rm, 5:30p
- Digital Navigation @ PATH Ctr., Defiance, 10:30-11:30a

October 22

- Write-A-Will campaign @ Associated Churches, FW, 12-4p

WMYW 102.7 PAULDING COUNTY'S OWN

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CRANE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
7:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.
Dumpster at CRANE TOWNSHIP CECIL FIRE DEPARTMENT: 9 Duquesne Street • Cecil, Ohio 45821 (Crane Township residents only):
PLEASE DO NOT BRING: Liquids, semi-liquids, semi-solids, tires, barrels, appliances, stumps, yard waste, paint, flammable, explosive or corrosive materials, ashes, or hazardous waste prohibited by local, county, state, or federal regulations.
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RESPECT LIFE MONTH OBSERVED IN LOCAL COMMUNITY



October is Respect Life Month. Pictured above is the Right to Life display at St. Michael Catholic Church in Hicksville, Ohio. The crosses were placed by the St. Michael Youth group and they represent the babies we have lost to abortion. Please pray for an end to abortion and euthanasia!



Hicksville RTL Judy McCalla, Priest of St. Michaels' Church, and Rosanna Husted observing Respect Life Month this October.

FRIENDS OF DPL HOST FALL BOOK EVENT & MONSTER-THEMED STORYTIMES

[DEFIANCE] Book lovers and families are invited to Northtowne Mall, 1500 N. Clinton St., Defiance, on October 24–25 for the Friends of Defiance Public Library's annual Fall Book Sale, featuring an assortment of books available for a freewill donation, along with special monster-themed storytimes and crafts for children.

The sale will take place Saturday, October 24, from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 25, from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Shoppers can browse a wide selection of books while supporting the Friends of Defiance Public Library (DPL). Proceeds from the sale help support programs, services, and resources at Defiance Public Library.

Families are also invited to bring young readers to Monster HUGS Storytime, featuring stories about friendly monsters. Each storytime will include a craft activity.

Monster HUGS Storytime schedule:

Saturday, October 24

- 11:00-11:30 a.m. — *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson
- 1:00-1:30 p.m. — *The What-if Monster* by Michelle Nelson-Schmidt
- 3:00-3:30 p.m. — *The Hungry Thing* by Jan Slepian and Ann Seidler

Sunday, October 25

12:30-1:00 p.m. — *King Arthur's Very Great Grandson* by Kenneth Kraegel

All storytimes are free, and families are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

For more information, visit Defiance Public Library or contact the library at 419-782-1456.

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NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONTINUES OHIO TECHCRED PROVIDER STATUS

Northwest State Community College has successfully completed the State of Ohio's latest TechCred provider approval process, allowing the college to continue offering TechCred-aligned workforce training to Ohio employers.

Ohio recently required TechCred training providers to reapply for approval. Northwest State successfully completed the process, maintaining its status as an approved provider and preserving access to more than 60 TechCred-eligible credentials.

Training is delivered through Custom Training Solutions (CTS), the workforce training division of Northwest State Community College.

CTS delivers eligible hands-on training onsite at an employer's facility and across any shift, including first, second and third. Training can be structured for small and large groups and can be adapted to an employer's equipment, processes, and specific workforce skill gaps.

The available credentials cover a broad range of technology-focused skills used in modern manufacturing and other industries, including industrial electrical and controls, PLCs, robotics, CNC machining, mechanical maintenance, welding, CAD/CAM, data analytics, Microsoft Power BI, and programming.

Ohio employers participating in TechCred may be eligible for reimbursement of up to $30,000 per funding round for approved technology-focused training that meets program requirements. Northwest State and CTS can help employers identify eligible training options and determine how those credentials may align with their workforce development needs.

The continuation of Northwest State's TechCred approved provider status allows CTS to maintain its alignment with the program and continue helping employers connect workforce training needs with its deep bench of industry-experienced instructors.

Employers interested in TechCred-aligned training through Northwest State Community College can contact Custom Training Solutions for information about available credentials, onsite delivery and a host of other training opportunities.

Visit TrainWithCTS.com for more information.'

PARKVIEW HEALTH EARNS GREAT PLACE TO WORK CERTIFICATION

Parkview Health recently received its second annual certification from Great Place To Work®, recognizing the health system for its excellent culture and workplace environment.

Parkview's job satisfaction was 30 percentage points higher than the U.S. employer average.

"Parkview's culture is shaped by our co-workers, which has helped us create a workplace that truly works for them," said Dena Jacquay, chief administrative officer, Parkview Health. "As we continue to attract and retain the best talent, and as we grow into new regions, our culture binds our team together. Ultimately, this culture we've created together ensures that patients receive the highest quality care and best experience no matter where they are in Indiana and Ohio."

Great Place To Work is the global authority on workplace culture, employee experience, and the leadership behaviors proven to deliver market-leading revenue, employee retention and increased innovation.

According to Great Place To Work research, job seekers are 4.5 times more likely to find a great boss at a certified great workplace. Additionally, employees at certified workplaces are 93% more likely to look forward to coming to work, and are twice as likely to be paid fairly, earn a fair share of the company's profits and have a fair chance at promotion.

In order to receive certification, Parkview provided information about its workforce, benefits and culture and surveyed co-workers asking what they thought about working for Parkview.

Parkview regularly solicits internal feedback, whether through the systemwide Listening Tour focus groups, a culture survey, or stay interviews with co-workers. Numerous new benefits have come in direct response to that feedback, with nearly two dozen changes as part of the system's ongoing Your Voice Matters campaign.

Parkview currently employs more than 20,000 people across more than 25 counties and maintains a voluntary retention rate of more than 90%, more than five percentage points higher than national benchmarks for healthcare organizations.

"Great care starts with great caregivers," said Dr. Ray Dusman, president, physician and clinical enterprise, Parkview Health. "The investment Parkview makes in our co-workers in both their professional and personal lives helps people feel secure, supported and valued. When our caregivers come to work engaged and enthused, that energy is present in the great care they deliver and the connections they make with their patients."

Parkview's Great Places to Work certification is the latest in a series of awards recognizing its workplace culture. The health system has been certified as a Most Loved Workplace for three consecutive years, ranking No. 5 in the nation in 2025; was named a Forbes Best-in-State Employer for five consecutive years; was selected the No. 1 nonprofit, No. 8 overall Inspiring Place to Work in North America in 2026; and was listed among Newsweek's Greatest Workplaces in Healthcare for the second consecutive year.

For a list of career openings at Parkview, visit https://www.parkview.com/careers.

Scripture of the Week

"You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him."

— Deuteronomy 13:4

PERSEVERANCE



Sometimes life presents us with many difficult trials. We often have to make decisions in response to these trials. The book of James 1:12 tells us, "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him." Perseverance means continuing with hope and patience through difficult trials rather than giving up. In my personal observation and opinion, there are two types of Christians: functional and dysfunctional. A dysfunctional Christian is stalled in the face of opposition and challenges. This causes them to lash out or become passive-aggressive, attack through sabotage, or leave the situation or the church altogether. In other words, they get stuck in a situation's difficulties and stay emotionally stifled for extended periods. This stems from a lack of faith. We must exercise our faith by turning it over to the lord one situation at a time, one day at a time. By doing so, we find it easier to turn things over to the lord so that He can fight our battles. The battle is not yours but the Lord's.

The functional Christian on a continuum gives every issue to the Lord. This keeps them moving forward positively. The Lord loves a cheerful giver.

If you persevere through life's situations and challenges, dispensing God's love sacrificially according to His will, you will receive the "crown of life" that God has promised to those who love Him.

Functional Christians Persevere.

Peace and Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

LIFEWISE ACADEMY

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

5th Grade: A student walked into class and said, "This is the best part of the day."

2nd Grader: "Thank you God for LifeWise."

Teacher: "What do we learn about at LifeWise?" Student: "We learn about Jesus and all He has done."

Teacher: "Why do you come to LifeWise?"

~ Elementary Students: "To learn about God and Jesus!" "To learn Bible" "The Bible is true" "To learn about how God loves us and about Jesus."

~ Jr High Students: "To learn to evangelize so I can make heaven crowded!" "To learn about the Bible and more things and how things happened in the past. I love being here!" "To learn more about God, Holy Spirt and Bible"

~ High Schoolers: "To get closer to God and make me a better human being." "To learn more about God, Jesus and the Bible." "To make my connection with God better and learn more about His life." "Because I want a stronger relationship with God." "I come to get closer to God and learn more about God, through the school day and with friends." "I am coming to LifeWise to further my relationship with God and continue to grow as a Christian and learn more about the Bible."

Questions

1st Grader: "Is God actually real?"

5th Grader: "If God is up there, how was the devil made?"

5th Grader: "What would have happened if Adam and Eve didn't eat the apple?"

Student: "How did God get here?"

Student: "How did God get made?"

Good News doesn't just happen. It's made!

Send us your good news and let everyone know of the great things happening in your community.

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DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE DONATES $4,000 TO HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT



Pictured (r-l) are Rick Speiser - Moose Lodge Trustee, Dan Frederick - Fire Chief, Todd Kent - Lieutenant, Ron Monteith - Captain

Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 recently awarded $4,000 to the Highland Township Fire Department to assist with equipment and training needs.

The Moose Lodge maintains a charitable fund through the Defiance Area Foundation, allowing the organization to support local projects and organizations that are important to its members and the community. The recent grant will help the Highland Township Fire Department continue preparing and equipping its firefighters to serve area residents.

CITY OF DEFIANCE REFLECTS ON 2026 SMART21 RECOGNITION, LOOKS AHEAD TO ICF GLOBAL SUMMIT

DEFIANCE, OHIO — In March 2026, the City of Defiance was named one of the Intelligent Community Forum's (ICF) 2026 Smart21 Communities of the Year. It marks the third time in four years that Defiance has earned this distinction, following previous recognitions in 2023 and 2024 — a level of consistency achieved by very few communities of Defiance's size anywhere in the world.

The Smart21 list recognizes just twenty-one communities worldwide each year, selected through a data-driven, merit-based evaluation against hundreds of communities in ICF's global database — with no fee or ability to pay for inclusion. This year's list spans ten countries, underscoring the international caliber of the company Defiance now keeps.

ICF's work carries weight well beyond its own network: the organization was invited to take part in the Nobel Peace Prize conference in Oslo in 2012, and in2014 its community development model was recognized by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Smart21 designation reflects the sustained work of a broad coalition of local partners, and as the year has unfolded, it has also opened doors for Defiance well beyond Ohio, giving the community opportunities to share its story with international audiences and fellow Intelligent Communities around
the world.

"This recognition belongs to our whole community," said Mayor Mike McCann. "It reflects the vision and hard work of our businesses, educational partners, community organizations, and residents — and it's given Defiance a platform to share what we're doing with communities far beyond our borders."

The City extends its sincere appreciation to Jen English, MS4 Coordinator, whose leadership and dedication were instrumental in preparing Defiance's Smart21 application and in coordinating the community partnerships that made this honor possible.

Looking ahead, Defiance will build on this momentum at the 2026 ICF Global Summit, themed "Midwest Rising: A Testbed for a Changing Nation" and hosted this year in Columbus, OH. On October 15, 2026, the City will take part in a panel discussion titled "A Learning Community at the Confluence of Water, Technology, and Stewardship," further highlighting Defiance's work at the intersection of innovation and environmental stewardship. Representing Defiance on the panel will be Mayor Mike McCann and Dr. Agnes Caldwell of Defiance College, reflecting the close partnership between the City and the College. That partnership is anchored by the Defiance Research Alliance, which brings the City and Defiance College together around source water protection and collaborative water quality research, outreach, and education.

The City thanks its businesses, educational institutions, community organizations, and residents whose continued collaboration has helped position Defiance as a globally recognized Intelligent Community.

(Continued from Page 1)

against Trafficking'. In her words, Jeanette enjoys "writing and sharing original songs, teaching and leading worship wherever God might lead her". We are so pleased that God has led her to the Paulding Women's Retreat and know she has much to share with us!

The core verse for the day is I Timothy 4:14 "Neglect not gift that is in Thee." The Message Bible says it in this contemporary way: "And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed—keep that dusted off and in use".

In addition to thought-provoking teaching, the retreat includes praise singing with pianist Susan Kayser and music leader Rhonda Smalley. Brunch will be served by the men of the Presbyterian Church, and there will be rich fellowship with other Christian women. The church is accessible to those with mobility challenges.

Nursery care is available for children from infants through age 4. Be sure to mention this need when you register so we are adequately staffed. You are asked to bring a sack lunch for your child.

Pre-registration is requested by Monday, October 19, 2026 to assist the brunch planners.

Registrations can be made three ways: 1) by mail to the church office (PO Box 366, Paulding OH 45879); 2) by calling 419-399-2438 (church office); or 3) by emailing your name and contact information to First Presbyterian Church (fpcpaulding@gmail.com). Questions may be directed, by call or text, to retreat coordinators Barb (419-769-0327), Becky C. (419-786-0021) or Becky R. (260-385-0505).

The suggested donation for this retreat is $20.00. Checks made out to First Presbyterian Church, with 'women's retreat' in the memo line, can be sent with mail-in registrations. Fees may also be paid at the door the morning of the retreat if registration was made by phone or email.

HARVEST SAFETY TIPS

It's October, and the weather has finally cleared up for farmers to start harvesting crops in earnest. This time of year, is also one of the most dangerous times for people working in the fields. The combination of long hours, heavy machinery, unpredictable weather, and tight deadlines often creates a high-stress environment where safety shortcuts can lead to injuries or fatalities. Here are some tips to prevent accidents.

The rush to harvest can lead to mechanical failure. Preventative maintenance is the first line of defense against farm accidents. Ideally, do daily inspections of equipment and perform a rigorous inspection of fluid levels, belts, tire pressure, and mirrors. Ensure all Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) and Power Take-Off (PTO) shields are fully intact and locked in place. Never operate machinery with missing safety guards. Remove dry chaff, dust, and crop buildup from engines and bearings regularly. This buildup creates fire hazards when exposed to extreme mechanical heat. Keep an updated, fully charged fire extinguisher in every tractor and combine cab.

Most harvest injuries happen when operators attempt to clear blockages or fix minor breakdowns while the machine is running. Shut equipment down or off before clearing a plugged combine, header, or auger; and completely shut down the engine, engage the parking brake, and remove the key. Never assume a machine is safe just because it is idling. Never rely solely on a machine's hydraulic system to support weight while working beneath it. Always use mechanical safety props or blocks to secure headers or raised equipment. It is easy to get caught in equipment when it is running or raised.

Moving oversized, slow-moving vehicles onto public roads requires extreme caution, particularly during low-light dawn and dusk hours. Clean all headlights, taillights, and flashers daily. Ensure clean, highly visible Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblems are centered on the back of all towed implements. Apply reflective tape to machines to make them stand out to impatient people on the road. Use flashing lights when loading grain onto implements on the road. Whenever possible, plan equipment transfers to avoid peak local traffic hours, such as the morning and afternoon school bus commutes.

When moving equipment, Transport combine heads separately on their own trailers rather than driving down narrow public roads with an extra-wide implement. Some newer combine headers now fold and stack up. Grain bins can become deathtraps in a matter of seconds. Flowing grain can completely submerge an adult or child in less than 25 seconds, leading to immediate suffocation. Never enter a grain bin while the unloading auger is running or has the potential to start. Lock out the electrical power supply before stepping inside. Also, never enter a grain storage bin alone. Always have an observer posted outside the bin door who maintains constant visual or radio contact. High amounts of mold, dust, and gasses gather in grain structures. Wear an approved respirator or heavy-duty dust mask to prevent respiratory distress or long-term lung damage.

The most common cause of harvest errors is physical and mental exhaustion. Working long hours per day drastically degrades reaction times. No matter how tight the weather window is, take time for rest breaks. A well-rested brain can spot hazards that an exhausted brain will completely overlook. Avoid relying on excessive caffeine, sugary energy drinks, or processed snacks to stay awake. Drink plenty of water and eat consistent, balanced meals to prevent blood sugar crashes and dehydration. Step out of the cab for a few minutes every few hours to stretch your legs, get fresh air, and to reset your brain.

Farms are fast moving and hectic, but they pose significant threats to young children and visitors. Enforce a strict rule that children must play in fenced yards or spaces far away from active fields work and grain transfer areas. Do not allow children or extra farmhands to ride along on tractor fenders, hitches, or implements unless they are strapped in with a seatbelt.

In case of accidents, ensure every field worker knows the location for every single field being worked. It's a good idea to have a list of emergency numbers in a manual on major equipment so that emergency help can be reached quickly.

This time of year, its also good to watch out for wildlife. The does are rutting and the bucks are looking for mates. Often combines flush not only deer but coyotes, fox, rabbits, raccoons, possum, and birds from fields as they harvest the crop. Often farmers flush wildlife out on the last rounds. This can cause animals to run onto the road or into oncoming traffic. Let's have a safe and productive harvest.

—James J. Hoorman
Hoorman Soil Health
Services

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

A letter sent home
March 6, 1945

My uncle Ray E. Keck, my mom's brother, served in the Philippines during World War Two. This letter was sent to my grandfather, Orvel L. Keck.

"Hello Dad, How's everything going back home? All right I hope. I'm feeling fine and am getting along very well at present.

"Well I suppose the fox hunting will be over by the time you receive this letter. You fellows must have had quite a time catching them! I hope that all that you don't kill will leave for if they stay around there in a few years there won't be any ringnecks or cottontails at all.

"So Brownie went to his happy hunting grounds, right. [that was my mom's dog] I sure hated to hear that. If I stay over here a couple more years I'll be a complete stranger when I return. I had a couple of pictures taken the other day so when I get the prints made I'll send one.

"It's the same fellow all right only a little older. According to the last picture that Joy sent me she has really changed a lot. [Joy is my mom's sister] I'm sorry to say that all my pictures were destroyed. My barracks bag got wet and it sure raised hell with my personal things.

"Well dad I sure have come a long ways during the past year or so.

Guadalcanal, Bougainville, New Britain, Admiralty's and New Guinea.In a lot of ways those places are the same.

I miss seeing the old volcano every day like when I was on Bougainville. The Philippines wouldn't be such a place to live in peacetime especially if a fellow had plenty of money so he wouldn't have to work. In time to come it will be as a modern as the U.S. I think.

One thing I notice a lot is the women carrying big loads on their heads.

Instead of carrying it in their hands. They balance it on the top of their heads and believe me they carry a lot.

The young girls are nice looking however due to the hard work they grow old too fast. As a rule I think they have much better posture than the average American girl. Well dad, I guess your Christmas package must have been lost for as yet I have nothing of it. It's just one of those things I guess!

Roy [my mom's other brother] must have moved somewhere else or maybe he is pretty busy in either case he hasn't written to me for a long time. I wrote and told him I was on the Philippines so maybe if he is here somewhere he will try to look me up. It would be very easy for him to find me, for all of the M.P. units are known all over the Island's.

I'm enclosing some Jap money that they used in their invasion of the Philippines it's worthless for it has no backing in gold or silver. They just needed a lot of paper and ink to make millions of dollars' worth of it.

Well I see it's time for me to get ready to go on duty so I'll have to sign off for this time. Saying so long dad, keep those letters coming."

As ever your son, Ray"

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ONLY SHE KNOWS

Last week's story in the West Bend News about the little girl that was hungry is one of the best that I ever read in some time. Many questions come to my mind from this article.

Perhaps the first thing is why are not Christians checking on our neighbors? An incident happened in 1934 in Grabill that still has me wondering. An entire family of 12 children were killed on the railroad track. There was much speculation as to what might have happened, and I still wonder.

They found that their little cabin had no food in it. They'd gone that day to eat with their aunt, so I guess they were not going to be hungry for a while. I just wonder why no neighbors knew that they were in such dire circumstances.

I consider Grabill to be a town of churches, especially in those days.

Churches in those days had three services, two on Sunday and one on Wednesday night. The people were so serious about their religion that the town closed Wednesday afternoon to prepare for Wednesday evening prayer meeting. I would compare them to the Pilgrims or the Quakers.

But in recent times this came closer to home. I had a buddy that went to our church. He was quite talented and had been quite successful in life but in his book he wrote that he went home one day and there was no food in the house. I can't believe I didn't know. I knew his dad had a struggle to make ends meet but I had no idea that they were in such dire circumstances.

I can't believe somebody in our church didn't help them. He tells in his book that one of our church members gave his dad a dollar, which they took as an insult. Perhaps in those days one didn't ask for help. I saw this boy at church and was at his house many times and it was a kind of a shock to learn of their circumstance.

The train accident made world headlines and they said Hitler made comment of it. 14 people are buried in a mass grave in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in New Haven, Indiana. I went looking for this grave. I found a lady that knows the story of everyone buried there, but she's not telling. She stands on top of a mausoleum in the heart of the cemetery.

I never did find the grave of that family but after meeting the lady I wasn't interested anymore. There are many things that happen that we will never know exactly what took place or the motive behind it. Only Judge Judy can tell what your motive in doing something was.

—James Neuhouser

PRESIDENT GRANTS DISASTER DECLARATION FOR STATE OF OHIO AFTER HUSTED, OHIO DELEGATION REQUEST

Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio) today praised President Donald Trump's announcement that he will grant the state of Ohio a major disaster declaration following devastating damage caused by severe storms that moved through Ohio from August 10 to 23, 2026.

The announcement comes after Husted helped lead the effort requesting an expedited disaster declaration from Trump and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"Ohioans have been hit hard by these storms, and I'm grateful to President Trump and the administration for acting quickly to provide Ohio with federal assistance. I'll continue pushing to make sure Ohioans have the support to recover and rebuild," said Husted.

Federal assistance is necessary to supplement the efforts and resources available to the state, local governments and disaster relief organizations as Ohio communities recover from the storm damage.

Husted also sent a letter to FEMA Administrator Cameron Hamilton and U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Kelly Loeffler requesting they begin conducting damage assessments in Ohio as soon as possible due to the repetitive and ongoing storm impacts.

ACPL CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS WITH COMMUNITY OFRENDA AND HANDS-ON PROGRAMS ACROSS ALLEN COUNTY

Since the kickoff of Hispanic Heritage Month on September 15, the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) has offered programs celebrating Hispanic and Latine culture, and that programming continues through Día de los Muertos. The remaining activities include craft workshops at locations across the county, a community ofrenda, and a virtual program on honoring loved ones. All are free and open to the community.

Community Ofrenda

An ofrenda is an altar created to honor and remember loved ones who have passed. ACPL invites community members to submit a photo of a loved one for the Community Ofrenda, either in person at the Main Library's Genealogy Center or virtually, from now through October 15. The Community Ofrenda will be on display at the Main Library October 27 through November 2. Virtual submissions can be shared at acpl.info/ofrenda.

Upcoming Programs

Papel Picado – Create a papel picado and learn about Dia de los Muertos at the Dupont Branch on October 6 at 6 p.m. and the Main Library on October 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Cempasúchil/Paper Marigolds All Abilities Club – Adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their caregivers are invited to make a paper cempasúchil bouquet at the New Haven Branch on October 26 at 1 p.m.

Sugar Skulls – Decorate your own sugar skull and learn about the significance to Dia de los Muertos.

- Little Turtle Branch – October 13, 7:00 p.m., and October 15, 10:30 a.m.
- Waynedale Branch – October 15, 6:30 p.m.
- Tecumseh Branch – October 19, 1:30 p.m.

Sugar Skull Print & Paint with Artist Emily Guerrero at the Pontiac Branch on October 2 at 4:30 p.m. and the Georgetown Branch on October 15 at 3:00 p.m.

Sugar Skull Canvas Painting at the Aboite Branch on October 12 at 7:00 p.m. and the Grabill Branch on October 16 at 10:30 a.m.

DIY Box Ofrendas – Grades 7-12 learn about Día de los Muertos and make a miniature ofrenda to celebrate and honor your loved ones.

- Monroeville Branch – October 26, 4:00 p.m.
- Pontiac Branch – October 27, 4:30 p.m.
- Tecumseh Branch – October 28, 3:30 p.m.
- Little Turtle Branch – October 29, 4:00 p.m.
- Main Library – October 29, 4:00 p.m.

Honoring Loved Ones – Virtual program exploring the history and traditions of Día de los Angelitos (Day of the Little Angels), Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), and the meaningful symbolism of "ofrendas" on October 31 at 10:00 a.m.

Register for these programs, and more, at acpl.info/events.

DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE #2094 SUPPORTS D.A.S.H. 5K WITH $1,000 DONATION



Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 recently donated $1,000 to D.A.S.H. to support its upcoming 5K race, scheduled for October 17.

The gift was made through the Moose Lodge's charitable fund held under the umbrella of the Defiance Area Foundation. Through the fund, Moose Lodge #2094 continues to invest in local organizations, programs and events throughout the community.

Pictured above are (l-r) Nick Jones, President of D.A.S.H., and Marilyn Clay, Moose Lodge #2094 Chaplain.

DPLS FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET OCT. 13

The Finance Committee of the Defiance Public Library System Board of Trustees will hold its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026, at Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., Defiance, OH, beginning at 4 p.m. to review the September financial reports. Meetings of the board and its committees are open to the public.

PATROL INVESTIGATING SERIOUS INJURY CRASH ON STATE ROUTE 576

The Defiance Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a two-vehicle crash that occurred in Center Township, Williams County. The crash occurred at the intersection of State Route 576 and County Road D at 2:07 p.m.

The preliminary investigation revealed that a 2010 Ford Fusion was turning left from County Road D to head north. A 2026 Harley Davidson motorcycle was southbound on State Route 576. The driver of the 2010 Ford Fusion failed to yield the right of way from a stop sign and was struck by the 2026 Harley Davidson motorcycle.

The Ford Fusion was operated by Ethan A. Siebenaler, age 23 of West Unity. Mr. Siebenaler was not wearing his safety belt at the time of the crash. Mr. Siebenaler sought his own treatment at Bryan Community Hospital for minor injuries.

The Harley Davidson was operated by Eugene A Gingerich, age 55, of Sturgis, Michigan. Mr. Gingerich was transported by Life Flight to Mercy Health Saint Vincent Hospital for serious injuries. Mr. Gingerich was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. Katie L. Kitch, age 44, of Constantine, Michigan was a passenger on the Harley Davidson motorcycle. Mrs. Kitch was transported by Samaritan Air to Parkview Regional Medical from the scene with serious injuries. Mrs. Kitch was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted at the scene by the Williams County Sheriff's Office, Bryan City Fire Department, Wiliams County EMS, Life Flight, Samaritan Air and John's Towing.

This crash remains under investigation.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol wants to remind motorists to be aware of motorcyclists and to always wear your safety belt.

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The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

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

There are two basic services the agency provides:

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

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

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

Our office hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Arrangements can be made for after office hours appointments
Any questions, please call 419-399-8285

Editor's Note: We here at the West Bend News allow "Letters to the Editor" because we believe there is a Constitutional right to freedom of\ speech. Nevertheless, we do not necessarily concur with the content that has been printed. We are just the messengers. However, any letters that attack a person, or attempt to justify a physical attack that took place will not be considered. Keep your opinion to the discussion only. The name of the person who wrote the letter is placed at the end of each article along with the town of residence. ***To be considered for publication, you must live in our readership area. Letters must be no longer than 1000 words, and you must provide your legal name along with a phone number and address.*** *You can submit a letter in person at our office, by email, mail or fax.*

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

email:
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USPS: West Bend News
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Antwerp, OH 45813

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I believe the residents of Ohio House District 82 deserve to be heard. That's why I've launched Voice of the Voter, a program that gives residents a direct way to share their concerns, experiences, and questions with me.

If you live in our district in Van Wert, Defiance, Paulding, or Putnam County, I want to hear what's affecting you and your family, what issues you feel are being overlooked, and what you want your representative to understand.

Everyone is welcome to participate, regardless of political affiliation. We don't have to agree on every issue for me to listen and take your concerns seriously.

You can email me at madduxmccrayforohio.votv@gmail.com. I won't publish your full name or use it in campaign commentary. If I discuss something you've shared publicly, I'll use only your first name.

Hearing from you will help me better understand our communities and the priorities you want addressed at the Statehouse. Listening and being accessible should be an ongoing responsibility that extends beyond election season.

—Maddux McCray,
Van Wert; Candidate for
Ohio House District 82

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am the last person in the Paulding School District who should vote for the school levy. I am a senior citizen. I have no children, grandchildren or great grandchildren who will ever live in the Paulding School District. I own farmland on which I pay property taxes. Yet I am voting for the levy and urge you to do the same.

I grew up on a farm near Charloe. My sisters and I graduated from Oakwood. My brother graduated from Paulding. We all received an education which equipped us for adulthood yet at the same time provided us with fond, lasting memories. For me it is "pay back" time. I want your children and grandchildren to have those same positive experiences.

As a school district that includes much of our county's history we have done a magnificent job of preserving that history. The museum complex on Fairground Drive is fantastic! We have banners, memorials and historical markers on almost every corner. I am very grateful for all of those people who have passed through. However we seem to be so absorbed in the glories of the past we have forgotten for what those who came before us fought. It is up to us living in the present to continue fighting for quality of life for the present and future generations. Join me in continuing the tradition. Vote "yes" with me for your children, your grandchildren and the future. Vote "yes" for the Paulding District School levy.

My grandson and his young family recently relocated from a busy suburban area. They wanted to raise their children in a more rural setting. I asked him what they looked for when searching for a new home.

"The first thing we checked was the school system," he replied.

—Linda Kohart Hodges,
Oakwood, OH

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a Paulding graduate and the mother of two boys currently attending Paulding schools, I will proudly be voting YES on the Paulding School levy.

Paulding isn't just where I went to school. It's home.

After graduating from Paulding, I left to attend The Ohio State University in Columbus. Like many young people, I had the opportunity to experience life beyond our small town. But no matter where life took me, I always knew I wanted to come back. I wanted to raise my family in Paulding. I wanted my children to have the same opportunities, values, and sense of community that shaped me.

The lessons I learned here went far beyond academics. Paulding Schools helped teach me responsibility, perseverance, teamwork, and what it means to belong to a community that cares about one another.

Those lessons helped make me who I am today.

Now I have the privilege of watching my own children walk those same hallways and learn those same values. That's why this levy is personal for me.

What saddens me most is not just that the levy has failed before. It's the message that sends to our kids. In a community that has always been known for stepping up when people are struggling, rallying behind local organizations, and supporting neighbors in times of need, I want our students to know that we will show up for them too.

Every day, I see the incredible things our young people do. They represent this community through academics, athletics, clubs, service projects, and volunteer work. They give back. They make us proud. They deserve to know that the community they work so hard to represent believes in them.

I've even had people from outside our district tell me they cannot believe our levy has not passed. Meanwhile, misinformation continues to spread, creating confusion and division. That's disappointing because Paulding is better than that. We are strongest when we come together.

For me, a yes vote is about more than a levy. It's about showing our children what is possible when a community stands united. It's about telling them, "We believe in you. We support you. We're behind you."

The students of Paulding are watching. They are learning from the example we set. I want them to see a community that chooses hope over division, unity over negativity, and investment over indifference.

I came back to Paulding because I believe in this community. I believe Paulding is at its best when we come together for one another.

On Election Day, we have an opportunity to show our children exactly who we are. We can show them that when something matters, this community stands up. We can show them that they are worth believing in, worth supporting, and worth fighting for.

I am voting YES for my children, for every child in our district, and for the future of the community I am proud to call home. I hope you'll join me in voting YES for Paulding Schools.

—Stephanie Wolfle,
Paulding Graduate and
Proud Parent of two Paulding Students

USDA ANNOUNCES 2027 DAIRY MARGIN COVERAGE ENROLLMENT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that dairy producers starting next Monday can enroll for 2027 Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC), a voluntary risk management program that was recently strengthened by the Working Families Tax Cuts Act with greater risk protection for dairy producers. DMC enrollment for 2027 starts Oct. 5 and runs through Dec. 18, 2026.

"Putting farmers first means making sure dairy producers have practical tools to protect their operations when markets fluctuate," said FSA Administrator Bill Beam. "Dairy Margin Coverage provides an affordable layer of protection when margins tighten, helping producers manage risk and keep their operations on solid ground."

DMC provides financial protection when the difference between the national all-milk price and average feed cost falls below a producer-selected coverage level.

The Working Families Tax Cut Act reauthorized DMC through 2031 and strengthened the program to provide dairy producers with greater risk protection. These improvements took effect beginning with the 2026 program year and expanded the amount of production eligible for Tier 1 protection from five to six million pounds, updated production histories to better reflect current dairy operations, and provided producers with an opportunity to secure coverage through 2031 at a 25% reduced premium cost.

By protecting against periods of tighter margins, DMC provides an additional measure of financial stability and helps producers manage cash flow when milk prices, feed costs or a combination of the two put pressure on their operations. DMC payments trigger when the national dairy margin falls below a participating operation's selected coverage level.

2027 Enrollment

Producers can select DMC coverage levels ranging from $4.00 to $9.50 per hundredweight. DMC includes a catastrophic level of coverage available at no premium cost, although an annual $100 administrative fee generally applies. Producers may also purchase higher levels of coverage to provide additional protection against declining margins.

Dairy producers should evaluate their operation's risk management needs when selecting a coverage level. USDA provides an online dairy decision tool. Producers should contact their local FSA county office to enroll in DMC for the 2027 program year.

Producers who previously elected the multi-year DMC option for 2026 through 2031 are reminded that they must still certify to commercially market milk, sign a DMC contract, and pay the $100 administrative fee for each program year to maintain coverage. These producers will continue at the coverage level and percentage selected under their multi-year election and receive the 25% premium discount.

More Information

For more information about DMC, including current program information and DMC margins, dairy producers can visit fsa.usda.gov/dmc or contact their local FSA county office.

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READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS

Antwerp: Antwerp Library, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Antwerp Manor, Dollar General, Family Dollar, G-Mart, Genesis House, H20 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, Utilties 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, Sailers, Senior Center, Shell Station, Vancrest, Village offices

Ney: Marathon

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

Paulding: Ace Hardware, Bargain Bin, Board of Elections, Chief, Corner Market, Courthouse, Dairy Queen, Dollar General, Gardens of Paulding, Holly, Wood & Vine, Integrity Ford, Kwik Mart, Maramart, Napa Do It Best, PC Sheriff Office, PCH, PC Carnegie Library, Stykemain,VFW Post 587

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

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

Scott: Scott Post Office

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

INDIANA LOCATIONS

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

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

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

Hoagland: Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market

Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain

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

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

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

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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.

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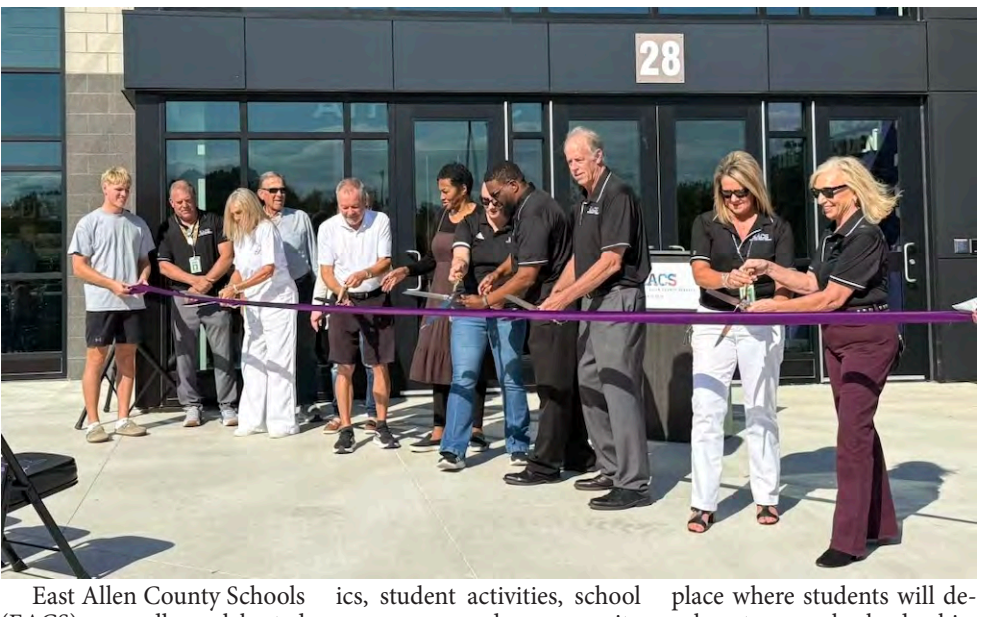
EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF NEW LEO FIELDHOUSE WITH RIBBON CUTTING



East Allen County Schools (EACS) proudly celebrated the official ribbon cutting of the new Leo Fieldhouse on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, marking an exciting and historic milestone for the Leo community and the entire EACS district.

The new state-of-the-art fieldhouse represents EACS' continued commitment to providing outstanding facilities and opportunities that support students, staff, and the community. This impressive addition to Leo Jr./Sr. High School will serve as a valuable resource for athletics, student activities, school programs, and community events for generations to come.

The ribbon cutting ceremony brought together district leadership, school board members, local dignitaries, staff, students, and community supporters to celebrate this remarkable achievement and the bright future it represents.

More than just a building, the new Leo Fieldhouse represents an investment in students, a commitment to excellence, and a lasting legacy for the Leo community. It is a place where students will develop teamwork, leadership, discipline, and school pride while creating memories that will last a lifetime.

East Allen County Schools extends its sincere appreciation to everyone whose vision, dedication, and support helped make this project a reality.

As EACS continues to grow and enhance educational opportunities throughout the district, the new Leo Fieldhouse stands as another example of its commitment to Educating ALL students for success.

MEDALS, PRS AND STRONG FINISHES HIGHLIGHT BULLDOG INVITATIONAL

EDGERTON – Area cross country teams from Antwerp, Hicksville, Paulding and Wayne Trace converged on Edgerton Saturday, October 3, for the Bulldog Invitational, with runners competing across junior high and high school divisions.

The junior high girls opened the day, with Antwerp turning in a strong fourth-place team finish out of 17 schools. Jocelyn Laker led the Archers in 19th place, followed by Destiny Getz, Olivia Kosch, Josie Laker and Quinne Bradbury.

Hicksville's junior high girls placed sixth out of 15 teams. Quinn Haggerty led the Aces with an outstanding third-place finish in 13:06, followed immediately by Chloe Laker in fourth at 13:09. Eden Campbell was 39th in 16:20, Ahna Combs placed 53rd in 18:16 and Madi Brown finished 56th in 19:03.

Wayne Trace finished seventh out of 15 teams in the junior high girls race. Lydia Shepherd led the Raiders with a 14th-place finish in 14:01 to earn medalist honors while also recording a career best. Lydia Benschneider followed in 17th at 14:25, Emma Hartwig was 36th in 16:10, Adley Morehead placed 45th in 16:59 and Sophia Kurtz took 49th in 17:45.

In the junior high boys race, Antwerp captured third place as a team. Julian Rivera paced the Archers with a 15th-place finish, followed by Quintin Reyes, Bennett Graham, Cy Zuber, Brock Barker, Luke Saylor and Avett Clem.

Hicksville took fourth out of 17 teams. Liam Altman led the Aces with a runner-up finish in 11:34, with Waylon Hilty right behind him in third at 11:42. Kip Scott finished 33rd in 14:02, Nolan Enderle was 52nd in 16:47 with a personal record, and Brantley Sleesman placed 54th in 17:04.

Wayne Trace was represented by Devon Tumblin, who finished 17th in 12:47 and recorded a career-best performance.

The high school girls followed, with Antwerp placing seventh as a team. Gianna Laker led the Lady Archers with an eighth-place finish. Gabriella Snyder, Emily Laker, Kora Zuber, Brooklynn Lawson, Aleta Sorrell, Annaliese Zijlstra, Heidi Rice and Annabelle Mowery followed for Antwerp.

Hicksville finished eighth out of 17 teams. Mya Haggerty led the Aces in 20th place with a time of 22:53. Braelyn Adams was 37th in 24:00, Vaida Van Horn placed 44th in 24:37 with a personal record, Trinity Campbell was 61st in 26:11, Anna Saunders finished 71st in 26:52, Nevaeh Phillips took 81st in a personal-best 28:07, Aliya Neace was 92nd in 29:39 and Valeria Tomas placed 100th in 33:07.

Wayne Trace placed fifth out of 17 teams. Avery Welch led the Raiders with a 17th-place finish in 22:46, earning medalist honors and a career best. Ellie Kurtz followed in 27th at 23:08, Jenna Kipfer was 38th in 24:01, Elynn Clemens placed 40th in 24:13 and Lauren Kipfer was 41st in 24:17 with a career best. Addilynn Gerardot finished 48th, Kenzie Manz 53rd, Maddie Morehead 55th, Isabel Gilbert 80th with a season best, Faith Jacobs 86th and MaKenna Schilt 98th. Zoey Schnipke also competed for the Raiders.

The high school boys rounded out the meet. Antwerp finished eighth as a team, led by Jason McKay in 27th place. Braxton Peters, Marshall Rice, Tucker Doster, Gage Barker, Aiden Hook, Kahne Moore and Krayston Eicher completed the Archers' lineup.

Hicksville turned in a fourth-place finish out of 18 teams. Zephraim Rittenhouse led the Aces with a 10th-place finish and personal-record time of 17:00. Alex Franklin was 17th in 17:35, Jonah Laker placed 23rd in 17:57, Caleb Franklin was 29th in 18:24, Greyson Combs finished 34th in 18:38 and Clay Marshman was 35th in 18:39. Kaleb Rost placed 42nd, Vincent Van Horn 45th, Noah Campbell 59th, Brody Gonzales 81st, Colton Fisher 84th, Connor Myers 88th with a personal record, Jacoby Campbell 96th, Hayden Huber 97th, Braylon Sanders 109th and Aiden Wonderly 111th with a personal record.

Wayne Trace finished seventh out of 18 teams. Jaxon Cook led the Raiders in 21st place with a season-best 17:49 and earned medalist honors. Eli Treece was 37th in 18:46, Jerrick Johnson placed 38th in a career-best 18:47 and Wyatt Head was 44th with a career-best 19:00. Nathan Benschneider also recorded a career best, finishing 77th in 20:33. Kamden Fore placed 106th in 23:40 and Evan Benschneider was 118th in 28:01.

Paulding also brought home three medals from the boys competition. Landon led the Panthers with an eighth-place finish, while Achilles crossed the line in 14th and Leonel followed closely in 15th, giving Paulding three medalists on the day.

PAULDING FFA CHAPTER KICKS OFF ITS ANNUAL FRUIT FUNDRAISER!



Pictured here left to right is Paulding FFA members Lane Sprow and Carlie Lero looking over the fruit sale items the Paulding FFA will be offering to the community.

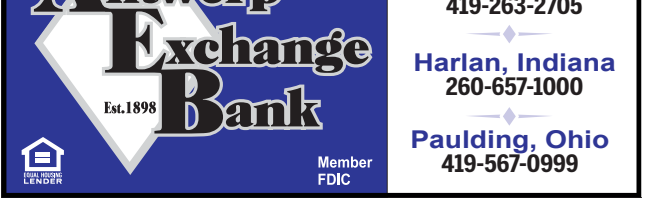
By: Makenna Manz, Paulding FFA Reporter

It's that time of year again, the Paulding FFA is starting their annual fruit fundraiser. The event kicked off on Thursday, October 8th, and will end October 30th when all orders must be put in the google form by the Paulding FFA member. Our members will be offering citrus fruit, nuts, Ohio apples, BBQ sauce, beef jerky, pineapples and butter braids.

This year, the chapter will also be offering new types of beef jerky. This is one of the Paulding FFA Chapter's largest fundraisers with all proceeds going to benefit the chapter and its members.

If interested in some fruit or other items please contact the Paulding FFA Chapter Ag department at 419-399-4656, extension 1170, or one of your local Paulding FFA members.

The items will come in and be delivered the week of December 2nd. We want to thank the community in advance for their continued support of our Paulding FFA Chapter.



LADY RAIDERS BATTLE TOUGH TINORA SQUAD IN THREE-SET SETBACK AT THE PALACE



Wayne Trace is promoting breast cancer prevention at the volleyball game against Tinora. Shown here is junior Avery Noffsinger saving the ball with this dig. *More pictures at engagingexposures.com*



Young Braleigh Addington is getting in points for the Rams as she slams the ball back to the Raiders. *More pictures at engagingexposures.com*

HAVILAND, OH – The Wayne Trace Lady Raiders faced a tough challenge on their home court at The Palace on October 2, as the visiting Tinora Rams rolled to a three-set victory in volleyball action.

Tinora wasted little time establishing control, taking the opening set 25-16 before holding off Wayne Trace for a 25-19 victory in the second. The Rams continued their momentum into the third set, pulling away for a 25-14 win to complete the 3-0 sweep.

Despite the loss, several Wayne Trace players turned in solid performances. Amber Stoller led the Lady Raiders' offensive attack with 11 kills, while Brenna Beining added six kills and a service ace. Megan Parker provided a strong presence at the net, recording three blocks.

Defensively, Kinlee Miller led Wayne Trace with eight digs, while Emma Whitman and Karsyn Troth each contributed seven. Whitman also added five assists and a service ace, while Olivia Zartman directed the offense with a team-high eight assists and an ace.

Tinora's balanced offensive attack proved difficult for Wayne Trace to contain. Ella Schaublin directed the Rams' offense with an impressive 35 assists while adding five digs. Macy Behnfeldt provided strong defensive support with 17 digs and contributed five assists.

The victory improved Tinora's season record to 14-4, continuing an impressive stretch of success that has seen the Rams win 37 of their last 43 matches dating back to last season.

For Wayne Trace, the loss dropped the Lady Raiders to 4-13 on the season. Despite recent struggles on their home court, the Raiders have shown signs of improvement, posting a 3-2 record since snapping a five-match losing streak.

LADY ACES SHOW GRIT AT THE NET DESPITE TOUGH BATTLES WITH LANCERS AND PILOTS

HICKSVILLE – The Hicksville Lady Aces faced a challenging week on the volleyball court, dropping a pair of varsity matches against Lincolnview and Ayersville. Despite the setbacks, several Lady Aces delivered strong individual performances, showcasing their determination and competitive spirit.

Hicksville opened the week on October 4 against the Lincolnview Lancers, falling in straight sets, 15-25, 14-25 and 20-25. The Lady Aces showed improvement in the third set but were unable to overcome Lincolnview's attack.

Jocelyn Baldwin led Hicksville offensively with nine kills while adding two service aces, seven digs and two blocks. Mika Inkrott contributed four kills and four digs, while Liberty Doctor chipped in two kills, two aces and four digs.

Braelynn McCain helped direct the offense with 12 assists, three kills, four digs and two blocks. McKenna Baird added six assists and a team-high 13 digs, while McKenna Bergman recorded two blocks and Tori Wells finished with six digs.

The junior varsity Lady Aces battled Lincolnview in a competitive three-set contest. Hicksville claimed the opening set 25-23 before Lincolnview rallied to take the next two, 25-20 and 25-13.

On October 6, Hicksville returned to action against the Ayersville Pilots. The Lady Aces pushed Ayersville in the opening two sets but ultimately fell 23-25, 20-25 and 12-25.

Baldwin once again powered the Hicksville offense, recording a team-high 10 kills along with two blocks and 11 digs. Inkrott added six kills, while Bergman contributed five kills and six digs.

McCain turned in a strong all-around performance with 11 assists, eight digs and a team-leading five blocks. Baird dished out 10 assists while collecting 12 digs, and Wells anchored the back row with a team-high 15 digs. Doctor added three blocks to the defensive effort.

In junior varsity action, Ayersville defeated Hicksville in two sets, 25-16 and 25-9.

Although the Lady Aces came up short in both varsity contests, Baldwin's consistent offensive production, McCain's presence at the net and the team's defensive efforts highlighted a week of hard-fought competition as Hicksville continues through its October schedule.

WAYNE TRACE HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM GETS A FRESH NEW LOOK



Pictured above on the new gym floor are (l-r): Mitch Kipfer, Credit Officer; Jeff Mumma, CEO; Carina Meyer, Treasury Management Sales Specialist; Paul Jones, Superintendent Wayne Trace Local Schools; Kristen Stabler, Athletic Director Wayne Trace; Kevin Wannemacher, CFO; Steve Doster, Commercial/Ag Lender; and Mark Ferris, Senior Lender.

This summer, the Wayne Trace High School Gymnasium got a much-anticipated refresh as the gym floor was sanded and professionally refinished, giving the space a new look for our students, athletes, staff and community. The refinishing is part of the regular long term maintenance needed to preserve the gym floor and keep it in good working order. The updated finish has brought a noticeable brightness to the gymnasium, and a new design for the entire floor has given the gym an updated look.

Wayne Trace Local Schools would like to extend a sincere thank you to our gym floor sponsor, The Antwerp Exchange Bank, for their generous support and investment in this project. Their sponsorship played an important role in making the gym floor renovation possible and reflects the strong partnership between our school and local business community.

Antwerp Exchange Bank is a locally owned and operated community bank with locations in Harlan, Antwerp and Payne, and a new location now open in Paulding. Their support of this project is a great example of the impact local businesses can have when they invest in the students and communities they serve.

This project also provided an opportunity to partner with other local businesses as well. The gym floor refinishing was completed by Heritage Floors, a Putnam County business, while the floor design and layout were created by Natural Design & Graphics, a Paulding County business. Partnerships like this allow us to make improvements that directly benefit our students and our community."

The project required planning and adjustments throughout the summer and the start of the school year while the gym was out of commission. Seeing our students and community back in the gym and hearing the positive feedback on the new look has made the process well worth the wait.

"We are very excited about the finished product," said Wayne Trace Athletic Director Kristen Stabler. "This was one of my first highly visible projects as Athletic Director, and there were a lot of details and decisions that our administration worked through together throughout the process. It has been rewarding to see the finished product and, most importantly, to hear the feedback from our students and community. Their excitement about the new look has made all of the planning and decisions that went into the project worthwhile.

"I also want to thank our coaches and staff for their flexibility and patience while the gym was closed for the project. Taking the gym out of commission for several weeks required adjustments and changes to practices, classes and other activities, and we truly appreciate everyone's cooperation.

Wayne Trace Local Schools is proud to have this project completed through the support and collaboration of local businesses and community partners. We are grateful to everyone who played a part in this project.





THE LEFT TURN



Briggs Danner won the USAC Silver Crown Rollie Beale Classic. *Photo Credit: Christopher Pedersen.*

By: Ron Burt

TOLEDO, Ohio, Saturday October 4 — Doran-Swanson Racing's Briggs Danner won the Hemelgarn Racing/Super Fitness Rollie Beale Classic USAC Silver Crown season finale Saturday at Toledo Speedway in his first race ever at the famed half-mile paved oval. With the victory he clinched second place in the USAC Silver Crown Driver Championship in his first full season in the series. He and Justin Grant both finished with 557 points, but Danner won the tiebreaker because he had three wins and Grant, the series' defending champion, had none this year. Plymouth Indiana's Tyler Roahrig put pressure on Danner in the last twenty laps but couldn't make a pass for the lead and settled for 2nd. Polesitter Chase Cabre finished 3rd to get a spot on the podium.

Kody Swanson, the former driver of Briggs Danner's Silver Crown car, but now is the race director for the series, won the 500 Sprint Car Tour Feature. Kyle Crump found victory lane in the Outlaw Super Late Model Feature and Josh Bunting won in the Factory Stocks.

Montpelier Speedway IN also raced last Saturday. In the USAC Midwest Thuner Midgets, after an intense battle for the lead, Bryce Massingill went from the 9th starting spot to get the victory. Dillon Nusbaum won the UMP Modified Feature. Todd Sherman took the checkered flag in the Super Stock class. Brian Isley won in the Hornet class.

Thursday, October 8, Millstream Speedway-The fall chill was in the air tonight in Findlay, that didn't stop fans from packing the stands to see the World of Outlaw Sprint Cars for night number 1 of Sheldon Haudenschild's Buckeye Brawl. 39 World of Outlaw 410 Winged Sprints signed in to compete, and the same number of 305 Winged Sprints showed up for the support class.

The 305's qualified and then went into the feature, paying $1,200.00 to win. Findlay's own Chad Kemenah took care of business and got the win.

In the World of Outlaws tonight, Wooster Ohio's Sheldon Haudenschild had quick time 13.690. Heat race winners were Bill Balog, Michael Kofoid, Sheldon Haudenschild, and Garet Williamson. The 8 car dash was won by Michael Kofoid. Donny Schatz advanced to the feature by winning the Last Chance Showdown along with Bryce Lucius, Rickey Peterson, and Chris Andrews.

Tonight's 30 lap WoO Feature and $18,000.00 went to Michael Kofoid. Garet Williamson and David Gravel finished behind tonight's winner. This was Michael "Buddy" Kofoid's 15th victory in 2026. It was announced the proceeds from the 50/50 drawing tonight were going to Hancock County's Honor Flight.

The Buckeye Brawl will continue Friday at Mansfield Speedway and will wrap up at Sharon Speedway on Saturday. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out!

VOTERS TO DECIDE CANDIDATE RACES, STATE & LOCAL ISSUES NOV. 3

Voters in Paulding and Defiance counties will head to the polls Tuesday, Nov. 3, for the 2026 General Election, deciding races ranging from U.S. Senate and Ohio governor to county commissioners, auditors and judges. Voters will also decide State Issue 3 and a number of county, school, township and municipal issues.

Not every race or issue listed below will appear on every ballot. Congressional and Ohio House districts cross county boundaries, while township, village, city and school issues appear only in the jurisdictions affected.

STATEWIDE & FEDERAL RACES:

Ohio voters will choose a U.S. Senator in a special election for the unexpired term. Candidates are **Sherrod Brown**, Democrat; **Jon Husted**, Republican; **William B. Redpath**, Libertarian; and **Greg Levy**, other-party candidate.

For Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the tickets are **Amy Acton** and **David Pepper**, Democrats; **Vivek Ramaswamy** and **Robert A. McColley**, Republicans; and **Don Kissick** and **James L. Mills**, Libertarians.

For Attorney General, **John J. Kulewicz**, Democrat, faces **Keith Faber**, Republican.

For Auditor of State, **Annette Blackwell**, Democrat, faces **Frank LaRose**, Republican.

The Secretary of State race includes **Allison Russo**, Democrat; **Robert Sprague**, Republican; and **Tom Pruss**, Libertarian.

For Treasurer of State, **Seth Walsh**, Democrat, faces **Jay Edwards**, Republican.

Two seats on the Ohio Supreme Court are also on the ballot. For the term beginning Jan. 1, 2027, **Marilyn Zayas**, Democrat, faces **Daniel R. Hawkins**, Republican. For the term beginning Jan. 2, 2027, **Jennifer Brunner**, Democrat, faces **Colleen O'Donnell**, Republican.

CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES:

Depending on their residence, voters in the two-county area will also decide races for the U.S. House and Ohio General Assembly.

In the 5th Congressional District, candidates are **Bob Latta**, Republican; **Brian A. Shaver**, Democrat; and **Michael J. Veloff**, Libertarian.

In the 9th Congressional District, **Marcy Kaptur**, Democrat, faces **Derek Merrin**, Republican.

Craig S. Riedel, Republican, is a candidate for Ohio's 1st Senate District.

In Ohio House District 81, **David Swanson**, Democrat, faces **Patti Rockey**, Republican.

In Ohio House District 82, candidates are **Maddux McCray**, Democrat; **Christopher Elder**, Libertarian; and **Roy W. Klopfenstein**, Republican. Current 2026 election listings confirm all three candidates in the District 82 contest.

Mark C. Miller, Republican, is a candidate for the Third District Court of Appeals for the term beginning Feb. 9, 2027.

PAULDING COUNTY RACES:

For Paulding County Commissioner, Michael E. Iler, Republican, is a candidate for the full term beginning Jan. 1, 2027.

Angie G. Stoller, Republican, is a candidate for Paulding County Auditor.

Matthew Miller, Republican, is a candidate for Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney for the unexpired term ending Dec. 31, 2028.

The Paulding County Board of Elections lists its current 46-day candidate and issue notice for the Nov. 3 General Election.

DEFIANCE COUNTY RACES:

Defiance County voters have several contested county races.

For County Commissioner for the full term beginning Jan. 1, 2027, **Joe L. Eureste**, Democrat, faces **Dana E. Phipps**, Republican.

A second commissioner contest is for the unexpired term ending Jan. 2, 2029. **Mike Armstrong**, Democrat, faces **Matthew J. Koester**, Republican.

For Defiance County Auditor, **John Hancock**, Democrat, faces **Vickie S. Myers**, Republican.

Two Defiance County Common Pleas Court positions are also on the ballot.

For Judge of the Common Pleas Court, General/Domestic Relations Division, Carson Slade, Republican, is a candidate.

For Judge of the Common Pleas Court, Probate/Juvenile Division, **Tim Holtsberry**, Democrat, faces **Erin S. Strausbaugh**, Republican.

STATE ISSUE 3:

All Ohio voters will decide State Issue 3, a proposed constitutional amendment concerning voter identification.

The proposal would add a photo-identification requirement to the Ohio Constitution. Among other provisions, it would require voters to present an approved form of government-issued photo identification in order to vote and establish provisions for identity verification when voting by other methods.

Ohio already requires approved photo identification for in-person voting under state law. Therefore, a major effect of Issue 3 would be placing the requirement into the Ohio Constitution rather than leaving it solely in statute.

A YES vote approves the constitutional amendment. A NO vote rejects the amendment; rejection would not by itself repeal Ohio's existing statutory voter-ID requirements.

PAULDING COUNTY ISSUES:

Several local issues will appear on ballots in portions of Paulding County.

Grover Hill Village voters will consider a five-year, 0.5-mill renewal levy for emergency medical services.

Village of Paulding voters will consider an additional 0.10% municipal income tax for five years for street construction, reconstruction, repair, maintenance and related street infrastructure.

Paulding Village voters will also consider a separate additional 0.10% municipal income tax for five years for acquisition, construction, improvements, repairs, operation, maintenance and equipment for the village swimming pool and related facilities.

Jackson Township voters will consider a five-year, 0.6-mill renewal levy for fire protection.

Latty Township voters will consider an additional five-year, 1.25-mill levy for fire protection and related fire and rescue services.

Washington Township voters will consider a five-year, 1-mill renewal levy for fire protection.

Paulding Exempted Village School District voters will consider an additional 0.75% school district income tax for five years for permanent improvements.

DEFIANCE COUNTY AND AREA ISSUES:

Defiance County voters will consider a renewal and increase levy for the **Defiance Public Library System**. The proposal renews 0.75 mill and increases the levy by 0.9 mill, for a total of 1.65 mills, for current expenses of the library system. The levy would run for five years, commencing in 2026 and first due in 2027.

Voters within the Four County **Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services** district — consisting of Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams counties — will consider a renewal of the Four County ADAMhs levy. The proposal is a five-year renewal at a rate not exceeding 0.7 mill for current expenses, commencing in 2027 and first due in 2028.

City of Defiance voters will decide a proposed charter amendment adding **Section 1.12 to Article I** of the city charter. The proposal would prohibit construction of a data center within the city as defined by the amendment. The definition includes one or more buildings or physical facilities primarily used to continuously process digital information and having an aggregate monthly demand or peak load of greater than 25 megawatts.

Hicksville Village voters will consider a five-year, 2-mill renewal levy for fire protection and emergency medical services.

Washington Township voters will consider a five-year, 1.5-mill renewal levy for fire protection.

Central Local School District voters will consider a five-year, 2.57-mill renewal levy for current expenses.

Ayersville Local School District voters will consider a five-year, 1.3-mill renewal levy for current expenses.

Northeastern Local School District voters will consider a 9.9-mill renewal levy for current expenses for 10 years.

CHECK YOUR INDIVIDUAL BALLOT

Because district and jurisdiction boundaries vary, voters should check their individual sample ballot before Election Day. The Paulding County Board of Elections' ballot display was updated Sept. 10 and provides individual ballot styles for the county.

The voter registration deadline for the Nov. 3 election is Monday, Oct. 5. The Paulding County Board of Elections confirms that deadline and lists current election information for the General Election.

Polls will be open Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

NORTHWEST STATE INVITES PUBLIC TO "DISCOVER NSCC" OPEN HOUSE ON NOVEMBER 7 IN ARCHBOLD



Archbold, Ohio – Northwest State Community College has proudly served northwest Ohio for nearly 60 years, and continues to evolve and develop to this day. Area employers continue to count on NSCC to help develop and train a skilled workforce for the region. Learners choose NSCC for its high-quality and affordable education, training and services. Discover NSCC Day on Saturday, November 7 from 10:00 - 1:00 p.m. at the Archbold Campus provides a great way for everyone to explore how the College can help connect students to education, training, and ultimately access to career and/or further education opportunities.

"A GREAT DAY TO DISCOVER NSCC"

Brittany Thompson, NSCC Executive Director of Enrollment Management, said "Discover NSCC provides the perfect opportunity for prospective students and community members to explore all that NSCC has to offer. From tours to information sessions, the entire college will be alive and ready to assist with any questions or next steps that future students want to take. The day is designed as a fun and relaxed open house where prospective students and their family members can attend and experience everything they need to in order to make a decision about attending NSCC."

SO MUCH TO DO!

Discover NSCC Day has activities for all ages, including interactive activities, campus tours and more! Learners of all ages can connect with student service groups such as Admissions, Advising, Financial Aid, student organizations, and many others. Our student service groups can help answer your questions about getting started, developing your plan, and achieving your goals. During the event, guests can enter to win prizes, including a chance to win a $500 NSCC scholarship!

Discover NSCC Day is a free event, and is open to the public. For more information on the event, visit NorthwestState.edu or call the NSCC Admissions Office today at 419.267.1320.



KLOPFENSTEIN REPAIR
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
657-5700 shop
19718 Notestine Road
Woodburn, IN 46797

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


EACS HONORS FORMER BOARD MEMBER TERRY JO LIGHTFOOT WITH DEDICATION OF NEW LEO FIELDHOUSE



East Allen County Schools (EACS) proudly honored former Board of School Trustees member Terry Jo Lightfoot during the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Leo Fieldhouse, officially dedicating the state-of-the-art facility in recognition of her more than 20 years of outstanding service, unwavering leadership, and extraordinary commitment to East Allen County Schools and the Leo community.

Throughout her years of dedicated service, Lightfoot demonstrated a deep passion for public education, a steadfast commitment to student success, and a genuine love for the community she so faithfully served. Her leadership, vision, and tireless advocacy have enriched the lives of countless students, staff, families, and residents throughout the district.

Terry Jo Lightfoot's legacy is not simply measured by the number of years she served, but by the countless lives she touched, the relationships she built, and the lasting difference she made.

The dedication of the new Leo Fieldhouse serves as a fitting and lasting tribute to a woman whose commitment to education and community has helped shape the future of East Allen County Schools.

For generations to come, this facility will stand as a reminder of her dedication, service, and belief in creating opportunities for ALL students.

East Allen County Schools extends its heartfelt appreciation to Terry Jo Lightfoot for her remarkable years of service and the enduring impact she has made on the district and the Leo community.

While her years of service on the Board may have come to an end, her legacy will continue to inspire generations of students who walk through the doors of the new Leo Fieldhouse.

Thank you, Terry Jo Lightfoot, for more than two decades of service, leadership, and love for the EACS community. Your legacy will live on!

PAULDING COUNTY PROBATE COURT MARRIAGE APPLICATION

Julie Lee Thome (54), Oakwood, OH, Labor; Robert Franklin Manns (62), Oakwood, OH, Director

PAULDING COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTS 11 INDIVIDUALS ON OCT. 8

Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Miller announced that the Paulding County Grand Jury indicted (11) persons on Thursday, October 8, 2026.

Katherine Rose-Marie Pessefall, Paulding, OH – Aggravated Possession of Drugs, a fifth-degree felony.

Rod Evon Elkins, Paulding, OH – Two counts of Sexual Battery, a second-degree felony and a fourth-degree felony; and two counts of Pandering Sexually-Oriented Matter Involving a Minor or Impaired Person, both second-degree felonies.

James Ramone Holloway, Cleveland, OH – Theft, a fifth-degree felony.

Jeremy Ray Seibert, Paulding, OH – Rape, a first-degree felony; and Sexual Battery, a second-degree felony.

Kevin Walter Carlisle, Grover Hill, OH – Two counts of Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs, both second-degree felonies.

Curtis Milo Mowery, Paulding, OH – Aggravated Possession of Drugs, a fifth-degree felony.

Jeremy Earl Shaffer, Oakwood, OH – Having Weapons While Under Disability, a third-degree felony, with a specification for forfeiture of a weapon.

Amber Rae Gyetvai, Oakwood, OH – Aggravated Possession of Drugs, a fifth-degree felony.

Stephanie Renee Kremer, Paulding, OH – Possession of Cocaine, a fifth-degree felony.

Codie Lee Shirk, Defiance, OH – Aggravated Possession of Drugs, a fifth-degree felony.

Terrance Jamz Landwehr, Paulding, OH – Domestic Violence, a third-degree felony.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct and does not constitute a finding of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES MANUFACTURING MONTH AND CONNECTS STUDENTS WITH IN-DEMAND CAREERS

Archbold, Ohio – Northwest State Community College is joining manufacturers, educators, and workforce partners across Ohio and the nation in celebrating Manufacturing Month this October while highlighting pathways into in-demand careers.

Gov. Mike DeWine has proclaimed October as Manufacturing Month in Ohio, joining the nationwide observance underscoring the importance of modern manufacturing and the need to prepare the next generation of skilled workers.

Manufacturing Day, or MFG Day, encourages manufacturers and educational institutions to open their doors to students, families, educators, and community leaders to showcase modern manufacturing. MFG Day will be observed Friday, Oct. 2, with events continuing throughout the month.

Manufacturing remains the backbone of Ohio's economy, with the sector generating $137.9 billion in manufacturing GDP in 2024 and employing more than 687,000 Ohioans in 2023, according to the Ohio Manufacturers' Association's (OMA) 2025 Ohio Manufacturing Counts report. Ohio ranks fifth nationally in manufacturing output and third in manufacturing employment.

The industry's workforce need is just as significant, with approximately 35,000 new entry-level operators and mid-level technicians required each year to support continued investment and growth, according to the OMA. Ohio's 22 community colleges are helping answer that call by providing affordable, hands-on education and training aligned with local employers. Together, the colleges serve nearly 250,000 Ohioans annually and maintain more than 1,000 employer partnerships.

"Ohio manufacturers need a strong pipeline of people with the skills to step into good careers and grow with the industry," said Ryan Augsburger, president of the Ohio Manufacturers' Association.

"Community colleges are critical partners in that work, giving students hands-on training, real-world experience and direct pathways to manufacturing careers." he said

At Northwest State, students can prepare for manufacturing careers through Automation, Industrial Maintenance, Industrial Welding, Engineering Technology (electrical and mechanical), and Semiconductor Manufacturing. Students learn using our state-of-the-art labs, and gain real-world experience through apprenticeships, internships, co-ops, or employer partnerships.

Northwest State will offer Manufacturing Day events for area high school students, educators, and employers during Manufacturing Month on October 9, 16, and 23. These invitation-only events are led by the Advanced Manufacturing Consortium (AMC), an employer-led sector partnership that works to strengthen the manufacturing talent pipeline across northwest Ohio. Through MFG Day, the AMC connects local manufacturers directly with high school students, giving students an opportunity to see modern manufacturing firsthand and experience the skills used in today's manufacturing careers.

"Our manufacturers recognize that building the next generation of talent starts by giving students meaningful exposure to the industry," said Tori Atkinson, Executive Director of the Advanced Manufacturing Consortium. "MFG Day allows students to interact directly with local employers, experience the skills used in modern manufacturing and learn about rewarding career pathways available in their own communities. These connections help students better understand what manufacturing looks like today and the opportunities that can be available to them after high school."

"Manufacturing Month highlights the exciting careers taking shape across Ohio and the essential role that community colleges play as the gateway to these opportunities", said Avi Zaffini, president and CEO of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges.

"Our 22 colleges work side by side with employers to provide affordable, hands-on training that leads to in-demand careers while helping manufacturers build the skilled workforce they need to compete and grow," Zaffini said.

Northwest State offers flexible pathways for recent high school graduates, adults changing careers, and workers who want to build new skills. Students can begin with a short-term certificate, and move into an associate degree pathway or earn additional credentials. With a variety of class days, times and modalities, students can continue learning while they work.

Students, parents, and career changers can explore job descriptions, pay information, career pathways, and education requirements at MakingOhio.com. They can also visit Chip City Adventures, an interactive collection of eLearning modules created by Columbus State Community College and the Ohio Association of Community Colleges with funding from Intel, to explore entry-level careers in manufacturing, semiconductors, energy, biopharma manufacturing, and electric vehicles.

For more information about Northwest State's manufacturing programs, Manufacturing Month events, or enrollment, visit NorthwestState.edu, or call 419-267-5511.

THE VAN WERT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY HAS FIVE OPEN DIRECTOR SEATS!

There are currently five open seats on the Board of Directors of the Van Wert County Agricultural Society. These seats consist of Hoaglin Township, Liberty Township, Washington Township, the Central Region and the Northern Region of Van Wert County, Ohio.

Per Article IV of the Van Wert County Agricultural Societies Constitution, these seats are now to be filled by appointment of the Van Wert County Agricultural Society Board of Directors. Any current member of the Van Wert County Agricultural Society may apply
for the open seat. While being a resident of the open townships and/or region would not be a requirement, residency in those areas would be given preference.

Anyone who is interested in fulfilling an open seat on the Board of Directors is asked to contact the Fair Office to confirm their qualifications for appointment on or before October 20th, 2026. The names of those interested will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and a decision on the appointment will be announced at the Annual Meeting on November 14, 2026.

The West Bend News

Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

ON-LINE SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2329.153

Crosscountry Mortgage, LLC, Plaintiff,
vs.
Hope A. Bockrath, ET AL., Defendants,

Case No. CI 26 074

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

404 W. Canal St., Antwerp
Parcel Number: 12-34S-086-00

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

Said premises appraised at Ninety-Nine Thousand and NO/100 ($99,000.00) 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 October 29, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders must be registered with RealAuction for on-line bidding at:

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

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

In the event this property does not sell on the above date, a second on-line auction will be held on November 12, 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

Mark R. Lembright, Attorney for Plaintiff

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Antwerp Local School Board of Education hereby gives notice in accordance with section 3307.353 of the Ohio Revised Code that Harold Gottke, currently employed in the District as the IT Director, will be retired and is seeking employment with the District in such position following retirement. The Antwerp Local School Board of Education will hold a public meeting on the issue of Harold Gottke being employed in the District at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2026 at the Antwerp Local School District Board of Education room.

PUBLIC NOTICE HOSPITAL BOARD POSITION

Applications will be accepted at the Paulding County Commissioners' Office, 451 McDonald Pike, Suite E Paulding, Ohio, until **4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2026**, for one position, as Paulding County Hospital Trustee for a term expiring in March, 2028. Applications may be picked up in the Commissioners' Office for this position between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. *Previous applicants must reapply.*

Heather Barnhouse, Clerk
By order Board of Commissioners, Paulding, Ohio
Mike Weible, Lisa McClure, Mark Holtsberry

PAULDING'S LIVE OAK CEMETERY WALK



Jessie Pursel was portrayed by Carla Morris.



Chase W Hastings was portrayed by Bryce Steiner.

On an exquisite autumn day in early October, several history buffs and supporters of the preservation of the historical significance of Paulding County Ohio citizens converged on the lawn of the Live Oak Cemetery in Paulding just behind the Paulding Exempted Village Schools. Attendees paid a nominal donation to tour a selected few gravesites - including one inside the newly renovated mausoleum - where volunteers were in character to tell the stories of four individuals that helped shape what the Village of Paulding and surrounding area is today. Jessie Pursel, Sergeant Theodore Aaron Noffsinger, Gilbert Barnes, and Chase W. Hastings were the featured Paulding residents.



Gilbert Barnes was portrayed by Scott Strahley.

The tour started in the mausoleum where Gilbert Barnes, portrayed by Paulding County Engineer Scott Strahley, was laid to rest in 1923. Barnes was a noble family man whose contributions to the establishment of the village of Paulding include the infamous Hotel Barnes and Barnes Mansion. There is some discrepancies of his birth year that were discussed but Strahley's hoping it doesn't disturb his eternal rest.



Sergeant Theodore Aaron Noffsinger was portrayed by Mark Holtsberry.

Next up on the tour was down the lane to the resting place of Sergeant Theodore Aaron Noffsinger. Paulding County Commissioner Mark Holtsberry told a slightly despondent tale about Noffsinger's life in the military. He was never married, and he had a simple burial in November of 1918. His mother is buried beside him.

Just up the cemetery road, the tour next came to Chase W. Hastings. Hastings was born in Indiana in 1866 and later moved with his family to Paulding County, where he attended local schools before studying law and being admitted to the bar in 1891. He practiced law in Grover Hill and was appointed Probate Judge in 1904, serving until 1909 and earning a reputation for being courteous, fair and just. During his humble life, he also served as Mayor, of which village, it's unclear. Hastings died in 1917 leaving behind a legacy of faith, friendship, community involvement and the respect of those who knew him. More than a century later, perhaps the best summary of Chase W. Hastings is the headline his own community gave him in a local newspaper when he died: "A Good Man."

Rounding out the tour was a lady of renown for the Paulding community — Jessie Pursel. Her family were the owners of the Pursel & Pursel Clothing Store on the square in Downtown Paulding. At one point, their clothing store was the largest in the region for women's clothing. Though never married, Jessie's legacy as a woman business owner in a day when that was not all that common or accepted has been an inspiring portion of Paulding County history.

The Community Revitalizing of Paulding was the organization who coordinates this event each autumn. It was a fabulous day to celebrate the distinguished residents of Paulding Ohio.

VERA BRADLEY FOUNDATION, IU'S KOMEN TISSUE BANK TO HOLD BREAST TISSUE COLLECTION

The Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer and the Susan G. Komen Tissue Bank at the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer are joining forces for a unique breast tissue collection event.

Participants can contribute to new discoveries in breast cancer research by donating a healthy breast tissue sample on Saturday, Nov. 14 in Fort Wayne. The Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer and IU's Komen Tissue Bank will host a breast tissue collection — "Healthy Tissue for Hope" — from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the IU Health Fort Wayne Outpatient Surgery Center, 4105 Dicke Road.

Women under age 40 and women of color are especially encouraged to donate, but all women who meet the eligibility criteria can donate healthy breast tissue to the IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center's Susan G. Komen Tissue Bank during the November event. The tissue bank is a resource within the cancer center's Vera Bradley Foundation Center for Breast Cancer Research at the IU School of Medicine.

Up to 200 women will be able to donate healthy breast tissue, while 250 volunteers will play key roles ranging from donor escorts to medical assistants who help with the tissue acquisition procedure.

The donation process takes 60 to 90 minutes, but a woman's contribution could help cancer researchers make lasting discoveries.

"Every breakthrough in breast cancer research begins with someone willing to make a difference," Stephanie Scheele, executive director of the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer, said. "The Healthy Tissue for Hope event gives women in our community the extraordinary opportunity to contribute to discoveries that have the potential to save lives for generations to come. We are incredibly proud to partner with the Komen Tissue Bank and Indiana University to bring this one-of-a-kind event to Fort Wayne and invite our community to be part of something truly remarkable."

By analyzing samples from women without breast cancer, researchers can study the differences between healthy and cancerous tissues, which will lead to a better understanding of the disease. Researchers at IU and elsewhere have already made new discoveries about breast cancer by using samples donated to the Komen Tissue Bank. For example, IU researchers completed the most extensive mapping of healthy breast cells to date. These findings offer an important tool to understand how breast cancer develops and the differences in breast tissue among genetic ancestries.

What to expect during the donation process

During the donation process, local anesthesia is used before taking a tissue sample from one breast with a needle. About 1 gram of tissue is taken — about the size of three peas. To donate, participants must:

- Be 18 or older
- Have the ability to understand and the willingness to sign an informed consent
- Be willing to give 60 to 90 minutes of their time to complete a questionnaire and a breast biopsy
- Not be allergic to local anesthetics (numbing medicine)
- Not be receiving a therapeutic blood thinner (not including aspirin)
- Not have breast implants

Register now to donate in November

To register, visit the donor sign-up page on the Komen Tissue Bank website or call 866-763-0047. Donors must have a confirmed appointment time.

Before the donation, participants will complete an informed consent document and an online questionnaire. Height and weight measurements and a blood sample will be collected.

To volunteer for the event, visit the volunteer sign-up page.

Partners for more than 25 years

For more than 25 years, the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer and the IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center have shared a powerful partnership driven by one mission: ending breast cancer through research. Inspired by the loss of a close friend to breast cancer, Vera Bradley co-founders Barbara Bradley Baekgaard and Patricia R. Miller launched grassroots fundraising efforts in 1993 that ultimately led to a transformational collaboration with IU in 1999. Since then, the foundation has committed more than $50 million to support groundbreaking research, recruit leading scientists and physicians, and establish the Vera Bradley Foundation Center for Breast Cancer Research at the IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Together, the two organizations have advanced discoveries in precision genomics, immunotherapy, survivorship, health equity, and treatments for aggressive cancers such as triple negative breast cancer, helping position IU as a national leader in breast cancer innovation.

EVERLITE COLLECTIVE SHARES MISSION OF FAITH AND COMMUNITY WITH KIWANIS



This week at Kiwanis, we were joined by Jacob Salisbury with Everlite Collective. The mission of Everlite is to bring people together through faith, positive community events, and practical support, creating opportunities for connection, encouragement, and a stronger community.

The Christian-based, nonprofit organization started by Jacob is based in Paulding and has already been involved with the Summer Blast, the Foundations Recovery Clubhouse event at LaFountain Park and the Fall Festival. Upcoming events include community fundraising events in Grover Hill on October 10th & 17th, a Movie Night on Halloween on Jackson Street in downtown Paulding and a big event for Thanksgiving!

They are hosting a community Thanksgiving dinner at the OSU Extension Building on Thursday, November 26 from 2:00-8:00 p.m.



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101 N. Main Street, Antwerp, OH

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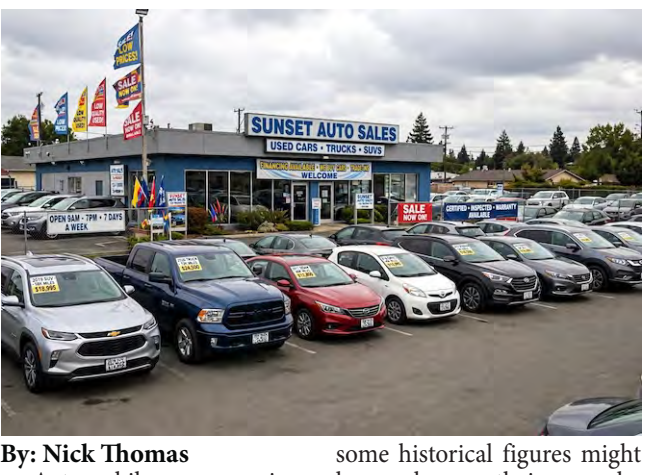
JEST A MOMENT: CAR NAMES THAT REGISTER WITH DRIVERS



By: Nick Thomas

Automobile names are important to car manufacturers who often assign models with names that intrigue or arouse our sense of adventure and excitement. What bold driver wouldn't want to be seen trekking through the rugged wilderness in a Ford Explorer, Toyota Land Cruiser, or Nissan Pathfinder?

Some drivers probably select specific models according to his or her profession. Can't you see an astronomer behind the wheel of a Mitsubishi Eclipse or an optometrist in a Ford Focus? What proctologist could resist parking a Ford Probe outside the surgery?

And you know if Captain Kirk needed ground transportation, he'd expect a Volkswagen Transporter to be waiting when he beamed down. As for the infamous madam Heidi Fleiss, she must have been tempted to treat her "girls" to a fleet of Escorts. And what of Marcel Marceau, surely he considered driving a Daihatsu Charade.

Were they alive today, some historical figures might have chosen their car by name, too: Genghis Khan would have commandeered a Mercury Marauder, Harry Houdini would drive a Ford Escape, while Mozart would prefer to maneuver the streets of Vienna in a Hyundai Sonata. Sir Edmund Hillary would feel right at home climbing into an old Mercury Mountaineer but would avoid the Chevy Avalanche. And British adventurer Percy Fawcett, lost while exploring the Amazon, would appreciate the benefits of a Jeep Compass.

Over the years, some automobiles have adopted names from the animal kingdom such as the Mercury Cougar, Dodge Ram, and VW Beetle. Ford especially loved horse names producing the Mustang, Bronco, and Pinto. Wisely, they never produced a Ford Gelding – probably a little too Freudian for young male drivers.

Speaking of which, I've often wondered about the fate of my first American car, a Chevy Chevette. It wasn't exactly a vehicle to worship as it rattled along the Interstate in the 80s powered by an engine that roared like an electric toothbrush. I suspect by now it's been melted down and recycled into a faster and more graceful vehicle, such as the one my neighbor owns ..... a John Deere.

Nick Thomas has written features, columns, and interviews for numerous magazines and newspapers. See www.getnickt.org. The generic royalty-free image is generated with meta.ai.

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
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FOR SALE: Steel 11 drawer cabinet. Good condition, no rust. Dimensions: 27.5" x 21" x 37.5". Each drawer about 3" tall. $50. Call 419-782-9898

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

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DEWALT PORTABLE POWER STATION DCB1800 4 battery Charger/inverter - $300. Call 419-258-0127

DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIEDS IS FRIDAYS AT 12NOON!

ODNR & ODOT RECOGNIZED WITH NATIONAL AWARD FOR BOATING SAFETY LEADERSHIP

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) have been honored with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' (NASBLA) Compass Award, presented during the association's recent national conference. This prestigious award recognizes one state agency each year for setting a national model of safety, innovation, and leadership in the maritime domain.

ODNR and ODOT received the award for their groundbreaking Ohio Recreational Boating Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the first known agreement of its kind in the United States. Executed on January 12, 2026, the MOU establishes standardized procedures for how ODOT plans, designs, and constructs transportation projects that may affect rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, and canals used by recreational boaters.

This landmark achievement resulted from close collaboration between ODNR's Division of Parks and Watercraft, ODNR's Office of Real Estate and Land Management (REALM), and ODOT's Office of Environmental Services (OES). Together, the agencies created a proactive, highly protective coordination process ensuring boating safety and water access are built into transportation projects from the earliest planning stages through construction.

"This partnership is a remarkable example of the kind of innovation and cooperation needed to protect Ohio's boaters," said ODNR Director Mary Mertz.

The Ohio Recreational Boating MOU strengthens safety planning by identifying potential hazards, establishing notification protocols, ensuring safe portage routes, improving signage, and maintaining boater access whenever possible. It also offers shared resources and environmental commitments that reduce uncertainty, minimize project delays, and support safe working conditions for contractors near waterways.

With growing interest in paddlecraft, water trails, and outdoor recreation across Ohio, the MOU provides a forward-looking framework that anticipates impacts before they occur. The result is a scalable model other states can adopt as they work to integrate boating safety into transportation infrastructure planning.

"This national recognition reflects the dedication and shared vision of our team at ODOT and our outstanding partners at ODNR," said ODOT Director Pamela Boratyn. Created in 2009, the Compass Award is NASBLA's benchmark for excellence, reserved for agencies whose work charts new territory, anticipates emerging challenges, and enhances safety and security for boaters nationwide. With all 50 states and five U.S. territories participating and more than 500 representatives attending this year's conference, the Compass Award stands as one of NASBLA's highest distinctions.

NASBLA's Compass Award recognizes ODNR and ODOT's achievement as a national touchstone for boating safety, interagency leadership, and public service—celebrating a partnership that will protect current and future generations of Ohio boaters.

Recognized as the No. 1 state park system in America with the 2025 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, the ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft provides exceptional outdoor recreation and boating opportunities by balancing outstanding customer service, education, and conservation of Ohio's 76 state parks and waterways.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at ohiodnr.gov.

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

HELP WANTED:

Innovative Assembly Services, LLC
109 Victory Lane, Antwerp, OH 45813
Phone: 419-399-3886
Email: InnovativeAssemblySvcs@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

HELP WANTED

IMMEDIATE opening for a Journeyman Electrician or Apprentice wanting to become a journeyman

We are an Electrical Contractor Business:

40% - Residential, 50% - Generac generator installation & service, 10% - light commercial & service work

Must have a good work ethic, valid drivers license, own tools and must be ON TIME!

Competitive pay based on experience.

EXCELLENT career opportunity for the right person.

Paid vacation, holidays, and profit sharing

Send resume to: gerberselectric@metalink.net

NOTICE OF POSITION OPENING

The Paulding County Engineer's Office has an immediate opening for a **full time/permanent Superintendent**. The responsibilities of this job include overseeing the activities of the Operations Facility to achieve the plans and goals of the County Engineer. Plans work and assigns priorities for culvert and road construction, drainage and maintenance activities according to the Engineer's policies and plans; supervises and inspects all projects. Performs related administrative and other duties as required by the County Engineer.

This position is eligible for health, dental and vision insurance. An Ohio Commercial Driver's License with Air Brake and Tanker Endorsement or the ability to obtain this license within 180 days is required for this position. Candidates must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen and DOT physical. The starting wage rate for this position shall commensurate with experience.

Applications are available at **www.pauldingcountyengineer.com/applications-permits or at the Engineer's Office at 801 West Wayne Street in Paulding**. Applications may be delivered to the Engineer's Office Monday-Friday 7:00am-3:30pm or emailed to engineer@pcohio.us and will be accepted **through October 31, 2026.**

This position will be awarded to the best-qualified individual(s) as determined by the Engineer. Applicants may be required to demonstrate their ability to perform in this position by way of a practical test and examination.

HELP WANTED

Village of Hicksville is taking applications for a full-time **Park & Recreation Director**. This is a salary position and duties will include but not limited to groundskeeping of park, repairs, painting, cleaning restrooms, athletic field prepping, managing part time employees, maintenance of all parks equipment, managing special programs as needed along with applying for funding for future needs and additions to the parks department.

Applications can be obtained online at **www.villageofhicksville.com** or in person at the **Municipal Building, 111 South Main St. Hicksville, Ohio 43526**.

Questions can be directed to the Administrators Office **419-542-6138 ext. 6.**

THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E

HELP WANTED

ADMINISTRATOR • VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE

The Village of Hicksville is accepting resumes to fill the position of Village Administrator. Hicksville is a village of 3,800 residents in NW Ohio with an annual budget of $12m. This position serves as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Village and is responsible for oversight of the Water, Sewer, Street, Refuse, Park and Zoning Departments as well as performing all duties required by the Ohio Revised Code and the Ordinances of the Village of Hicksville. Qualified candidates should be self-motived, well organized, detail oriented, possess good communication skills and can work with other Village, County, State and Federal agencies in an appropriate manner. Experience with budgeting and knowledge of funding sources a plus. Salary range will be based on experience. The person selected will be expected to be or become a resident of the Village of Hicksville.

Resumes will be accepted at the Mayor's office, 111 South Main Street, Hicksville, OH 43526 or hixmayor@metalink.net until October 15, 2026.

THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E

HELP WANTED

The Village of Hicksville is seeking a dedicated, experienced, and highly qualified professional to serve as our full-time Water Superintendent.

Under the direction of the Village Administration and Council, the Water Superintendent oversees the daily operations, maintenance, testing, and regulatory compliance of the Village's water treatment and distribution systems, ensuring a safe and reliable water supply for the community.

Send resume to Mayor Michael Barth at hixmayor@metalink.net or call for appointment: 419-542-6138, option 4.

Key Responsibilities:

- Operations & Maintenance: Manage the operation and maintenance of the municipal water treatment plant, wells, storage facilities, booster stations, and distribution network.
- Regulatory Compliance: Ensure strict adherence to Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) standards, Safe Drinking Water Act guidelines, and OSHA safety regulations.
- Testing & Reporting: Oversee required water quality testing, chemical dosing, and the timely submission of all state and federal environmental compliance reports.
- Personnel Management: Supervise, train, and evaluate utility department staff, manage scheduling, and coordinate work orders.
- Budget & Administration: Assist in developing and managing the annual department budget, track utility inventory, order supplies, and oversee equipment maintenance records.
- Customer Service: Respond to public inquiries, investigate water quality or pressure complaints, and coordinate with other municipal departments on infrastructure projects.
- Emergency Response: Participate in an on-call rotation to handle after-hours water system emergencies, main breaks, or equipment failures.

Qualifications & Requirements:

- Licensure: Valid Ohio EPA Class I (or higher) Water Supply Operator Certification (Class II or III preferred; ability to upgrade within a specified timeframe may be considered for qualified candidates).
- Driver's License: Valid State of Ohio Driver's License with an acceptable driving record (Commercial Driver's License [CDL] or willingness to obtain one is a plus).
- Experience: Minimum of 3 to 5 years of progressively responsible experience in municipal water treatment and distribution operations, including at least 1–2 years in a supervisory or lead role.
- Education: High school diploma or equivalent; associate or bachelor's degree in environmental science, civil engineering, biology, or a related field is preferred.
- Skills: Strong mechanical aptitude, working knowledge of SCADA systems and water treatment automation, proficiency in record-keeping, and excellent communication skills.

Compensation & Benefits:

- Salary Range: Competitive salary based on qualifications and certification level.
- Benefits Package:
  - Comprehensive health, dental, and vision insurance.
  - Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS).
  - Paid time off (vacation, sick leave, and paid holidays).
  - Professional development and certification cost support

THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E

WCCH BENEFIT AUCTION SETS NEW FUNDRAISING RECORD, RAISING OVER $225,000



The auction floor was hopping on Saturday, Ocotber 3rd for the annual Woodburn Christian Children's Home auction at Woodlan High School.

The Woodburn Christian Children's Home (WCCH) celebrated another record-breaking year at its annual Benefit Auction, raising more than $225,000 to support its mission of providing a loving, Christian home for children in need. The auction took place on October 3, 2026 at the Woodlan High School campus in Woodburn, IN.

According to Joe Heins, director of Woodburn Christian Children's Home, this year's event welcomed more than 400 people and generated $225,350 in donations, surpassing last year's total of $215,865. The continued growth reflects the generosity of area businesses, churches and individuals who support the home's ministry.

The auction featured both live and silent bidding, along with special fundraising activities, food and sponsorship opportunities. The live auction generated $35,825, while the silent auction brought in nearly $6,000. Sponsorships played a significant role in the event's success, contributing more than $135,000. The special auction project, Milk Money Punch Board and other donations also helped make the evening successful.

The auction's financial success is especially notable when compared to previous years. In 2019, the event raised just over $110,000. Since then, fundraising has more than doubled, reflecting the continued commitment of the surrounding communities to supporting WCCH.

Heins extended heartfelt appreciation to the WCCH Board of Directors, staff and auction committee for their dedication in making the event possible. In a message to those involved, he wrote, "Thank you for all your prayers and tireless efforts. The auction was a huge success!" He noted that additional contributions were still coming in following the event and closed his message with the words, "May God receive all the glory!"

Heins emphasized that every dollar raised directly supports the children and families served by WCCH. "All donations provide a home for children regardless of their family's ability to participate financially and help WCCH maintain the core value of helping children and families without accepting government funding," Heins explained.

The annual auction is more than a fundraiser. It is also an opportunity for supporters, volunteers and community members to reconnect with the ministry and witness the lasting impact the home has made on generations of children.

Heins expressed his appreciation to the churches, businesses, sponsors and individuals who contributed to this year's success. WCCH will continue recognizing its supporting churches and businesses through September 2027.

With another successful auction completed, organizers are already looking ahead to next year's event, scheduled for October 2, 2027. The continued generosity of the surrounding communities helps ensure that Woodburn Christian Children's Home can carry on its mission of providing care, stability and a nurturing Christian environment for children who need it most.

FOR SALE
BY SEALED BID
134 ACRES OF FARMLAND & WOODS

LOCATED IN SECTION 32 OF HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP NEAR INTERSECTION OF HOOK RD AND DEFIANCE-PAULDING COUNTY LINE ROAD
1 ½ MILE FROM INDIANA STATE LINE

Offered as follows:

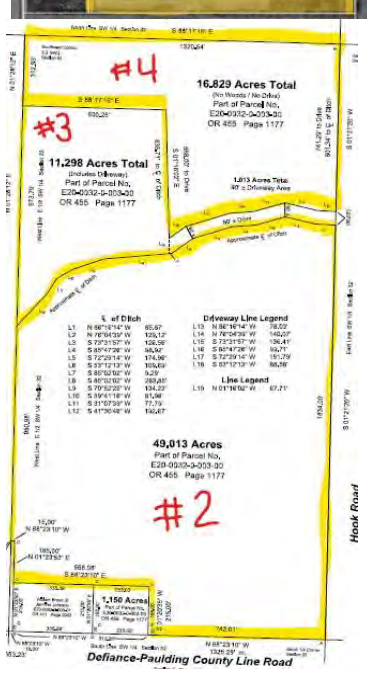
Parcel #1 – 56.92 acres on the east side of Hook Road showing 50.814 tillable, 4.685 woods and balance in waste land and road frontage.

Parcel #2 – 49.013 acres. All tillable except ditch and road frontage. Located on the north side of the Paulding-Defiance County Line Road and on the west side of Hook Road.

Parcel #3 – 11.298 acres of woods including 60 ft. lane from the center line of the ditch north providing access from Hook Road.

Parcel #4 – 16.829 acres of farmland situated on the west side of Hook Road along the north and east side of Parcel #3. All tillable except for road frontage on Hook Road.





BIDDING: Bid contracts can be picked up at Bruce Guilford Real Estate & Auctioneering LTD office in Hicksville, emailed, scanning the code below, or you can go to *www.guilford-realestate.com* and click on the *Land for Sale* line under the "Listings" tab and look for *bid contract*.

Forestry report, tile maps & surveys can be accessed on the website in the same manner.

ALL bids must include a 5% earnest money check. Winning bids earnest money will be immediately deposited upon acceptance by sellers. Losing bids earnest money will immediately be returned to bidders.

Deadline for accepting bids will be NOVEMBER 1ST, 2026

CLOSING to be on or before December 1, 2026.

Seller to furnish and pay for deed, owners title insurance policies and conveyance fee. Real Estate taxes for the entire year of 2026 will be paid by sellers with buyers responsible for 2027 and thereafter.

Growing crops, if any, belong to the seller with immediate possession upon closing for the remainder of the land.

Bruce Guilford
Real Estate & Auctioneering LTD.

PAULDING HS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Paulding High School announced their September Students of the Month. They are the following (l-r): Freshman: Piper Pease, Sophomore: Addy Halter, Junior: Aly White, Senior: Audrey Stoller.

PAULDING MIDDLE SCHOOL RECOGNIZES SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Teagan Bland, Audrey Etter, and Elizabeth Cortes-Becerra earned Paulding Middle School's September student of the month for their respective grades. Each student received a month-long movie pass for their family to the Van Wert Cinema and a yard sign. Congratulations ladies!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOSTS 'EAT HOG NOT TURKEY' SUPPER

Habitat for Humanity of Paulding-Van Wert will host its "Eat Hog Not Turkey" Community Supper on Thursday, October 15, 2026, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the OSU Extension Building at the Paulding Fairgrounds.

The drive-thru-only meal will feature a pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, ham and bean soup, cornbread, cookie. Meal is by free-will donations.

Proceeds from the community supper will benefit Habitat for Humanity of Paulding-Van Wert and its efforts in the local area.

WRITE - A - WILL WORKSHOP IN FORT WAYNE, IN

On Thursday October 22, 2026 from 12:00-4:00 p.m., Associated Churches of Fort Wayne, IN will be sponsoring a free "Write-a-Will" campaign. The only cost to you is to include Associated Churches as a benefactor in your Will (amount at your discretion).

Your gift will help Associated Churches continue the work they have been doing in the community for over the past 80 years!

Please contact Lydia@associatedchurches.org, or call 260-422-3528 to schedule an appointment.

ANTWERP CHAMBER TO HOST WINE TASTING BUS TOUR NOVEMBER 7

The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce invites wine enthusiasts to enjoy a day of tasting and exploring during its upcoming Wine Tasting Bus Tour on Saturday, November 7, 2026.

The tour will feature stops at three area wineries, including Satek, Acres Away and Country Heritage, offering participants the opportunity to enjoy a variety of wines throughout the day. A total of 16 tastings are included in the experience.

The bus will depart at 9:00 a.m. from the Antwerp School parking lot, allowing participants to relax and enjoy the day without worrying about driving between destinations.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting Antwerp Chamber of Commerce Facebook message or by contacting a Chamber board member

The Wine Tasting Bus Tour offers a great opportunity to gather with friends, discover regional wineries and support the Antwerp Chamber of Commerce's preservation of the Antwerp business community while enjoying a memorable day of wine tasting.

