The West Bend News

www.westbendnews.net

VOLUME 22 – ISSUE 43 | Good News for Good Communities - Serving Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana | MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026

LOCAL DRIVER NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL AWARD



Pictured above are (l-r) Driver: William Hamilton, and Logisticize President: Kurt Plummer.

The National Association of Small Trucking Companies (NASTC) represents over 11,000 trucking companies in the U.S. and Canada that employ over 156,000 drivers collectively. Each year the association sponsors a driver of the year program to recognize the very best drivers within their group. Among the drivers nominated for this prestigious honor is William Hamilton who drives for Logisticize of Paulding, OH.

"As a nominee for award, William Hamilton joins a very elite group that represent the very best of our 156,000 drivers," according to David Owen, President of NASTC.

"Logisticize is very proud of their drivers and should be very proud of themselves as well," Mr. Owen added. "It says a lot about a company when they can attract and keep employees of this caliber."

William Hamilton has driven for Logisticize for over 2 years and has been a professional driver for over 6 years and has driven over 510,000 accident free miles.

Call or Email your classified ad today!
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PAULDING EAGLES LADIES AUXILIARY DONATE TO CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS



The Paulding Eagles Ladies Auxiliary made a donation of several Coats to the Christmas for Kids Program on October 6, 2026. Pictured are Eagles officers (l-r): Cindy Kauser, Marsha Bennett, and Patty Zuber; Michelle Dooley and Jennifer Ramsier (from Christmas for Kids); Deb Shelt, Chris Dangler, and Rena Rager.

WOODBURN 9th ANNUAL BUSINESS DECORATED PUMPKIN CONTEST

Vote for your favorite business-decorated pumpkin on the Woodburn Main Street Facebook page by liking the photo of your favorite pumpkin.

Voting runs from Saturday, October 24, through Friday, October 30. Winners will be announced on Saturday, October 31.

This contest is sponsored by Woodburn Main Street and The Chop Shop Meat Market.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 260-413-5266.

TRICK OR TREAT YOURSELF TO DINNER IN GROVER HILL

The Friends of the Grover Hill Branch Library invite the community to enjoy a Halloween Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, October 31, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Grover Hill VFW. Take a break from the Halloween festivities and enjoy an evening out while supporting the local library. Everyone is welcome to attend and help support this worthwhile community fundraiser.

Time to Fall Back!
Sunday, NOV. 1



Local Advertisers appreciating local news

Antwerp Exchange Bank	12
Antwerp Insurance	4
Bridge Trailer	9
Creative Design & Construction	1
Dave Brown Designs Open House	4
Den Herder Funeral Home	2
Derck's Landscaping	9
Dooley Funeral Home	2
Ebel's Thanksgiving PreOrders	12
Edward Jones Bryan Post	5
Schrader - Ehle	11
Eichers Woodworking	8
Five Star Construction	1
Friend Flooring	1
Gorrell Bros BG Fast Auction	10
Guilford Auction	7
Heckley Restorations	4
Hicksville Zoning Public Hearing	9
Huber Opera House	3
Innovative Assembly HW	11
Klopfenstein Repair	8
NSCC Veterans Luncheon	1
Oakwood Community Church	2
Ollie's Insert	
PC Engineers HW Superintendent	11
PC Veteran's Service	3
PCH Flu Shot	7
PCH Urology	7
Puzzle – Sudoku	9
Ron Burt Ohio Sports Blitz	8
Sauder Feeds	8
Schmucker Construction	1
Schrader Auction	10
Secret Garden Floral & Gifts	12
Wayne Trace NL COLOR FP	6

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 27

- Haunted Library Party @ Paulding Library, 6:30p
- Triple P Positive Parenting Program @ PCB of DD, 5:30-7p
- Trunk or Treat @ Foundations Clubhouse, Paulding, 5:30-7p
- Girl Scout Info Meeting @ Antwerp School, 6p

October 28

- DPLS Board Meeting @ Sherwood Library, 5p

October 29

- Trick or Treat @ Ney Village, 6-7p
- Trick or Treat @ Defiance, 6-7:30p

October 31

- AYCE Pancake Breakfast @ Latty Zion Baptist Church, 8-11a
- Antwerp Halloween Parade, 2:30p, Costume Judging, 3p Trick or Treat, 5-6:30p
- Payne Halloween: Trick or Treat, 4-6:30p
- Trunk or Treat On the Corner, Grover Hill, 4-6p; Trick or Treat, 5-6:30p
- Halloween Parade & Costume Judging @ Paulding Lions Club, 3p
- Trunk or Treat @ PNAZ, 4-6p
- Trunk or Treat @ St. John Luth. Church, Hicksville, 5-7p
- Halloween Library Fundraiser Dinner @ Grover Hill VFW, 4:30-7p
- Trick or Treat @ Hicksville, 4-6p
- Trick or Treat @ Convoy, 4-6p

WMYW 102.7 PAULDING COUNTY'S OWN

Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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A SALUTE TO YOU!
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Northwest State Community College
Invites you to a
AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY – HONORING ALL VETERANS – VETERANS HONOR & SACRIFICE – 250
COMPLIMENTARY (FREE) VETERANS LUNCHEON
Tuesday, November 10, 2026
Social Hour: 11:00AM – 11:30AM
Program: 11:30AM – 1:00PM
Northwest State Community College Auditorium
E-42 Doors Entrance
22600 State Route 34 - Archbold, OH 43502
Please **RSVP** by **Monday, November 6, 2026** for you plus 1 guest to **kadams@northweststate.edu** or **CALL 419-267-1392**

Phone: 419-258-2000 • Email: info@westbendnews.net

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD DROP-OFF LOCATIONS OPEN NOVEMBER 16-23



Volunteers are preparing to collect Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, Nov. 16 – 23. Nearly 5,000 drop-off locations will open across the country in November, and shoebox packers can find their local drop-off locations across Ohio.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering gift-filled shoeboxes to children including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster. Operation Christmas Child hopes to reach 12.8 million children in 2026 with the hope of Jesus.

Shoebox packing is fun for individuals, families and groups! Find a step-by-step guide on the How to Pack a Shoebox webpage. The project partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God's love to children in need. Participants can donate $10 per shoebox gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.

"Shoebox gifts may seem simple, but they have an eternal impact. Each box is an opportunity to tell a boy or girl in need about the true meaning of Christmas," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "I've delivered these boxes around the world, and I never get tired of seeing the joy that they bring—even in the midst of disasters, war, and poverty."

Participants can find the nearest drop-off location and hours of operation as they make plans to drop off their shoebox gifts. The online lookup tool is searchable by City or ZIP code. Signs at each location will identify the drop-off.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 244 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 175 countries and territories.

7 QUESTIONS W/CORMACK LAZARUS, FAMILY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN



Cormack Lazarus, MD, has joined Parkview Physicians Group (PPG) – Family Medicine in Bryan and is welcoming patients at the office, 442 W. High St.

Dr. Lazarus graduated from Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio, with a bachelor's degree in molecular biology. He earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from Ross University School of Medicine, Bridgetown, Barbados, and completed his family medicine residency in Detroit, Michigan, at Henry Ford St. John Hospital, where he served as chief resident.

He holds membership in the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Physicians.

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I grew up in Jamaica.

Q: Prior to medical school, you worked in a free clinic and as a home health aide and held a variety of additional roles promoting the well-being of other people. Was there one particular inspiration for you to become a physician?

A: Growing up, I saw firsthand the positive impact physicians could have on their communities, and I aspired to have that same kind of impact. I was drawn to family medicine for the opportunity to care for patients not only when they are sick, but also when they are well. I also loved the prospect of caring for people throughout different stages of life – from infancy through adulthood – and building relationships with patients and families over time.

Q: Tell us about your formative experience working with rural communities abroad to raise awareness about water quality and health.

A: Through Defiance College's McMaster School for Advancing Humanity, I participated in a community-based research initiative, an ongoing water quality project in Cambodia, for which I took responsibility during two trips to that nation. At the communities we visited, I collected samples from local water sources and tested them for common contaminants. At one monastery, for example, I tested water from the tanks and ponds that Buddhist nuns used for drinking and cooking. Following the tests, I shared the findings with members of each community to promote better understanding of how water quality impacted their health. We were also able to demonstrate the beneficial use of ceramic water filters and donated several filters to community groups. It was a meaningful opportunity to combine scientific research with practical, community-based work to improve people's lives.

Q: What motivates or energizes you in your work as a physician?

A: What motivates me most is knowing that the work we do can make a significant difference in someone's life. In family medicine, that may mean helping someone through an illness, preventing a future health problem, or simply being a consistent and trusted resource for them over the years. I find a great deal of purpose in building those relationships and seeing the impact of good care over time.

Q: How would you describe your approach to patient care?

A: I view the patient-physician relationship as a partnership. I want my patients to be active participants in their healthcare rather than simply bystanders. My role is to listen, provide guidance and medical expertise, and help patients make informed decisions that reflect both their health needs and what matters most to them.

Q: Do you have any areas of special interest within family medicine?

A: The breadth of family medicine is one of the things I enjoy most about this field. I value being able to care for patients from many backgrounds who have a wide range of conditions. Family medicine also gives me the flexibility to develop new areas of interest throughout my career and pursue them more deeply as my practice evolves.

Q: What else would you like people to know about you as a healthcare professional?

A: I want my patients to know that I will advocate for them and keep their best interests at the center of their care. I take seriously the trust that patients place in me as their physician, and I want each person to feel heard, respected and confident that we are working together toward the best possible outcome for their health.

Office information:

• Appointment scheduling: Call 419-636-4517.

• Dr. Lazarus' office hours: Tuesday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY IN NOVEMBER

The Paulding County Carnegie Library is busy getting ready for the holiday season. November is Fine Free for Veterans!!! The library will be involved with the Relay for Life Chocolate Walk on November 5th. Get your ticket and stop in and get your chocolate. Look for the library tree at the Festival of Trees at the Historical museum, November 13 to the 20th. The library will be closed Wednesday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day, and Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving.

MAIN BRANCH:

The Adult section at Main is continuing with Coffee Talk every Thursday at 1:00 p.m., come join your friends or make new ones and enjoy a snack and some conversation.

Black Swamp Bookworms will meet on Tuesday, November 10th at 5:30 p.m. Call or stop in and pick up the latest book.

Teen Cooking Club is Monday, November 16 at 4:30 p.m. Learn something new and enjoy eating what you make.

Adult Craft is on Tuesday November 17th at 5:00 p.m. Join the fun!

Adult Cookbook Club is on Monday, November 16 at 5:30 p.m. New theme every month.

The Children's Room will have story time with Mr. Kirk every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., stop in and enjoy a lively story or two and them-related snacks and craft.

Movie Night in the Children's room will be Thursday, November 19, we will be watching the movie "Goat" Snacks will be provided.

ANTWERP:

The Antwerp Branch will have Adult Book club on November 9th. For more information on joining call 419-258-2855.

Adult Cookbook Club is on November 16th. Stop in ahead of time and pick a recipe to share with the group.

Storytime are every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Join your friends for stories and fun inside the library, there will be No story time on November 25.

Adult Bread Class is November 7th. Bring a bowl; and any herbs or cheese you would like to add. Call the library to register.

Adult Rock Decoupage is on Tuesday November 10th at 2:00 p.m. Come make a colorful Rock to take home. Call the library to register.

GROVER HILL:

The Grover Hill Branch will have Senior Bingo on Thursday, November 12th, this event is fully booked so please call 419-567-1717 for confirmations and cancellations.

Munchkin Club story time will be Friday, November 13th at 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 19th at 5:00 p.m. continues our monthly canning program, where we use a digital pressure canner to preserve the fruits of the season. Eight (8) spots are available, all supplies provided.

Book Club meets on November 25th at 4:00 p.m. *Cutie Pie by the Slice* by Kimberly Nixon, the author herself will join us for a zoom discussion.

Monday, November 30th will be the monthly giveaway drawing.

(Continued on Page 3)

Scripture of the Week

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

— Galatians 6:2

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM PSALM 91



Father, I praise You that I dwell in the secret place of the Most High and that I shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [whose power no foe can withstand. I will say of You, Lord, "the Lord is my refuge and my fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I confidently trust!" For then You will deliver me from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. Then You will cover me with Your feathers, and under Your wings shall I trust and find refuge. Your truth and Your faithfulness are a shield and a buckler to me. I shall not be afraid of the terror of the night, nor of the arrow (the evil plots and slanders of the wicked) that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the destruction and sudden death that surprise and lay waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at my side, and ten thousand at my right hand, but it shall not come nigh my dwelling. For You will give Your angels especial charge over me, to accompany, defend and preserve me in all my ways of obedience and service to You. Your angels shall bear me up on their hands, lest I dash my foot against a stone. I shall tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the serpent shall I trample underfoot. Because I have set my love upon You, therefore will You deliver me. You will set me on high, because I know and understand Your name. I have a personal knowledge of Your mercy, love and kindness. I trust and rely on You, knowing You will never forsake me, no, never. I shall call upon You, and You will answer me. You will be with me in trouble. You will deliver me and honor me. With long life will You satisfy me and show me Your salvation.

(Psalm 91 - taken from the Amplified Bible)

Peace & Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

LIFEWISE ACADEMY

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

Prayer:

When asked for prayer requests, Kindergartener, "I want to pray for this beautiful world and all the things in it."

1st Grader: "I prayed in the bathroom at school."

1st Grader: "I prayed to have a good day."

1st Grader: "I love to pray" 1st Grader: "I pray every day now."

1st Grader Prayer: "God, thank you for taking care of us and I love you."

Character Education:

Kindergartener: "I don't know what obedience means."

Teacher: "Listening to and following through with instructions from those in authority." Kindergartener: "Yes, I do that."

Teacher: "What are you thankful for?" 1st Grader 1: "I am thankful I can go to LifeWise." 1st Grader 2: "I am thankful for Jesus." 1st Grader 3: "My dad, he created me, My GG because she created my dad!"

Student: "I'd be willing to suffer to tell people about Jesus, only if there was a chance then would believe."

ELECTION SUPPER
Tues. November 3, 2026
4:00-6:30 PM
Oakwood Community Church
Fellowship Hall
200 Main Street
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To order take out meals, call ahead 419-594-2100 on 11/3

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FALL WEATHER AND 2 LOST WEENIES

Penny For Your Thought
By: Nancy Whitaker

That time again! We will be turning our clocks back next week. For me it is hard to adjust to at least for a month. But fall is here, not only in our changing time, the season is showing us a wonderland of color, cool temperatures, piles of leaves, bon fires and weenie roasts.

Looking out I see squirrels carrying nuts in their cheeks, air conditioners are being shut off or taken out.

There is something comforting about fall weather. It is comfy to get out your favorite sweater for that cool morning air. Apples and apple cider are plentiful and a warm fire and a good novel will be on the horizon for warmth and comfort.

The cheers of football fans ring out with the cheering and yells for your hometown team.

Before snow makes its appearance let's have a weenie roast. I read about a family hot dog roast and what went on. This did not happen to me but to another family.

After all the mustard, ketchup, chips, marshmallows and necessities were ready, Grandpa was so hungry he grabbed a wire hot dog stick and since the fire was going good decided to cook his wiener right now. He was so anxious to taste that hot dog.

Well his one hot dog was cooking too slow so he decided to put 2 wieners on the stick. Oh how clever he was.

Well Grandpa got in a hurry and fell down and landed in his lawn chair. "Oh no" he said, "My hot dogs, my hot dogs." Well, those hot dogs had a mind of their own. One went flying up in the air and with a big twist landed in Aunt Mildred's purse.

At that very same time the pet dog sat down eyeballing the falling wiener, opened his mouth and swallowed the



whole wiener at once. There is now a rule in that family to only roast one hot dog at a time.

I like the smells of fall such as apples baking with cinnamon, spice candles burning through the house, and a cup of homemade hot cider. Yum!

Do you like fall weather, colors and smells? Do you like apple cider hot or cold? Do you have a favorite fall sweater? Let me know and I will give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

(Continued from Page 2)

OAKWOOD:

The Oakwood Branch will have Good Morning Book Club on November 3, at 11:00 a.m.

November 5th at 5:30 p.m. OSU Extension will present a Hot Topic program.

November 7th at 11:00 a.m. Kids can enjoy a fun STEAM activity making rubber band helicopter.

November 10th will be beef broth canning and noodle making class. Bring a bag of flour and call to register.

November 12 is Senior Bingo at 11:30 a.m. Cookbook Club at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Roper's Arts, Crafts and Movie program will also feature planes, trains and automobiles.

Quilt Block of the month class will be November 17.

Bread and cheese making class will be November 18th at 11:00 a.m. Participants should bring a gallon of milk and a bag of flour, registration is required.

Coffee Talk is November 19th at 4:30 p.m.

Magnesium Spray Workshop will be on November 21st at 11:00 a.m. Please call to register.

Children's Story time is November 30th at 5:30 p.m.

PAYNE:

The Payne Branch has story time every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., bring the kids in for stories, crafts and fun.

Coffee Talk is Thursday November 12th at 1:00 p.m. Bring a coffee and talk about books or whatever you wish. Bring a friend with you.

Author, Mandy Lane, will be here to talk about her new book, "Once Upon a Baker" on Saturday, November 14th at 11:00 a.m.

Adult Essential Oil Class with Judy is Monday, November 16th at 6:00 p.m. Make a Christmas room spray to take home.

Kid's PJ Story Time is Tuesday, November 17th from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Bring your stuffed animals as they will stay overnight at the library. Wear your PJ's and enjoy the afternoon with your stuffed animal. Call 419-263-3333

Kids Turkey Coloring Contest stop in and pick up a sheet, do your best coloring and maybe win a prize.



NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE HONORS AREA VETERANS WITH FREE VETERANS LUNCHEON IN NOVEMBER



Northwest State (NSCC) Veterans Lunchion guest speaker will be Major Brad Glanz, retired Major from the Ohio Air National Guard, 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo (OH) Air National Guard Base.

Northwest State Community College invites area veterans to enjoy a complimentary Veterans Luncheon on Tuesday, November 10th, starting at 11:00 a.m. with a social hour, and the program beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Voinovich Auditorium on the College's Archbold campus. NSCC currently has approximately 320 student-veterans pursuing coursework, credentialing, certificates and/or associate degrees.

NSCC President Dr. Todd Hernandez, a US Navy veteran, will open the event with welcoming remarks. As a highlight, our Keynote speaker will be Major Brad Glanz (pictured to the right), a retired Major from the Ohio Air National Guard, 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo (OH) Air National Guard Base. NSCC alum Tina Mae and accompanying musician Rebecca Darling will provide the musical entertainment for the guests.

RSVP BY NOVEMBER 6th

Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP by Friday, November 6th to Katrina Adams in the NSCC Foundation office – phone 419.267.1392 or email kadams@NorthwestState.edu.

VILLAGE OF CONVOY GEARS UP FOR TRICK-OR-TREAT

The Village of Convoy is once again preparing to welcome ghouls, goblins, princesses, and superheroes to its streets as the community gears up for its annual Trick-or-Treat celebration on Saturday, October 31, 2026. The festivities will run from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, offering two hours of family-friendly fun for children and adults alike throughout the village.

As in years past, residents are encouraged to participate by turning on their outside lights during trick-or-treat hours to signal that they are welcoming trick-or-treaters. The Convoy Methodist Church will offer Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot.

Support the Convoy Fire & EMS, they will be offering hotdogs & chips to purchase as well as treats for the kiddos.

Once the trick-or-treating wraps up at 6:00 PM, the evening will continue at Convoy Village Square, where costume judging will be held for participants of all ages. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Parents are reminded to accompany young children. Motorists traveling through Convoy during the event are urged to drive slowly and remain alert for trick-or-treaters crossing streets.

DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO HOST FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION INFORMATION SESSION

Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., will host an informational program about foster care and adoption on Monday, November 2, at 6 p.m.

Charity Meuleman of Defiance/Paulding Consolidated Job & Family Services will explain the licensing process and how interested individuals can get started.

Current foster parents will also share their experiences, offering attendees an opportunity to hear firsthand about fostering and ask questions in an informal, welcoming setting.

The program is free and open to all adults. No registration is required.

For more information, contact the library at 419-782-1456.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES 2027 FIRE AND EMS DISTRICT BUDGET

The Allen County Council's unanimous approval of the Allen County Fire & EMS District's (ACFEMSD) 2027 budget marks a historic milestone for public safety and emergency care across the entire county. On behalf of our firefighters, EMS personnel, and leadership team, we extend our appreciation to Council members for their thorough review, their partnership, and their shared dedication to the well-being of our residents.

This vote is a meaningful investment in the people of Allen County. By fully supporting this budget, Council has validated the extensive effort to build a unified, countywide system designed first and foremost to protect lives.

As part of this budget passage, the levy rate and the cumulative fund were both decreased. The District's long-term financial planning will require continued close coordination with the Allen County Commissioners, the County Council, and the ACFEMSD Board of Fire Trustees as we chart the path ahead.

For our residents and our first responders, this outcome ensures two vital commitments:

• Direct Community Impact: Every family, neighbor, and business across suburban and rural Allen County will benefit from a cohesive emergency response model. This unified approach ensures equal access to rapid, life-saving emergency care, and consistent, high-quality medical and fire protection regardless of where an emergency occurs.

• First Responder Safety & Well-Being: Our firefighters and emergency personnel face inherent risks every day. This budget allows us to prioritize their long-term health, safety,

and operational wellness, ensuring our team is supported, trained, and protected as they care for our community.

Building a safer Allen County is a shared mission, and we remain deeply appreciative of Council's continued partnership and its support of our full budget.

Our focus remains on serving our community with excellence, compassion, and dedication.

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 from France
Evacuation Hospital 13
A.P.O. 783
Amex, France March 31, 1919

[Another letter from Paul Cussen to my grandmother's first cousin Florence Manson, This letter was written in the Duchess's Castle in France.]

"My dearest cousin your letter received this evening and will hasten to reply, as I find myself as busy as you were and forget to answer.

"Now, say don't you offer me any flattery. Don't you know that I'm so old that my hair has turned gray and my face has wrinkles as deep as the creek that runs furthest from you house. You won't do it any more will you?

"Well, Florence I just got back from a fourteen day furlough to the British Isles and dear such a time as I had. Tell your mama that I had a look into the mode of living that our dear grandpa and grandma had and oh how homesick I grew for it and how I would have loved to have been with them in their quiet little city with the rows of houses. A large tear in each eye as I stood from a high mountain on which was a large castle and gazed at the little city of Rajalack. The place was spotlessly clean and the people had sweet sad faces. How I could live always in old Ireland. I'll tell you all about it when I get home.

"I had a grand letter from Aunt Mayme. They are both well.

"We have nearly finished our work here and I hope to be home before many moons.

"Well my dear I am busy so will close with love to all.

"Your Cousin Paul"

So thankful that my grandmother kept these letters and passed them on to my mom. I found these letters after my mom passed away.

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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

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SEVEN PARKVIEW NURSES RECEIVE DAISY AWARDS

Seven Parkview Health nurses were recognized this summer by The DAISY Foundation for extraordinary nursing.

The DAISY Foundation was founded in memory of Patrick Barnes, a 33-year-old man who spent eight weeks in a hospital being treated for an autoimmune disorder. During his stay, Barnes received excellent nursing care, and, in his memory, his family created The DAISY Award® to honor nurses who go above and beyond for their patients.

Recognized in 40 countries and territories, the Foundation has honored 220,000+ nurses across 6,500+ healthcare organizations and schools of nursing — with more than 2.5 million nominations submitted by patients, families and colleagues. The award not only recognizes nurses for exceptional care, but helps to inspire and engage co-workers, build team spirit and reinforce the importance of providing patient- and family-centered care.

Between July 1 and Sept. 30, the following seven nurses received DAISY awards.



Lindsay Collins, BSN, RN

- Lindsay Collins, BSN, RN, Parkview Hospital Randallia
- Albert Deogracias, BSN, RN, Parkview Regional Medical Center
- Brittany Harmon, BSN, RN, Parkview Regional Medical Center
- Kayla Knox, BSN, RN, Parkview Regional Medical Center
- Kari Schaper, BSN, RN, Parkview Hospital Randallia
- Diana Stone, BSN, RN, Parkview LaGrange Hospital



Albert Deogracias, BSN, RN



Brittany Harmon, BSN, RN

Kayla Knox, BSN, RN



Kari Schaper, BSN, RN

- Becky Trejo, RN, Parkview Wabash Hospital



Diana Stone, BSN, RN



Becky Trejo, RN

"Hearing the positive impact I had in my patient's care during a difficult and scary situation makes the high-stress moments worth it," Collins said. "I love my job and am so passionate about OB care, so being awarded for a job I love so much, there is nothing better."

"The biggest motivation for me when delivering great care to the patients I serve is that I approach each patient as I would want my loved ones to be treated," Stone said. "I believe compassion and empathy are two characteristics that nurses must possess. Our patients are vulnerable and we can make a difference in their lives."

In total, 136 Parkview nurses have been honored with a DAISY award since 2021.

"Our DAISY honorees are shining examples of how nurses provide professional care with a personal touch," said Juli Johnson, chief nursing and healthcare markets executive, Parkview Health.

For their award stories and more information about The DAISY Award, visit daisy-foundation.org.

PANTHERS POUNCE ON ACES IN 45-6 GMC FOOTBALL VICTORY

HICKSVILLE, OH – The Paulding Panthers unleashed a balanced offensive attack Friday, October 16, overpowering the host Hicksville Aces 45-6 in Green Meadows Conference football action. Behind a dominant rushing performance from Avery Cooper and an explosive passing connection between Ridge Hunt and Jordan Manz, the Panthers scored 45 unanswered points to secure the convincing road victory.

Paulding wasted little time getting on the scoreboard. Just 12 seconds into the contest, Ridge Hunt connected with Jordan Manz on a 49-yard touchdown pass to give the Panthers an early 7-0 advantage.

Hicksville answered midway through the opening quarter when Jacoby Campbell broke free for a 12-yard touchdown run. The missed extra point left Paulding holding a narrow 7-6 lead.

From there, the Panthers took complete control.

Cooper scored twice in the second quarter, finding the end zone on runs of one and two yards to extend Paulding's halftime advantage to 19-6.

The Panthers continued rolling in the third quarter. Zach Salas scored on a 14-yard run with 4:41 remaining, and a successful two-point conversion pushed the lead to 27-6. Hunt then connected with Manz for a 23-yard touchdown with just nine seconds left in the period, extending the advantage to 33-6.

Cooper added his third rushing touchdown early in the fourth quarter, breaking loose for a 46-yard scoring run. Paulding capped the evening's scoring when Sawyer Hunt connected with Bralen Kauser on a 33-yard touchdown pass with 2:37 remaining.

Cooper delivered an outstanding performance, rushing for 129 yards on 17 carries and scoring three touchdowns. He averaged 7.6 yards per attempt while providing the Panthers with a consistent offensive threat.

Salas added 30 yards on just two carries, including his 14-yard touchdown run. Trevor Durham contributed eight rushing yards.

As a team, Paulding finished with 160 rushing yards on 23 attempts, averaging seven yards per carry.

Ridge Hunt turned in an impressive passing performance, completing 11 of 18 attempts for 214 yards and two touchdowns without an interception.

Manz was nearly unstoppable in the receiving game, hauling in nine passes for 191 yards and two touchdowns. His receptions accounted for the majority of Paulding's passing offense, including scoring strikes of 49 and 23 yards.

Sawyer Hunt completed his only passing attempt for a 33-yard touchdown to Kauser.

Wes Grindstaff added a 12-yard reception, while Grady Arend caught one pass for 11 yards.

The Panthers finished with 247 passing yards and three touchdowns through the air.

Paulding's defense was equally impressive, holding the Aces scoreless over the final three quarters and limiting Hicksville to just 116 yards of total offense.

Salas led the defensive effort with 12 tackles, while Manz added 11 stops. Nick Baughman recorded eight tackles, followed by Emmett Barnes and Cooper with seven apiece.

Ivan Martinez and Javvon Stiltner each contributed six tackles and a tackle for loss. Grady Arend finished with five tackles, while Jason Manz added four.

Hicksville managed 108 rushing yards on 40 attempts, averaging just 2.7 yards per carry. The Panthers' secondary also limited the Aces to only eight passing yards on two completions.

Paulding finished with 407 yards of total offense compared to Hicksville's 116, holding a 13-7 advantage in first downs.

The Panthers' offensive efficiency was especially impressive, producing seven touchdowns on just 42 offensive plays.

JEST A MOMENT: HALLOWEEN WITH MACBETH



By: Nick Thomas

If tales of sinister characters following dark and bloody twisted paths inspired by supernatural forces are your idea of Halloween thrills, then put Macbeth on your October reading list.

Shakespeare's play is generally regarded as one of the best tragedies ever written and with a ghost and several witches lurking throughout, it's a suitably gruesome story to explore this month. Sure, the obscure language and symbolism can be as baffling as a Kanye West Twitter (X) post, but it's a compelling drama if only as a cautionary tale about taking advice from witches.

For those of you who took AP Cosmetology instead of English Lit as high school seniors, here's a summary of the story: After three witches predict Macbeth will become King of Scotland, his villainous wife (Gruoch) convinces her hubby to rub out King Duncan, clearing the way for Mr. Mac to assume the royal title. Lord Macduff serves as antagonist to Macbeth whose murderous reign continues, and eventually (medieval spoiler alert) does Macbeth in, during this regal 'gain of thrones.'

Early on, it's pretty obvious that Lady Macbeth is going to lose it. But it's hardly surprising she turns out to be less than the perfect royal hostess. After all, who wouldn't be a grumpy, murderous, battle-ax with a name like Gruoch?

Now, before all you Shakespeare scholars get your pantaloons in a knot, I do realize that Lady Mac's first name is never revealed in the play; but trust Wikipedia on this, her real birth name was Gruoch ingen Boite.

Like many of Shakespeare's plays based on historical figures, the depiction of Macbeth and his wife as the Mad Macs filled with greed and ambition is mostly fiction and bears little resemblance to the real Macbeths of Scottish history.

Historians believe King Duncan really was killed by Macbeth around 1040, but most likely in battle. Years later as king, Macbeth was himself slain in battle in 1057. As for Duncan, didn't his descendants emigrate to America and open a successful chain of donut shops?

In modern times, many well-known actors have tackled the challenging role of Macbeth on film. For instance, Orson Welles was an awesome Macbeth in 1948, as was Ian McKellen in 1979, with Judi Dench as Lady Mac (available on YouTube). But Sean Connery flopped in a 60s TV movie and that was the screenwriter's fault. After bumping off a head of state, Connery should have introduced himself to his new subjects by announcing "The name's Macbeth, KING Macbeth" with that distinctive sexy Scottish voice.

On stage, Christopher Plummer, Kelsey Grammer, Charlton Heston, Laurence Olivier, and Patrick Stewart all played Macbeth in theatrical productions. Personally, however, I'm anticipating the day William Shatner attempts the role, supplemented with a few updated and memorable ad-lib lines: "Is this a phaser which I see before me? Beam me up, Macduff!"

Nick Thomas has written features, columns, and interviews for numerous magazines and newspapers. See www.getnickt.org. Original royalty-free image generated by Meta.

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HITLER'S ESCAPE PLAN

A story that I don't remember learning in school. Today is bright sunshine and we are supposed to have a week of beautiful weather. Riots in France over the weekend that are troubling. Still we look forward to a new day and a new week. April, 1945, Hitler's Germany was collapsing. The Russian army occupied the east side of Berlin and the end was near. The Fuhrer himself was cowering in a bunker far beneath the city.

A general by the name of Vangrine began planning Hitler's Escape. All of the airports were closed so they would land a plane on the streets. Vangrine knew he couldn't accomplish this by himself so he's solicited another aviator by the name of Reitsch a well-known test pilot, a pilot that had been awarded the Iron Cross. Reitsch had tested every airplane Germany had used.

Reitsch had flown a glider 300 miles to set a record. Reitsch had tested the first rocket plane, flown the first helicopter inside an arena to the astonishment of thousands of people. Reitsch was the most decorated pilot in Hitler's Luftwaffe.

They were able to get to the airport but as they were approaching the city, enemy aircraft began hitting them numerous times. Vangrine was apparently dead and now it was up to Reitsch. The pilot could barely make out the Bradenburg Gate but was able to land right in front of it.

It turned out Vangrine was only wounded and a car was waiting to take them to the bunker where Hitler praised them. They stayed for 3 days not realizing that Hitler had determined to die there. They left three days later and was able to fly out and land at an airport outside of Berlin.

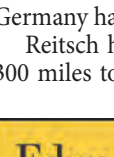
Imagine how history would have changed had they succeeded. Hitler would probably have been captured and tried. The pilot that attempted the daring rescue was Hanna Reitsch, a woman. She was one of the most decorated pilots in German history. She would have done anything for Hitler because she loved him.

Hannah was the daughter of a physician and she always wanted to fly. She wanted to be a flying missionary doctor. As a teenager she flew gliders for long distances without any means of propulsion. She set a record of 5 hours in the air in a glider. She also started medical School but at age 23 she began flying commercial planes.

Just thinking how history could have been changed causes one to wonder about events that took place. We as Christians believe that God is in control, and good will win in the end, but this gets more difficult as wars and conflict continue to happen.

—James Neuhouser

Edward Jones
Member SIPC



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MKT-5894O-A AECSPAD

HICKSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HOST SPECIAL VETERANS' DAY EVENT

As a way to honor those who have served in our country's military, the Historical Society in Hicksville, Ohio is holding a special Open Door day at the Society's museum, the Hicks Land Office. Located on West High Street, beside the Library, the museum houses memorabilia and artifacts from Civil War days and beyond.

There will be a special display detailing the career of Hicksville native son Herbert H Scranton, who left Hicksville for the US Navy after graduating from high school. A gift from his family, the collection showcases Scranton's years in the military, culminating with his rank as Commander.

In addition to the Scranton grouping, there are displays from WWI and WWII, the Civil War, several items related to non-military service camps, and much more.

Please plan to come see us at the Land Office this November 11th from noon to 6 PM. There is no charge for the museum at any time. We hope to greet many veterans as well as anyone interested in local history.

OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO HONOR VETERANS WITH BREAKFAST & CONCERT

On November 11th at 9:30 a.m., there will be a light breakfast available for veterans at Oakwood Elementary School. At 10:15 a.m., there will be a concert featuring OES students in grades 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6. Veterans and their families can submit their RSVPs by calling Mrs. Wellman (419-594-3346 ext. 1430) or Amaris Wolfe (419-594-3346 ext. 1462).

CHP BEACON OF HOPE TO SUPPORT DIGNIFIED END-OF-LIFE CARE

CHP Home Care & Hospice invites the community to its annual Beacon of Hope Dinner and Auction on Thursday, November 12, at the Paulding County Fairgrounds.

The evening supports CHP's Patient Care Fund, helping ensure that patients facing the end of life receive compassionate, dignified care, regardless of their financial circumstances. Funds raised in Paulding County stay local to support patients and families in the community.

The event includes a complimentary dinner catered by Grant's Catering, followed by live and silent auctions. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner begins at 6:15 p.m., and the live auction starts at 7 p.m.

CHP typically welcomes more than 200 guests and encourages the community to come together in support of local hospice care.

Attendance and dinner are completely free thanks to generous event sponsors. Reservations are required by Friday, November 6.

Reserve your seats at www.comhealthpro.org/events or call 419-399-4708

ANTWERP MANOR TO HOST FREE COZY CARE PACKAGE PICKUP FOR SENIORS

Antwerp Manor Assisted Living will host a free Cozy Care Package Pickup for area residents ages 55 and older on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

The event will feature a convenient drive-thru pickup, allowing participants to receive a free care package without leaving their vehicles.

The event will take place at Antwerp Manor Assisted Living, located at 204 Archer Drive, Antwerp, Ohio.

Those interested in participating are asked to RSVP by November 13 by contacting Mary at 330-419-4923.

OAKWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH TO HOST ELECTION DAY SUPPER

Oakwood Community Church will host its annual Election Supper on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall, located at 200 Main Street in Oakwood.

The community is invited to enjoy a variety of homemade-style favorites, including vegetable, chicken noodle and potato soups. Sandwich selections will include creamed chicken, pulled pork with optional barbecue sauce and hot dogs.

An assortment of pies and brownies will be available for dessert, along with sweet tea, lemonade and coffee.

The meal will be offered for a free-will donation, allowing attendees to contribute as they are able.

Carry-out meals will also be available. Those wishing to place a carry-out order on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, may call the church fellowship hall at 419-594-2100.

Everyone is welcome to stop by, enjoy a meal and share in the community fellowship on Election Day.

TWO KILLED IN CRASH ON STATE ROUTE 613

On October 20, 2026, at approximately 8:18 A.M., the Lima Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol responded to a report of a motor vehicle crash involving a passenger car and commercial semi on State Route 613 in Van Buren Township, Putnam County.

Lyle St. Clair Jr., age 45, from West Millgrove, Ohio was westbound on State Route 613 driving a 2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo. Christopher Clements, age 47, from Findlay, Ohio was eastbound on State Route 613 driving a 2025 Freightliner Cascadia semi. Mr. St.

Clair traveled left of center and struck Mr. Clements in a head-on collision. Mr. St. Clair and his passenger Adam L. Koebel, age 43, from Leipsic, Ohio were pronounced deceased on scene.

State Route 613 will remain closed until the Ohio Department of Transportation finishes repairs to the roadway.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted at the scene by the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, Leipsic Fire Department, Putnam County EMS, Ed's 24-hour service, Dick's Towing Service, Portage EMS, Ohio Department of Transportation, Putnam County Coroner's Office, and Love-Heitmeyer Funeral Home.

The crash remains under investigation. The Ohio State Highway Patrol reminds motorists not to drive distracted and to always wear a properly adjusted safety belt.



CHILDREN'S & YA AUTHOR TRICIA SPRINGSTUBB TO VISIT DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY NOVEMBER 19

DEFIANCE, Ohio — Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., will welcome children's and young adult author Tricia Springstubb for its annual Fall Children's Author Visit on Thursday, November 19, at 6 p.m.

During this special author visit, Springstubb will share stories from her writing career, discuss her books, and offer insight into her life as a storyteller. A lifelong reader and former Head Start teacher, Springstubb enjoys exploring not only what happens in a story, but also why. Her work includes How to Tell a True Story, Moonpenny Island, the Cody series, and other titles for young readers.

A select number of Springstubb's books will be available for purchase and signing, giving attendees an opportunity to take home a signed copy of her work.

The program is geared toward children and families, and no registration is needed. Families are invited to attend and enjoy an evening celebrating books, storytelling, and the imagination.

This special event is sponsored by the Friends of Defiance Public, Sherwood Branch, and Johnson Memorial libraries.

To learn more about Tricia Springstubb and her books, visit triciaspringstubb.com.

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

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.

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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RAIDER SPOTLIGHT

OCTOBER 2026



From the Superintendent's Desk …

We are one quarter of the way through the school year already. As of October 23rd, we have missed only one day due to fog, which was just recently. Our fall sports are wrapping up and winter sports are gearing up. I don't need to say the year is flying by!

Our STEAM Center Project continues to progress and the end date has been extended to the end of January or early February. We are excited for the opportunity for our students and community.

We are all Raiders, so let's continue on with this school year. Come out and support Wayne Trace Schools in all our events this year. The community support in our district is greatly appreciated and there are lots of exciting events to come! **Go Raiders!!**

Grover Hill Elementary Building News…

Grover Hill Elementary Announces Student Council, Perfect Test Scores, and Upcoming Events

Student Council at Grover Hill Elementary announced its Student Council representatives from the 5th and 6th grade homerooms:

- Kollin Reichert, Addilyn Noffsinger, Mason Stoller, Kinsley Sinn, Bode Roth, Aleyah Stoller, Natalie Heier, and Sloane Sinn.

Academic Achievements

Several students achieved perfect scores on last spring's Ohio State Tests:

- 3rd Grade Math: Grayson Bocook, Aliyah Duer, and Tessa Stoller
- 4th Grade Math: Nelliel Orona
- 6th Grade Math: Mia Kamphaus, Jase Miller, Austin Stoller, and Lyla Stoller

Community members are encouraged to follow the school's Facebook page for updates.

Upcoming Events Calendar

- November 11 (10:00 AM): Veteran's Day Program
- December 10 (2:00 PM & 7:00 PM): Christmas Program
- April 8 (2:00 PM & 7:00 PM): Spring Program
- May 21 (9:30 AM): Kindergarten Program

Payne Building Update…

The first nine weeks wrapped up on a high note, with grade cards sent home on October 23rd. A big shoutout goes to our third graders for their hard work on the Ohio State Test. Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for October 28th from 5:30 to 8:30 PM and October 29th from 1 to 8 PM. If you need assistance with scheduling a conference, please don't hesitate to contact the office or your child's homeroom teacher. Remember, there will be no school on October 29th or 30th. Additionally, our Fall Parade is set for October 28th at 1:45 PM, so come join us to see all the kids in their festive costumes! **Go Raiders!**

Jr/Sr High School Building Update…

As the 2026–2027 school year continues at Wayne Trace Junior/Senior High School, students are taking advantage of opportunities to prepare for life after graduation, develop leadership skills, and represent Raider Nation through academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities. From college and career exploration to fall sports and student leadership, Wayne Trace students continue to demonstrate the value of getting involved and making the most of their school experience.

Preparing Students for Their Next Steps

College and career readiness remains an important priority at Wayne Trace. This October, seniors will visit Purdue University Fort Wayne with Mrs. Mancinotti, giving them an opportunity to experience a college campus firsthand.

Guidance counselors Mrs. Langhals and Mrs. Mancinotti are also meeting individually with every high school student to review graduation plans and explore available pathways. These meetings help students understand their options and make informed decisions about their futures, whether they plan to pursue college, technical education, military service, or enter the workforce.

Wayne Trace is proud to recognize five seniors: Alex Doster, Elizabeth Graham, Colton Kimmel, Reece Olwin, and Olivia Zartman. They were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at Vantage Career Center. Their induction recognizes their commitment to career and technical education and their accomplishments as students.

Success Beyond the Classroom

Wayne Trace students continue to represent Raider Nation well through athletics, school activities, and leadership opportunities.

Both the boys and girls golf teams competed in the GMC Golf Invitational at Ironwood Golf Course in Wauseon. The boys captured first place, while the girls earned second place. Both teams advanced to sectional competition, and Brody Rosswurm qualified for the district tournament. Brody Rosswurm earned GMC Player of the Year for Boys Golf and Ella Crosby earned GMC Player of the Year for Girls Golf! Other GMC Girls Golf awards went out to Isabelle O'Shaughnessey who earned Second Team all conference while Arianna Viola and Miranda McCord earned Honorable Mention. On the Boys side Grayson Sutton earned Honorable Mention.

The boys and girls cross-country teams began postseason competition, with the GMC meet on October 17 in Edgerton. For the high school boys, Jaxon Cook received first team all conference and Eli Treece was honorable mention. For the high school girls, Avery Welch received second team all conference and Jenna Kipfer, Elly Kurtz, and Elynn Clemens were honorable mention. For the junior high girls, Lydia Shepherd was first team all conference. The district meet is scheduled for October 24 in Columbus Grove.

Homecoming was another highlight of the school year. A big thank-you goes to student council advisor Maureen Sorensen, sophomore class advisor Rhonda Walters, and the many staff members who volunteered their time and effort to organize and supervise the week's activities. Their



work helped create a memorable experience for Wayne Trace students.

Building Student Leadership

Student leadership continues to grow at the junior high level as well. With the guidance of student council advisor Kim Miller, seventh and eighth grade students have selected their class officers and student council representatives for the school year.

Seventh grade officers are President Lyla Stoller, Vice President Lydia Shepherd, Secretary Hannah Mawer, and Treasurer Jayde Sinn. Student council representatives are Brianna McClure, Pieper Mansfield, Piper Mills, and Brynlee Stoller.

Eighth grade officers are President Brynlee Maenle, Vice President Beckett Jay, Secretary Aubrey Fairley, and Treasurer Shawna Stoller. Student council representatives are Sawyer Schlatter, Aylan Stoller, Jennifer Lopez-Castillo, and Clare Linder.

These student leaders play an important role in representing their classmates, encouraging school involvement, and helping strengthen the Wayne Trace community.

As the first nine weeks conclude on October 16, Wayne Trace Junior/Senior High School remains committed to helping every student grow academically, develop meaningful relationships, explore future opportunities, and take pride in being a Raider.

Upcoming Dates at Wayne Trace

- October 28–29: Parent-teacher conferences
- October 29&30: Fall break — no school
- November 6: National Honor Society induction at 2 p.m. in the junior high gym
- November 9: Senior trip to Columbus
- November 11: Veterans Day assembly at 8:10 a.m.

Wayne Trace thanks its students, staff, families, and community members for their continued support. Together, we are building a school community focused on growth, opportunity, and Raider pride.



MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

AREA RUNNERS SHINE AT GMC CONFERENCE RACE

EDGERTON, OH – The Green Meadows Conference Cross Country Championships brought together some of the area's top runners on Saturday, October 17, as athletes from Antwerp, Paulding, Wayne Trace, Hicksville and other conference schools competed for team titles, individual honors and personal-best performances.

Hicksville's junior high boys captured a GMC championship, while Antwerp's junior high teams both earned runner-up finishes. Paulding's varsity boys secured third place, and several runners from all four schools collected All-GMC recognition.

The Hicksville Aces delivered one of the day's biggest performances, capturing the junior high boys GMC championship with a first-place team finish among eight competing schools.

Waylon Hilty led the Aces with a second-place finish in 11:32, followed closely by Liam Altman, who took fourth in 11:48. Steven Swanson placed seventh in 13:12, setting a personal record.

Kip Scott finished 16th in 13:33 with a personal best, while Elias Rittenhouse placed 20th in 14:32. Nolan Enderle finished 22nd in 16:17, also recording a personal record, and Brantley Sleesman rounded out the Hicksville lineup in 23rd at 17:11.

In the junior high girls race, Hicksville's Quinn Haggerty claimed the individual GMC championship with a winning time of 12:45. Teammate Chloe Laker followed with an impressive third-place finish in 12:50.

Eden Campbell placed 23rd in 16:56, followed by Ahna Combs in 31st at 17:25 and Madi Brown in 34th at 21:51. The Lady Aces finished fourth as a team among eight schools.

The Antwerp Archers enjoyed a strong morning, highlighted by second-place team finishes in both junior high divisions.

The junior high boys were led by Julian Rivera, who finished fifth overall. Bennett Graham, Luke Saylor, Cy Zuber, Brock Barker, Quintin Reyes and Avett Clem contributed to the Archers' runner-up performance.

Antwerp's junior high girls matched that success, also finishing second in the conference standings. Jocelyn Laker led the Lady Archers with a ninth-place finish, followed by Destiny Getz, Josie Laker, Olivia Kosch and Quinne Bradbury.

At the varsity level, Antwerp's girls secured third place as a team behind an outstanding one-two punch from Reese Durbin and Gianna Laker.

Durbin raced to second place overall, while Gianna Laker finished immediately behind her in third. Emily Laker, Gabriella Snyder, Kora Zuber, Aleta Sorrell and Heidi Rice completed the Lady Archers' lineup.

The Antwerp varsity boys finished sixth as a team. Jason McKay led the Archers with an 18th-place finish, followed by Braxton Peters, Tucker Doster, Marshall Rice, Gage Barker, Aiden Hook and Krayston Eicher.

The Paulding Panthers turned in an impressive performance in the varsity boys competition, finishing third overall in the conference standings.

Achilles Mead led the Panthers with a fifth-place individual finish, earning First Team All-GMC recognition.

Leonel Reyes finished eighth, while Max Daeger placed 11th, with both runners earning Second Team All-GMC honors.

Several Panthers also recorded season-best performances during the conference meet. Leonel Reyes, Isaiah Koenig, Rooney Cortes, Dani Borland and Karlee Kohart each posted their fastest times of the season.

The Wayne Trace Raiders also produced several noteworthy performances, with athletes earning conference recognition across multiple divisions.

The Wayne Trace junior high girls finished third as a team, while the junior high boys placed seventh.

Lydia Shepherd earned a spot on the junior high girls All-GMC team following her performance.

At the high school level, the Wayne Trace boys finished fifth overall. Jaxon Cook led the Raiders' conference honors by earning First Team All-GMC recognition, while Eli Treece received Honorable Mention.

The Lady Raiders placed fourth in the varsity girls standings, with Avery Welch earning Second Team All-GMC recognition.

Jenna Kipfer, Ellie Kurtz and Elynn Clemens each received Honorable Mention All-GMC honors for their efforts.

Hicksville's varsity boys placed fourth among eight teams in a competitive field of 53 runners.

Alex Franklin led the Aces with a ninth-place finish in 17:20, earning Second Team All-GMC honors.

Jonah Laker finished 15th in 17:49, while Greyson Combs placed 19th in a personal-best 18:12. Caleb Franklin crossed the finish line in 21st at 18:17, followed by Clay Marshman in 23rd at 18:27.

Kaleb Rost recorded a personal best of 18:39 to finish 27th, while Noah Campbell placed 42nd in 19:59.

Jonah Laker, Greyson Combs and Caleb Franklin each earned Honorable Mention All-GMC recognition.

In the varsity girls competition, Hicksville finished fourth as a team.

Mya Haggerty led the Lady Aces with a 12th-place finish in a personal-best 22:07, earning Second Team All-GMC honors.

Braelyn Adams finished 26th in 23:41, followed by Vaida Van Horn in 33rd at 24:35, a personal record.

Trinity Campbell placed 38th in 25:13, while Anna Saunders finished 42nd in 26:03. Both runners established personal-best times.

Nevaeh Phillips finished 51st in 29:11, and Valeria Tomas placed 52nd in 32:02.

ARCHERS BATTLE THROUGH THE AIR BUT FALL TO RAIDERS, 43-20

HAVILAND, OH – The Antwerp Archers found success through the passing game but couldn't overcome a powerful Wayne Trace rushing attack Friday, October 16, falling to the host Raiders 43-20 in Green Meadows Conference football action.

Wayne Trace established control early, taking a 14-6 lead after the first quarter before extending its advantage

(Continued on Page 8)

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.

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- Urologic cancers
- Voiding dysfunction
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- Incontinence/bladder control issues
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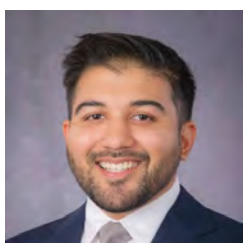

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Rico Abreu 2026 High Limit Sprint Series Champion. *Photo Credit: Champbell Photography.*

THE LEFT TURN

By: Ron Burt

The 2026 Tri-state racing season is almost over. This year suffered because of the weather. Winter lingered into late spring and then we were hit by cold and rainstorms, cancelling early local races and National events in our area. Tracks suffered because of low attendance and battling each other trying to put on big events to lure fans from other tracks.

Many fans, drivers and crews were excited about Mansfield Speedway coming to life again. Unfortunately, after the first weekend of racing, parts of the speedway had to be dug up and rebuilt. They had their share of growing pains early on but each week the racing surface became better and now it can host any big National Dirt Racing Series.

October 17th, Montpelier Speedway IN-hosted the Hoosier Hussle. It was the last time in 2026 for the 410 Nonwing Sprints. Thirty seven Sprints showed up to qualify. Zack Pretorius, set fast time 14.783. The 4 heat winners, Trey Osborne, Gunnar Setser, Jack Hoyer and Dustin Ingle. Two B Features were run with the top two finishers in each transferring to the A-Main. 20 Sprints started the 25 lap Feature, Ricky Lewis from Oxnard CA parked his car in Victory Lane, Trey Osborne and Jakeb Boxell made the podium. Race veteran Todd Sherman won the UMP Modified Feature. Kory Glassburn took the checkered flag in the Street Stocks. Montpelier Speedway will close out 2026 on October 23rd and 24th with the Annual Monster Mash. Six classes of cars over the 2 nights of racing.

Tony Stewart Racing added another Championship to their trophy case last week. Rico Abreu won the High Limit 410 Sprint Season Championship. This is Tony Stewart Racing's 24th National Championship and Rico's first year driving for Stewarts team. Rounding out the 2026 Top 5 in the point standings Giovanni Scelzi, Aaron Reutzel, Tyler Courtney and Justin Peck.

Other High Limit news, a few days after the 2026 season concluded, there will be a new contender for the 2027 Rayce Rudeen Foundation Rookie of the Year Award with Interstate Batteries High Limit Racing; and he's already one of the most popular figures in the sport. After finishing the final 10 races of this season aboard the Vermeer Motorsports Sprint, team owner Tony Vermeer signed Brady Bacon as the full-time driver when they return to High Limit next year.

The 36-year-old future Hall of Fame driver has already built a great career headlined by his four championships and 64 wins with the USAC AMSOIL National Sprint Car Series. Both stats ranking second all-time in the 70-year history of the United States Auto Club.

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

(Continued from Page 7)

to 24-14 at halftime. Neither team scored in the third quarter, but the Raiders erupted for 19 fourth-quarter points to secure the victory.

Antwerp quarterback Carson Hughes led the Archers' offensive effort, completing 17 of 35 passes for 222 yards and two touchdowns. Hughes also threw one interception.

Parker Bermejo was Hughes' leading target, hauling in five receptions for 78 yards. Brayden Fuller added four catches for 58 yards and a touchdown, while Michael Rohrs contributed four receptions for 36 yards.

Gabriel Wenzlick also found the end zone, finishing with two receptions for 31 yards and a touchdown. Parker Lucas added an 11-yard reception, and Gage Clevinger caught one pass for eight yards.

The Archers' ground game struggled against the Raiders' defense, finishing with negative 39 rushing yards on 22 attempts. Five bad snaps accounted for 57 yards in losses, significantly affecting Antwerp's rushing totals.

Ryder Hines provided Antwerp's rushing touchdown, finishing with six yards on two carries. Hines also converted a two-point attempt to account for eight of the Archers' 20 points.

Wayne Trace dominated on the ground, rushing for 379 yards on 52 attempts and scoring six rushing touchdowns. The Raiders averaged 7.3 yards per carry, while adding 49 yards through the air.

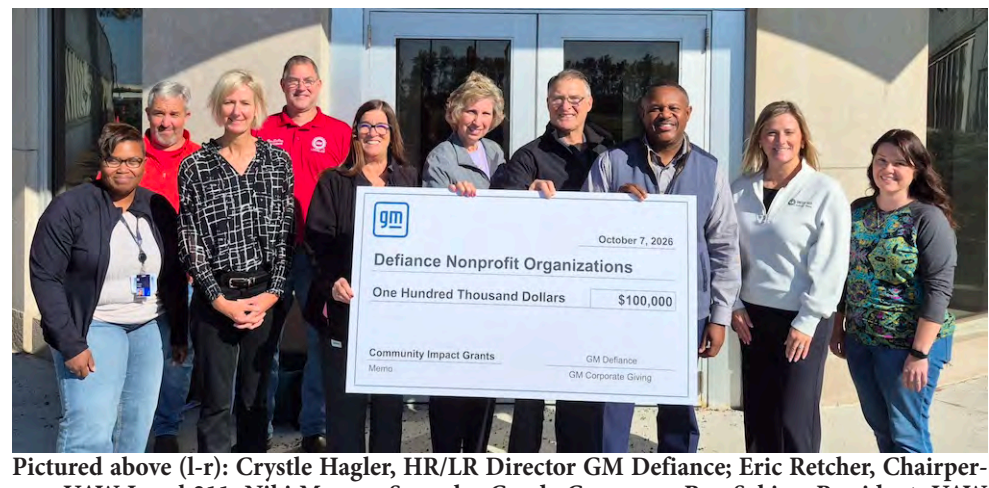
The Raiders finished with 428 yards of total offense compared to Antwerp's 183. Wayne Trace also held a 17-9 advantage in first downs.

Despite the setback, Antwerp showed resilience through its passing attack, particularly in the first half when the Archers remained within striking distance.

Luke Jones contributed on special teams with two kickoff returns totaling 47 yards, averaging 23.5 yards per return. Wenzlick handled the punting duties, recording three punts for 90 yards.

Antwerp finished with three penalties totaling 90 yards, adding to the challenges the Archers faced throughout the contest.

NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAMED RECIPIENT OF GENERAL MOTORS COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT



Pictured above (l-r): Crystle Hagler, HR/LR Director GM Defiance; Eric Retcher, Chairperson, UAW Local 211; Niki Moser - Spangler Candy Company; Ben Sabins, President, UAW Local 211; Robbin Wilcox - NSCC; Jani Tisovic - NSCC; John Mansel - Pleydell; Derrick Parson, Plant Director, GM Defiance; Abbey Wolfrum - United Way of Defiance County; and Mary Boyd, Global Supply Chain Manager, GM Defiance.

Northwest State Community College (NSCC) has been selected as a $25,000 recipient of General Motors' 2026 Community Impact Grants (CIG). The award was presented recently by GM Defiance on behalf of GM Corporate Citizenship as part of a collective $100,000 grant supporting local nonprofits dedicated to STEAM education and road safety initiatives.

Through the CIG program, facility leaders at GM Defiance select area organizations to help meet critical local needs, expand access to educational resources, and strengthen the surrounding region.

"We are proud to use our Community Impact Grants to support nonprofit organizations that create meaningful opportunities for people and families in our community," said Derrick Parson, plant director at GM Defiance. "GM has called Defiance home for more than 78 years, and we are honored to help advance the work that keeps this community strong and vibrant."

"We are deeply grateful to the GM Community Impact grant for their generous support," said Robbin Wilcox Executive Director of the NSCC Foundation, "This grant will enable us to offer hands-on learning experiences, and opportunities that engage youth and families in STEAM education in our community."

Building the Future will expand NSCC's growing STEAM outreach through hands-on summer camps, We Are STEM events for high school students, and a community STEAM event for youth and families. Building the Future addresses this need by providing accessible, hands-on opportunities for youth to experience robotics, engineering, technology, and problem-solving in engaging ways. NSCC shares the 2026 funding honors alongside the United Way of Defiance County and the Advanced Manufacturing Consortium.

Now in its 16th year, GM's CIG program is distributing $5 million across 42 hometown manufacturing communities nationwide in 2026. Since 2021, GM has awarded $360,000 in community impact grants directly to Defiance-area nonprofits.

2026 GMC ALL-CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL HONORS

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Estie Pease, Paulding (12).

FIRST TEAM: Estie Pease, Paulding (12); Ella Schaublin, Tinora (12); Kayleigh Dunham, Paulding (12); Liberty Vogelsong, Fairview (12); Kendyll Booher, Ayersville (11); Macy Behnfeldt, Tinora (11); Braleigh Addington, Tinora (9).

SECOND TEAM: Tori Schlatter, Paulding (12); McKenna Baird, Hicksville (12); Nevaeh Heisler, Fairview (10); Brianna Moninger, Fairview (10); Addison Dominique, Tinora (10); Karli Breedlove, Paulding (10); Amber Stoller, Wayne Trace (12).

HONORABLE MENTION: Alexis Otto, Antwerp (12); Brianna Sobecki, Ayersville (11); Madison Wilhelm, Edgerton (10); Samantha Coolman, Fairview (12); Jocelyn Baldwin, Hicksville (11); Kayde Kuckuck, Paulding (11); Kalli Wells, Tinora (10); Olivia Zartman, Wayne Trace (12).

PAULDING JUNIOR HIGH 1st NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2026/27

SIXTH GRADE:

All A's – Elizabeth Cortes Becerra, Jacob Shaffer, Keagan Willis

All A's&B's – Allison Ball, Evelyn Dangler, Braxton Dasher, Tate Dotson, Boston Foltz, Dulce Galeana Monterrubio, Nora Gochenour, Jerica Gonzales, Ella Hale, Gavin Hankinson, Landyn Harshman, Jesse (Danny) Hull, Harlow Kipfer, Grace (Gracie) LaBoe, Abigail (Abby) Leal, Alonzo (Lonzo) Miles, Noah Miller, Kami Muhlenkamp, Ximena (Mena) Mullins, Arabella (Ellie) Niemasz, Damian Pena, Kolby Ringler, Emma Steingass, Lilly Thomas, Ashlynn Vance, Merlia Veliz Jimenez, Merrick Wolfle

SEVENTH GRADE:

All A's – Carter Crossland, Logan Dasher, Audrey Etter, Graeson Heller, Cooper Laney, Kennedy Manz, Trevor Manz, Caroline Miller, Nolan Rosalez, Joshua (Josh) Schlatter, Isabella (Bella) Wesley, Rya Wirts

All A's&B's – Kiersten Arend, Alexander Burghart, Saulivin Cano, Zoey Chaney, Jozlyne Coburn, Ryder Dotson, Osiris Feliciano Rosas, Jase Frederick, Molly Halter, Sienna Harris, Erick Hernandez Palacios, Hadlyn (Maddie) Hunt, Alexis Kennedy, Kamden (Kam) Laney, Wyatt Leatherman, Cadence Lee, Boe Martin, Rebeka (Beka) Mericle, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Miller, Angelica (Angel) Reno, Brielle Schlatter, Sophia Smith, Zoey-Nichole (Zoey) Watson

EIGHTH GRADE:

All A's – Kyra Aldred, Teagan Bland, Alexandria (Allie) Manz, Connor Manz, Kinley Sunday

All A's&B's – Alanna Bassler, Cooper Boroff, Hunter Bullinger, Mia Cameron, Eva Densmore, Edalyne Hardt, Michael Hastings, Raelyn Haynes, Carlos Lechuga, Ryan Lin, Zoey Manz, Adalyn Miller, Carter Naugle, Clara Nicholson, Kaylee Pack, Kinsley Pease, Lucas (Luke) Ramey, Melissa Ramirez Cortes, Perla Reyes, Kolten Ringler, Jack Roddy, Timothy (Tim) Rohrs, Devin Scott, Trenit Valle, Hunter Walz

PAULDING COUNTY PROBATE COURT MARRIAGE APPLICATION REPORTS

Ruger W. Goeltzenleuchter (27) Payne, OH, Union Carpenter/Farmer; Bryn Marie Trowbridge (22) Payne, OH, Stay at home

Tristin Joel LaFountain (27) Paulding, OH, Rural Mail Carrier; Lola Starr Ellis (20), Paulding, OH, Unemployed

Robert Richard Royce (30), Anderson, IN, Sales Rep; Alexandra Grace Lininger (24), Correctional Officer

PAULDING COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO HOST ANNUAL BUSINESS & INDUSTRY APPRECIATION BANQUET

The Paulding County Economic Development organization invites regional business leaders, industry representatives, elected officials, and community partners to attend the Annual Business & Industry Appreciation Banquet on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at Grant's Catering in Antwerp, Ohio.

The evening will begin with a Social Hour from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. A brief program recognizing the 2026 economic year in review will follow dinner.

The annual banquet provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of local employers, recognize economic development successes throughout the county, and strengthen partnerships that support continued growth and investment in Paulding County.

Attendees are encouraged to reserve their seats by visiting www.pced.net.

For additional information, contact Paulding County Economic Development at 419-399-8282 or email director@pced.net

GRAIN HARVESTING ISSUES

Grain harvest has started but not without problems. Late planting, and a wet summer, especially with the wettest August on record; is causing grain problems in both soybeans and corn. Harvest lately has been delayed due to slow dry down and wet weather.

In soybeans, farmers are reporting black soybeans. Black discolored soybeans at harvest can is often linked to dry and wet soybean growing stress and fungal diseases affecting the plants during their growth cycle. Saprophytic fungi can colonize dead plant material, leading to black dust clouds during harvest. Fungi like Cercospora or Diaporthe can cause discoloration and

(Continued on Page 10)

The Left Turn
Your Source For Tri-State Racing
Ohio Sport Blitz Facebook Live with Ron Burt
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COMMUNITY BANKING MATTERS

When Someone Online Asks for Money, Take a Step Back

One of the things I enjoy most about community banking is getting to know our customers. We know who we're dealing with, and our customers know who they're dealing with. Unfortunately, the internet doesn't always work that way.

That brings me to something I believe more people need to be talking about: catfishing scams.

Catfishing occurs when someone creates a false identity online and uses it to build a relationship with another person. Sometimes the goal is simply attention. In other cases, however, the person behind the false identity is trying to gain someone's trust so they can eventually obtain money or personal information.

And these scams can be incredibly convincing.

The person may contact you through social media, a dating site, text message, or another online platform. They may have photographs, a believable occupation, and a detailed story about their life. Over time, the conversations can become very personal. They may message you regularly, ask about your family, and remember details you have shared.

That is what makes this type of fraud different.

The scammer is not simply trying to steal your money. They are first trying to earn your trust.

Eventually, however, money enters the conversation.

Perhaps the person has an emergency. They may claim to be traveling and unable to access their bank account. They might need help with an unexpected expense. Some scammers introduce an investment opportunity, sometimes involving cryptocurrency. Others may ask you to receive or transfer money on their behalf.

The details may vary, but the warning signs are often similar.

Watch for the Red Flags

Be especially cautious when someone you have met online:

- Avoids meeting you in person or repeatedly makes excuses for why they cannot.
- Quickly tries to develop a close personal relationship.
- Has a story that becomes more complicated over time.
- Suddenly experiences an emergency involving money.
- Asks you to wire funds, purchase gift cards, send cryptocurrency, or transfer money for them.
- Asks for account information, passwords, verification codes, or other sensitive information.
- Asks you to keep the relationship or financial transaction secret.
- Pressures you to act immediately.

There is another warning sign I would add: your own instincts.

If something does not seem right, stop and take a step back.

Don't Let Embarrassment Keep You Silent

One of the most troubling aspects of these scams is that victims may begin to suspect something is wrong but hesitate to tell anyone.

By that point, the relationship may feel very real and deeply personal. A person may worry about what family members, friends, or even their banker will think.

Please don't let that embarrassment keep you silent.

Good people fall victim to scams because criminals can be very skilled at manipulating trust, emotion, and a person's natural desire to help someone they care about. Asking for help does not mean you were foolish. In fact, asking another person to look at the situation before you send money may be one of the smartest things you can do.

If something about an online relationship or financial request doesn't feel right, talk with someone you trust. That might be a family member, close friend, or your banker. Sometimes simply having another set of eyes on the situation can make all the difference.

These can be very personal conversations, and they should be handled with discretion, dignity, and respect. A good banker isn't there to judge the relationship or tell you how to live your life. The goal is to help you recognize financial warning signs and protect what you have worked hard to earn.

Your Bank Can Be a Second Set of Eyes

This is where banking relationships matter.

When a banker asks why you are making an unusual withdrawal or sending money somewhere you normally would not, they aren't trying to pry into your personal life.

They are trying to protect you.

And I want to emphasize something: no matter where you bank, your financial institution wants to help protect you, your personal information, and your money.

Bankers would much rather have a private and potentially uncomfortable conversation with you before a transaction takes place than see you lose money to a scammer afterward.

Sometimes that means asking questions that may seem personal. Who are you sending the money to? How do you know the person? Have you met them? Why are they asking you to send money this particular way?

Those questions aren't intended to embarrass you or prevent you from using your own money. They are another layer of protection.

Bank employees encounter attempted fraud and suspicious transactions. Something that may not appear unusual to you can raise a concern for a banker looking at the situation from a different perspective.

So, if your financial institution pauses a transaction and asks a few additional questions, try not to be offended. Take a breath and have the conversation.

They may see something you don't.

And if you would feel more comfortable discussing the situation privately, simply ask. Your financial life is personal, and you should feel comfortable asking for a discreet conversation.

Stop Before You Send

You don't have to wait for your bank to raise a concern.

If you are uncertain about a financial request from someone you have met online, stop before you send the money.

Talk with a trusted family member, friend, or banker. Give yourself time to think about what is happening without the pressure of the person asking for the money.

A genuine relationship should withstand a reasonable pause while you verify the information. Pressure, secrecy, and urgency should never be the price of maintaining someone's affection or trust.

Most importantly, remember this:

You don't owe someone money simply because they have earned your trust online.

A legitimate relationship should not depend upon wire transfers, gift cards, cryptocurrency, account access, or emergency payments.

Technology has made it easier than ever for us to connect with people around the world. That can be a wonderful thing. But it also means we have to be more careful about whom we trust and how we protect ourselves.

At a community bank, relationships are built face-to-face, conversation by conversation, over many years. They are also built on the confidence that you can walk through the door, ask for help, and have a private conversation without feeling judged.

Perhaps there is a lesson in that for the online world as well.

Trust is valuable. Protect it just as carefully as you protect your personal information and your money. And when something doesn't feel right, never be embarrassed to ask for help.

—Jeff Mumma,
President & CEO
The Antwerp
Exchange Bank

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic
Disposition Report

Sidney Kunesh, Oakwood, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. Kunesh was fined $50, all of which was suspended, and ordered to pay $269 in court costs. Kunesh was also ordered to maintain good behavior.

Wendy A. McCourt, Paulding, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. McCourt was fined $55 and ordered to pay $100 in court costs.

Juan C. Sanchez Jr., Antwerp, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. Sanchez was fined $30, with no additional court costs assessed.

Lucas M. McKeever, Antwerp, pleaded guilty to driving while texting. McKeever received no fine but was ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Debra Yasinev, Saint Louis, Missouri, pleaded guilty to a child restraint violation. Yasinev was fined $70 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Emmajane M. Benschneider, Paulding, pleaded guilty to failure to control. Benschneider was fined $70 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Blake A. Dunn, Oakwood, pleaded guilty to violating an underage alcohol law. Dunn was fined $100 and ordered to pay $414 in court costs. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, all of which were suspended, and placed on standard probation for six months. Dunn

Deana L. Ostrander, Oakwood, pleaded guilty to assault. Ostrander was fined $100 and ordered to pay $280 in court costs. She was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 179 days suspended. Ostrander was also ordered to maintain good behavior and have no contact with the victims or their residence.

Robert G. Griffiths, Richmond, Virginia, pleaded guilty to failure to yield while making a left turn. Griffiths was fined $55 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Thomas C. McMichael, Cecil, had a charge of driving under a financial responsibility suspension dismissed. McMichael was ordered to pay $97 in court costs.

Lillian J. Schlatter, Cecil, pleaded guilty to an unsecured load violation. Schlatter was fined $70 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

The West Bend News

Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

GET YOU MESSAGE OUT IN THE WEST BEND NEWS.

NEWS ITEMS ARE ALWAYS FREE!!!

HAVE A WEDDING, ENGAGEMENT OR ANNIVERSARY?

Let your friends and neighbors know for FREE in the West Bend News.
(pictures are extra)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
HICKSVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Hicksville Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on November 4th, 2026, at 5:30pm at City Hall in Council Chambers.

The application submitted by Justin Kuhn for the rezoning of E06-0027-0-042-00 30 acres located on Spencerville Rd. Zoning from Agricultural to R1 Residential single family.

— Zoning Official
Village of Hicksville
Brian Demland

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START YOUR HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION WITH AN ALL-YOU-CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Pictured at park: Mattison Clevinger, Jane Gray, Leland Holt, Pastor White & Adrie Smith

Why not kick off your Halloween Celebration with an ALL-YOU-CAN-EAST PANCAKE BREAKFAST, served with a side of a sausage?

Saturday, October 31, 2026; 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. at Latty Zion Baptist Church, 855 Broadway, Latty, Ohio.

The Latty Community has a vision to improve the Latty Lions Community Ball Court, and we need your help to make it happen! This pancake breakfast is the first step in our fundraising efforts to turn that vision into reality.

Planned improvements include:

An upgraded playing surface; New goal posts & equipment; Improved lighting and safety; Landscaping & seating; A welcoming space for community events and youth programs.

There will also be a Silent Auction for Dargenson Woodcraft and a Free Treat Bag for children.

Need directions? We're located on the south side of Latty. From Road 107, head east on Road 84, or travel to the end of Lewis Street in Latty and head west on Broadway Street.

Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, support a great community cause, and learn more about how you can help make the Latty Lions Community Ball Court project a reality.

Bring your family, invite your friends, and help us build a better space for our community!

Questions? Contact Yvon Dargenson (419.796.1752) or Jane Gray (419.786.9651).

(Continued from Page 8)

some viruses may cause discoloration. Enlist soybeans also has a trait that causes soybean coat discoloration which is not related to fungi or virus infection.

A drying (drought like) cycle followed by repeated wet cycles can cause seed discoloration and mold, particularly in areas with late rains in August and September. While primarily causing purple discoloration, darker hues may occur and it may affect seed quality especially if mold occurs. In some cases, significant discounts may occur and in severe cases with mold, loads may be rejected.

On corn, corn kernels sprouting on the ear before harvest can still be combined, but widespread sprouting increases the risk of grain damage, elevator discounts and storage problems. According to Purdue University Extension, this condition is known as vivipary, and develops when mature kernels are rewetted by rain, particularly when upright ears trap moisture inside their husks.

Mature kernels are most likely to sprout when reasonably dry grain, below roughly 20% moisture, is rewetted, especially in warm weather. This occurs when dry grain with ears still pointed upright is rained on capturing moisture by the husk leaves, which typically produces sprouted kernels near the butt of the ear. Grain at higher moisture contents is much less likely to germinate on upright ears. Hybrids whose ears stay upright with open husks at maturity tend to be more susceptible. Sometimes corn ears lying near wet soil after severe stalk breakage or lodging can germinate. Also, ears damaged by hail, birds or ear molds can also sprout, even before full maturity. With harvest running behind, the corn kernel sprouting issue is becoming more common. Every week mature corn stands through wet weather extends the window for rewetting.

At combining, the challenge is recovering grain without adding damage. Operators should check harvested grain for broken kernels, incomplete shelling out of cobs and the ground behind the combine for losses. Threshing and cleaning settings should be adjusted to actual field conditions, balancing effective shelling with minimal breakage and grain loss. Once corn dries below about 20% moisture, more kernels shell out at the corn head, and that slower ground speed helps gather ears in down or stalk-weakened corn. Most harvest losses start at the header, making deck plate settings, stalk roll speed and gathering chain speed the first adjustments to check say Purdue Extension. On 250-bushel corn, a 1% loss leaves 2.5 bushels an acre in the field.

On sprouting corn, severely affected fields should be harvested first. Purdue recommends timely harvest, drying to stop further seedling growth and screening grain before storage to remove damaged kernels and sprout material. Removing fines concentrated in the center of a bin can also help manage storage problems.

Dry corn at higher temperatures to keep the young seedlings from growing further, and for "coring" a filled bin by removing several loads from the center, where broken corn and foreign material concentrate during filling. Purdue storage guidance warns that concentrated fines encourage mold and insects and block airflow. Monitor stored grain closely for hot spots, mold and further sprouting, testing for mycotoxins where ear molds are present and making sure the crop insurance adjuster knows about sprouting before harvesting those fields. Where sprouting corn ear damage is widespread, waiting for additional field drying could sacrifice grain quality while saving on minimally on drying expense.

Sprout-damaged kernels count toward total damaged kernels, one of the four factors, along with test weight, broken corn and foreign material (FM) and heat damage, that set corn's numerical grade. U.S. No. 2 corn allows no more than 5% total damage and 3% FM with a minimum test weight of 54 pounds per bushel. Loads that fall below No. 2 face large discounts which may be triggered by sprouting corn.

Purdue estimates corn standing in the field can lose 1 percentage point of moisture or more per day on warm September days, but only 0.25 to 0.5 point a day in October, and almost zero by November. For sprouted fields, those late-season drying days reduce little moisture while leaving the grain exposed to more rain.

James J. Hoorman

Hoorman Soil Health Services

FORMER PROFESSIONAL BALLET DANCER TO SHARE STORIES FROM THE STAGE AT DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., will welcome Nigel Burgoine, former principal dancer with the London Festival Ballet and award-winning artistic director, on Thursday, November 5, at 5:30 p.m.

During "Tutus, Touring, and other Terrors!" Burgoine will share insights into life on tour with a professional ballet company, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the world of professional dance. Attendees will hear entertaining and hair-raising stories about the unexpected, hilarious, and unforgettable moments that can happen both onstage and backstage.

The program is open to ages 16 and older. No registration is required.

LATE GRAIN PLANTING

Due to a late spring planting and wet variable weather this fall, fall grain planting and harvest are behind schedule. Soil moisture levels in Ohio are adequate to surplus. This week, the weather looks to be mostly favorable, so expect a lot of farm activity with harvest. However, some farmers may still be considering planting wheat or small grains (cereal rye as a cover crops, or even barley). Here are some guidelines.

It is generally too late to plant winter wheat in Ohio once you pass 3 to 4 weeks after your county's Hessian fly-safe date (typically pushing into late October or early November).

The optimal start time to plant wheat is the 10-14-day window starting immediately after the Hessian fly-safe date (which spans late September through early October depending on whether you are in northern, central, or southern Ohio).

The late window is 3–4 weeks post-fly-safe date. Planting this late increases risks of reduced fall growth and lower winter hardiness, though yields can still be decent if a mild fall delays hard freezes into late November or December. Too late is generally beyond 4 weeks or past Mid-November. Wheat planted past this point struggles to emerge or develop adequate tillers (shoots from the base) before going dormant. This leads to severe risks of winter-kill or spring heaving.

For late Ohio winter wheat planting in 2026, agronomic guidelines say increase your seeding rate to 1.6 to 2.0 million seeds per acre if planting is delayed into the third or fourth week after the county's Hessian fly-safe date. This adjustment compensates for reduced fall tillering and establishment time caused by late-season weather delays. While timely planting requires 1.2 to 1.6 million seeds per acre, late-planted fields need 1.6 to 2.0 million seeds per acre. Pushing beyond 2 million seeds per acre is generally not cost-effective and generally does not increase yield. Maintain a depth of 1.5 to 2 inches. Avoid planting too deep, as late-planted wheat already faces lower temperatures and needs to emerge quickly to establish before winter dormancy. Avoid sidewall soil compaction if at all possible, due to slower seed and plant emergence.

Late-planted wheat requires different nitrogen management strategies compared to early or timely fields to encourage rapid spring recovery: For high-yield potential fields, increase nitrogen application rates up to 150 pounds per acre. For lower yielding fields, increase N rates to 80 to 90 pounds per acre (up from the typical 50 to 60 pounds for timely planting). Successful late planted wheat depends on a warm, extended autumn and warmer early winter to allow the seeds to pop and set root. With Super El Nino weather patterns expected, that is a good possibility.

For the 2026 fall season, the recommended final date to plant cereal rye in Ohio for optimal performance is November 1. However, because cereal rye is highly cold-tolerant and can germinate at temperatures as low as 32°F–34°F, it is rarely truly "too late" if the physical conditions allow for planting. For all grains crops, the later you plant the better your chances of success if you drill it versus aerial or broadcast applications.

The time to plant cereal rye is up to November 1st according to Ohio State University Extension guidelines. This ensures the plant achieves enough fall root development and aboveground biomass for adequate winter survival and early spring coverage. Planting through November 15 will still result in successful germination, but you will see significantly less fall ground cover and biomass compared to earlier dates. The "Mud-In" Window is late November & December. If the seed can be drilled into the ground without destroying soil structure, cereal rye can be planted through December. Cereal rye will likely vernalize over the winter and sprout during late-winter or early-spring warming trends.

Late-planted rye will not tiller (branch out) as much in the fall. To offset this lack of growth, increase your seeding rate up to 2 million seeds per acre (or roughly 75–90+ pounds per acre) to ensure a dense spring stand. Ensure seeds are drilled consistently at about 1.5 inches deep. Planting too shallow during late horizons leaves the crown vulnerable to winter injury and frost-heaving. Late-season establishment depends heavily on receiving 1-2 inches of autumn rain to help the seed establish before the ground completely freezes.

For winter barley in Ohio, stick to planting barley in the first 10 to 14 days after your county's Hessian fly-safe (fly-free) date, meaning it is generally past the ideal window by mid-to-late October 2026. Barley is not as winter hardy as wheat or especially cereal rye, so timely planting is more critical.

—James J. Hoorman
Hoorman Soil Health Services

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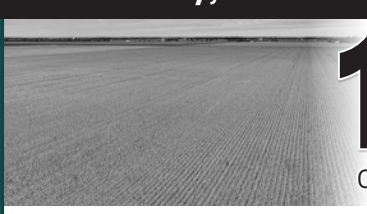
LAND AUCTION

Tuesday, November 24 • 6pm



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FARM 1 (80± ACRES) LOCATION: 25501 Woodburn Rd - 1 mile East of Woodburn **FARM 2 (70± ACRES) LOCATION:** ½ mile South of Woodburn on SR 101 & Slusher Rd

PREVIEW - Meet a Schrader Representative Along Tract 1: Tue, Nov. 10 • 4-6pm & Mon, Nov. 16 • 4-6pm or Contact the Auction Manager for More Info (260.410.1996)

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TRACT 2 — 40.00± ACRES: Approximately 38.50 tillable acres. Primarily Latty soils, with areas of Saranac and Nappanee. Located along State Route 114 and Road 117 in Section 19, Latty Township, Paulding County, Ohio;

TRACT 3 — 34.76± ACRES: Approximately 30 tillable acres. Primarily Nappanee soils, with areas of Wabasha, Mermill, Hoytville, and Latty. Located at the corner of Hoaglin Road and Mohr Road in Section 18, Hoaglin Township, Van Wert County, Ohio.

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OHIO STATE ATI CONNECTS HANDS-ON EQUINE LEARNING WITH RACETRACK SUCCESS



WOOSTER, Ohio — Emma Petrus knew him as Jack.

Petrus, a second-year animal production and management - horse specialization student at Ohio State ATI, was nervous when she was assigned to prepare the standardbred yearling, named Booze Cruisin, for sale.

It didn't last long.

"He was a very well-mannered colt who took to corrections well and learned quickly," Petrus said. "What I remember most about preparing him for the sale was how far he came along in such a short time."

Now, during the 2026 Ohio harness racing season, Petrus gets to watch the horse compete at fairs and racetracks across the state, where he has earned more than $31,000 and advanced to the Buckeye Stallion Series final.

ATI, located on the Wooster campus of The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), offers two-year associate degree programs with an emphasis on experiential learning. Its horse specialization in the animal production and management program is an associate of applied science degree that prepares students for careers in the equine industry through the study of horse nutrition, reproduction, health, training and management.

Booze Cruisin is among several horses bred and raised through the equine program at ATI. The horses provide students with hands-on learning from breeding and foaling through young-horse management and sale preparation.

"It's not just theoretical; students apply what they are learning in real-world situations and have real-world impact," said Sara Mastellar, ATI associate professor and equine programs coordinator.

Students help handle stallions, collect and ship semen, breed mares, foal out mares and work with young horses. Later, they might prepare yearlings for sale, developing marketing materials and interacting with prospective buyers.

For Petrus, preparing Booze Cruisin meant working with him nearly every day. Students groom and handle the yearlings and introduce them to situations they might encounter at a sale, including walking through obstacles in an indoor arena.

By sale day, Petrus saw a different horse.

"He was remarkably put together and controlled," she said. "I recall being so proud of him and our partnership."

That sense of ownership is an important part of the experience, said Aspen Adams, horse herd manager at the ATI Equine Center.

By sale day, Adams said, students who have participated throughout the process are invested in the outcome.

"They aren't just showing up to lab for a grade," Adams said. "They are invested and excited."

ATI graduate Sam Liggett experienced that connection from the beginning. She was on foal watch the night Booze Cruisin was born and continued working with him as he grew.

Liggett entered ATI with limited horse experience, discovered an interest in equine reproduction and now works in the standardbred industry.

"Being able to work with horses of many different breeds and temperaments helped me gain the experience I needed to step into the standardbred industry with confidence," Liggett said.

Booze Cruisin sold for $14,000 at the 2025 Buckeye Classic Yearling Sale.

Other recent ATI-bred standardbreds have also found success on the track. CPF Predi had six wins in 12 starts and $19,613 in earnings as of Sept. 9, while Kiss My Hocks had earned $41,579 over 21 starts.

The success of ATI-bred horses comes as Ohio prepares to host one of harness racing's premier events. The Breeders Crown championships will take place Oct. 23-24 at Eldorado Scioto Downs in Columbus, marking the first time the track has hosted the full championship event and bringing national attention to Ohio's Standardbred racing industry.

For students, however, the payoff extends beyond a horse's racing record.

Petrus now cares for six standardbred yearlings and said she uses what she learned preparing Booze Cruisin in her work with young horses.

"The hands-on experience is truly unmatched in its ability to get a student to care about and be invested in what they are learning," she said.

Liggett has followed Booze Cruisin throughout the 2026 racing season and has met him in the winner's circle several times.

"Watching him race is so exciting, especially because you can see that this colt wants to win," Liggett said. "I know he has a great team behind him, and I am excited to see what he does next."

Mastellar said seeing horses succeed after leaving ATI affirms the value of that real-world learning.

"It's validating to see our four-footed alumni go on to be successful in addition to our two-footed alumni," she said. "The success of the horses underscores the real-world environment that the students are learning in."

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PAULDING ELEMENTARY 1st NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2026/27

** Denotes all "A's"*

THIRD GRADE:

Mrs. Doster – *Gunner Borkosky, *Cecelia Manz, *Garrett Wilhelm, Aubree Mangette, Eli Manz, Isabel Ramon, Lydia Reinhart, Kaiden Spradlin

Mrs. Agler – *Brayden Bland, *Avianna Manz, *Zane Summers, Adrienne Arend, Wyatt Colley, Gabby Laboe, Liam Messmann, Lacey Renollet

Mrs. Rohlf – *Avery Branch, Ayvriella Barajas, Ramona Burtch, Nova Keeling, Zoey Mobley, Ryker Showalter,Aubree Thompson

FOURTH GRADE:

Mrs. Miles – *Vincent Grinnell, *Emberly VanVlerah, *Ilah Zimmerman, Hendrix Carlisle, Emma Elkins, Kyrie Jack, Bentley Lockwood, Kyra Mead, Bentlee Pack, Declan Pittman, Kash Ringler, Gabriel Tavares-Vasquez, Braylee Tempel, Conner Turner

Mr. Karzynow – Emily Adkins, Essie Deel, Ayra Dunakin, Mason Eddy, Ali Fitch, Julia Gochenour, Sully Schlueter, Maddock Wolfle

Mr. Harder – *Toby Bolter, William Arend, Logan Crossland, Bayne Dasher, Kenley Miller, Odyn Rue, Harper Snyder, Audrina Vance

FIFTH GRADE:

Mrs. LaFountain – *Quynn Arend, *Da'Lonnie Banks, *Cole Mangette, *Aubrey Manz, *Kaylee Powell, *Nora Rosalez, *Marshall Wilhelm, Isaiah Hopkins, Sebastian Houck, Jeyssi Veliz Jimenez

Mrs. Stoller – *Mason Horner, *Natalie Mericle, *Sophia Spangler, *Emma Sue Walz, Rey Romero, D.J. Schlegel, Adrie Smith

Mrs. Richards – *Lute Gross, *Ryker Johnson, *Gwendalyn Laboe, *Edison Manz, *Trent Reinhart, Ellie Branch, Dilan Calixto-Gutierrez, Elizabeth Chapman, Meela Jones, Nolan Schlueter, Payton Schroeder, Everett Wilhelm, Rowan Witkouski

OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 1st NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2026/27

** Denotes all A's*

Mrs. Thornell (3A): Paisley Brobst, Matthew Goins, Preston Lambert, Sabrina Lane, Aurora Luginbill, Sadie Manz, Juan Mendoza, Jamison Mullins, *Jimmie Pumphrey, Dallas Schlatter, *Norah VanCleve, Scarlett Vannier, Karter Walters

Miss Tressler (3B): Kaeson Alvarado, Mallory Barnwell, Jaxson Courtney, Barrett Damman, Corbin Girod, Oliver Havert, Jaxon Knapp, *Savannah Manz, *Montana May, Colton Rau, *Jeremiah Schlatter, *Slade Schlegel, Cohen Sherry, *Allie Stork, Paisley Varner

Mrs. Hohlbein (4A): Izabella Carlisle, Natalie Collard, Dante Corral, Coal Etter, Leo Krabill, Avianna Landwehr, Carson Parker, Lucas Richman, Mila Rios, Tabiah Rush, Titus Tenwalde, Landen Vorlicky

Mrs. Bockrath (4B): *Evan Blockberger, Axl Breckler, Hayden Chaney, *Emerson Gamble, *Zane Grant, Hadley Mohr, *Macklen Osting, Jakob Stahl, Cora Thomas

Mrs. Limber (5A): Zevy Adkins, McKenna Barnwell, Lucia Burghart, Daughson Guindon, Rylie Posey Grant, *Carly Manz, *Quintin Manz, Aspynn Shirk, Henley Wagner

Mrs. Sizemore (5B): *Lee Bradford, Marshall Fife, *Calla Manz, *Cameron Manz, *Kasha Manz, Jaice Oswalt, Daniel Schlatter, *Elena Schlatter, Owen Steffes, Evan Taylor, Haven Wagner

Miss Brimmer (6A): Aliah Fenter, Jaxson King, *Alex Manz, Kamdin Seiler, River Stahl

Mr. Ellerbrock (6B): Addison Clemens, Luke Collard, Maverick Jewell, Hudson Miller, Adisen Seiler, *Samuel Stahl, Easton Stork, *Ella Taylor, Evan Thomas

OHIO DESIGNATED ATTAINMENT STATEWIDE FOR AIR QUALITY AFTER DECADES OF PROGRESS

The state of Ohio has reached a historic environmental milestone. For the first time in more than two decades, all 88 counties are designated as attainment. The achievement follows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's redesignation announcements of the Cleveland and Canton areas to "attainment" for the 2015 ozone and 2008 lead standards.

A designation of attainment means Ohio has achieved the federal air quality standard at that point in time and has plans in place to help maintain it in the future. The attainment designations reflect decades of work to reduce air pollution, improve air quality, and ensure cleaner air for every Ohioan.

"Today's announcement is another major environmental victory for Ohio," Governor Mike DeWine said. "This is a testament to the state, federal, and local partners, who have dedicated themselves to improving air quality. This achievement will benefit Ohio families and help strengthen our state's future for years to come, making Ohio an even better place to live, work, and raise a family."

Reaching statewide attainment status is the result of long-term investments in new technologies, emissions reductions, improved pollution controls, and partnerships at every level of government. It demonstrates that Ohio can improve environmental quality while continuing to support economic growth.

Cleaner air benefits every Ohioan by reducing pollutants that contribute to respiratory illnesses, improving the quality of life, and protecting the health of children, older adults, and those with underlying health conditions.

"This is an historic achievement for Ohio," said EPA Regional Administrator Anne Vogel. "This milestone would not have been possible without the partnerships we formed across state and local governments, as well as the private sector. This is a true example of cooperative federalism in action."

"It's a day worth celebrating and one that speaks to the collaboration, the resilience, and the dedication of everyone involved," Ohio EPA Director John Logue said.

Having the entire state of Ohio designated as attainment, especially in Northeast Ohio, enables additional economic development that was difficult to achieve with the rigorous requirements associated with nonattainment designations.

Although statewide attainment designations mark an historic achievement, Ohio EPA will continue working with local communities, businesses, and federal partners to protect this progress. The agency will also continue monitoring air quality, implement programs to reduce emissions, and ensure Ohio remains in attainment for years to come.

Under the federal Clean Air Act, areas redesignated to attainment must continue meeting air quality standards and maintain those standards for at least 10 years. As a result, emission-reduction programs like E-Check will need to remain in place in Northeast Ohio to help preserve clean air, reduce emissions, and ensure the region continues to meet federal standards.

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

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.

PAULDING COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS PLANT AMERICA 250 TREE



The Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) Program in Paulding County is proud to participate in the nationwide America 250 celebration by planing a commemorative oak tree in the community.

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States, Master Gardener Volunteers across Ohio are planting oak trees as a symbol of strength, resilience, and longevity. The tree planted in Paulding County will serve as a lasting tribute to this historic milestone while enhancing the local landscape for years to come.

The oak tree will be planted in an appropriate public location and identified with a commemorative tag recognizing its connection to the America 250 celebration and the efforts of the local Master Gardener Volunteers.

Paulding County Master Gardener Volunteers chose the location in Paulding to commemorate the newly establish Veterans Memorial. The Swamp White Oak tree (Quercus bicolor) was chosen by the group due to the nativeness of the tree and being a historical part of the great Black Swamp.

Master Gardener Volunteer, Sherri Rager, shared "Oaks are a keystone species which play a critical role in maintaining the structure of an ecological community. Oaks have a disproportionately large impact on their environment relative to their abundance. Oaks are very valuable wildlife trees and support more life forms that any other North American tree genus. This number can reach upwards of 21,000 species who rely on the oak."

She continued, "White Oaks typically live 100-500 years routinely over 300 years. Oaks are a symbol of an 80th wedding anniversary. Because of their ability to withstand storms, they are often called Mighty Oak or King of Trees. Specifically, Swamp White oaks leaves are glossy and green on top and white and have a velvety feel on the bottom. The wood is strong, heavy, hard and durable. Typically, the tree will grow 1-2 feet per year, topping out at 50-60 feet tall and wide. Swamp White oaks will begin producing acorns in 20-25 years. "

Community members are encouraged to visit the tree and follow along as Paulding County Master Gardener Volunteers join others across Ohio in this unique project. Photos from the planting will also be shared as part of a statewide effort to highlight volunteer impact.

Dan Wilder of the Paulding VFW Post 5087 blessed the tree during the dedication ceremony. His blessing noted "We bow our heads in thanksgiving today as we gather to plant this living memorial. We remember with deep gratitude, the courageous men and women who laid the foundations of our liberty. As this tree takes root in the earth, let it be a symbol of the enduring strength, resilience, and faith of our Revolutionary Patriot ancestors. Bless this soil, O Lord. Send your sun and your rain to nourish this tree so that it may grow strong and tall. May its leaves offer shelter, its branches stretch toward the heavens, and its presence remind all who pass by of the precious cost of freedom. Just as the roots of this tree hold fast to the ground, anchor our hearts in the principles of patriotism, community, and service. Help us to honor the memory of those who came before us by caring for our nation and each other. Watch over this tree as a lasting beacon of hope for future generations."

The Master Gardener Volunteer Program is part of the Ohio State University Extension and its dedicated to promoting research-based horticultural education, environmental stewardship, and community service.

For more information about the Master Gardener Volunteer Program in Paulding County contact Sarah Noggle, Extension Educator at (419)399-8225 or by emailing noggle.17@osu.edu.

K9 DONATION MADE TO PC SHERIFF LANDERS



On October 9th, an anonymous donation was made to Sheriff Landers for the new K-9 Beau's officer training. K-9 Beau's handler is Deputy Isaiah Rittenhouse. Pictured above is donation representative Keith West and Sheriff Landers.

HALLOWEEN DONUTS IN WOODBURN

The final Woodburn Lions Donuts for the year will be Saturday, October 31st from 7:00 – 11:00 am in the Clock Tower parking lot in Woodburn.

This is our annual Business Appreciation Day. You can pick-up a coupon at area businesses for $1.00 off regular price. We will be featuring our Pumpkin Spice as well as the regular plain and sugared donuts.

We are also holding the Annual Halloween Costume Party at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Free cider, donuts and candy for participants as well as cash prizes in over 10 categories for all age groups. See you on Halloween!

WINE & BEER TASTING TO BE HELD AT THE HUBER OPERA HOUSE

Wine & Beer Tasting Event is back this year and will feature craft beers and wines from Two Bandits. Once again light hors d'oeuvres, charcuterie, and snacks will be served to pair with the beers and wines available for tastings. Joe Justice is back by popular demand to fill the evening with entertainment.

The Silent Auction will be set up for your bidding pleasure. It will be a great evening to spend with friends and family, so get your tickets now.

Limited tickets are available at the Huber Office and at the Hicksville Sam Switzer Realty Office for $60/person. However, you can guarantee your tickets by becoming a sponsor for this fundraising event. In addition, the committee is asking for contributions of goods or services to be included in a Silent Auction.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or contributing to the silent auction, feel free to contact the Huber office now and let us know how best you can support the Huber. Profits from the 2024 Beer & Wine Tasting Event have been used for the new hardwood stage floor project. The Wine & Beer Tasting Event 2026 profits will be saved for other major upgrades at the Huber.

This popular event only happens every other year so plan ahead now to join us 7:00-10:00 pm on November 13, 2026.





