The West Bend News
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VOLUME 22 – ISSUE 44 | Good News for Good Communities - Serving Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026

VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM PLANNED AT PAULDING SCHOOLS



Pictured here are members of the Paulding FFA Chapter leading the school in the pledge of allegiance at last Veterans Day year's program.

By: Vivi Myers, Paulding FFA Student Advisor

On Veterans Day, November 11th, 2026, the Paulding FFA Chapter along with the Paulding Middle School Student Council, will host a program honoring the veterans in our community and beyond.

The program will begin at 1:00 pm in the Paulding High School gym, with the doors opening at 12:20 pm that day. We ask that all veterans park in the circle drive and enter through the High School (door #2), where you will be greeted by the Paulding FFA chapter members.

The program will feature all of our Paulding students from grade K-12, and will include songs by the elementary students and the MS & HS choir, and the high school band, as well as readings from selected essay winners and other special interviews and readings done by Paulding FFA Chapter and middle school student council members. Afterwards,

(Continued on Page 3)

It's Election Time!

OHIO 82ND DISTRICT CANDIDATES ADDRESS KEY ISSUES DURING DEBATE

Libertarian candidate Christopher Elder and Democratic candidate Maddux McCray participated in a debate Monday, October 19, at the Putnam County Educational Service Center in Ottawa, addressing issues affecting Ohio's 82nd House District, including education, property taxes, economic development and government spending. Bryce Steiner of West Bend Printing & Publishing, with locations in Antwerp and Defiance, served as moderator. Republican incumbent Roy Klopfenstein did not attend. Libertarian candidate for Ohio governor Don Kissick was also in attendance.

Both candidates opened by discussing their backgrounds and reasons for seeking office. McCray, of Van Wert, expressed concerns about disparities in school funding, staffing and classroom resources. Elder, who works with children at The Marsh Foundation in Van Wert, emphasized reducing government spending and limiting government interference.

Education was a major topic throughout the debate. McCray supported Ohio's Fair School Funding Plan, emphasizing that public funds should support public schools. Elder suggested utilizing some of Ohio's approximately $5.4 billion in unclaimed funds to benefit education and public health.

Both criticized costly, unfunded state mandates placed on schools. Elder advocated eliminating unnecessary requirements, while McCray questioned expenses associated with instructional materials and teacher licensing.

Both also questioned the effectiveness of standardized testing. McCray emphasized practical life skills, financial literacy, civics, apprenticeships and career exploration to better prepare graduates for adulthood.

Both candidates expressed concerns about proposed data centers in northwest Ohio, particularly their impact on utilities, farmland and local communities.

McCray called for greater transparency, requiring developers to cover infrastructure costs and temporarily pausing new construction. Elder criti-

(Continued on Page 2)



Christopher Elder, Libertarian candidate for Ohio's 82nd District.



Maddux McCray, Democratic candidate for Ohio's 82nd District.

PAULDING VETERANS MEMORIAL WREATHS DEADLINE SET FOR NOVEMBER 10

Wreaths Across America/ Paulding Veterans Memorial Wreaths is reminding area residents that the deadline to request a memorial wreath to honor a deceased veteran is **November 10, 2026.**

Wreaths will be available for pickup on **Saturday, December 19, 2026**. This annual tradition provides families and loved ones an opportunity to remember and honor those who served our country.

For additional information or to arrange for a wreath, please contact Linda McCain at 419-670-2659.

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

Community Calendar

TUE & WED

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

November 2

- Foster Care & Adoption Info Session @ Defiance Library, 6p

November 3

- Election Supper @ Oakwood Comm. Church, 4-6:30p

November 5

- Nigel Buroine to Speak @ Defiance Library, 5:30p
- PC Relay for Life Chocolate Walk @ Herb Monroe Park, 4-7p

November 7

- Wine Tasting Bus Tour, leaving from Antwerp School, 9a-4:30p
- Lifewise - Antwerp Fall Festival @ MAC gym, 11a-2p

November 10

- Rock decoupage class @ Antwerp Brancy Library, 2p
- Wreaths Across America / Paulding Veterans Memorial Wreaths wreath orders due

November 11

- VETERANS DAY
- Open Door Day @ Hicksville Land Office, 12-6p
- Veterans Breakfast & Concert @ Oakwood Elem., 9:30a
- Veterans Program @ Paulding HS, 1p (by FFA)

November 12

- CHP Beacon of Hope Banquet @ PC OSU Ext. Bldg., 5:30p

WMYW 102.7 PAULDING COUNTY'S OWN

Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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

DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE AWARDS $1,000 GRANT FOR HALLOWEEN PARADE

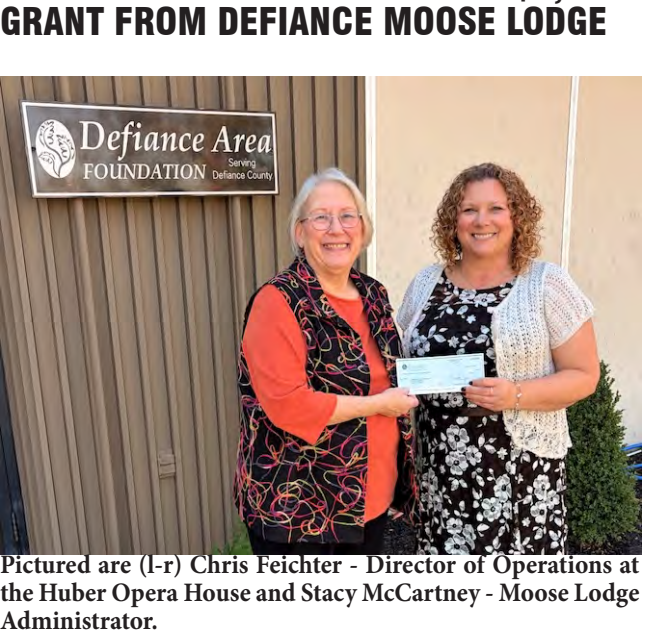


Pictured with the grant are (L to R), Ben Schrock - Halloween Parade Chair and Marilyn Clay - Moose Lodge Chaplain.

Congratulations to the Sight Conservation of Defiance, Lion's Club for receiving a $1,000 grant from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 for the upcoming Halloween Parade taking place on October 31 in downtown Defiance.

The Moose Lodge holds a donor advised fund under the umbrella of the Foundation.

HUBER OPERA HOUSE RECEIVES $1,000 GRANT FROM DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE



Pictured are (l-r) Chris Feichter - Director of Operations at the Huber Opera House and Stacy McCartney - Moose Lodge Administrator.

Congratulations to The Huber Opera House and Civic Center for receiving a $1,000 grant from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. The Moose Lodge holds a donor advised fund under the umbrella of the Defiance Area Foundation. This grant will be used for their wine and beer tasting event coming up on November 13th.

(Continued from Page 1)

cized nondisclosure agreements and emphasized public involvement before approving major developments or tax incentives.

Regarding population decline, McCray supported attracting industries offering good-paying jobs to retain younger residents. Elder favored reducing financial burdens on individuals and questioned whether government intervention was necessary.

Elder supported eventually eliminating property taxes, beginning with targeted relief. McCray favored assistance for first-time homebuyers but warned that eliminating property taxes without replacement revenue could jeopardize schools and essential services.

Asked about potential state budget cuts, Elder suggested examining government salaries and benefits. McCray agreed and also discussed recreational marijuana as a possible revenue source.

Both candidates criticized restrictions imposed on recreational marijuana following voter approval. McCray emphasized respecting voters' decisions, while Elder advocated reducing regulations affecting law-abiding adults.

An audience question addressed Ohio House Bill 20, concerning restrictions on approaching first responders. Both candidates expressed concerns about protecting constitutional rights while ensuring emergency personnel can perform their duties without interference.

Both supported improving mental health services, particularly for children. Elder emphasized rehabilitation rather than incarceration and expanding behavioral health resources. McCray supported additional mental health education in schools and services for first responders.

When questioned about declining volunteer participation in fire and emergency departments, Elder acknowledged needing more information, while McCray suggested incentives to encourage volunteerism.

Throughout the debate, Elder emphasized fiscal responsibility, individual freedoms and reducing government regulations. McCray focused on public education, economic opportunities and maintaining essential services.

Despite their differing political philosophies, both candidates agreed on the importance of transparency in economic development, addressing unnecessary school mandates, expanding mental health resources and respecting the will of Ohio voters.

The debate offered residents an opportunity to compare the candidates' positions ahead of the November 3 general election.

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PARKVIEW HEALTH ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT TO ACQUIRE OVATION HEALTHCARE TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE NATIONWIDE, ADVANCE LOCAL AFFORDABILITY

Parkview Health has signed an agreement to acquire Ovation Healthcare, a leading provider of shared services that strengthen the operational and financial performance of hospitals, health systems and physician practices nationwide.

As the largest rural healthcare provider in Indiana, Parkview understands the severe resource constraints facing rural hospitals nationwide. By investing in Ovation Healthcare, Parkview is bringing its administrative and operational expertise, such as in revenue cycle management and information services, to a premier national rural health platform to help providers keep care close to home in the communities that need it most.

"With Ovation Healthcare, we are extending Parkview's proven operational depth across the nation to help rural providers remain independent, while continuing to drive down administrative costs for our local patients," said Rick Henvey, CEO of Parkview Health. "Rural healthcare is in crisis across the country because of a lack of resources and models that allow providers to succeed. Through Ovation, we can help rural providers lower the cost of care with essential infrastructure and allow them to focus their resources on patient care."

Parkview began expanding its operational capabilities to support independent healthcare providers in 2025. Through its investment in Ovation, Parkview can expand its commitment to a national shared services platform that allows hospitals to focus their resources on clinical care while also lowering costs. Following closing, the two companies will combine their complementary operations and operate under the Ovation Healthcare brand.

Parkview's investment in Ovation is another significant step in its multi-year strategy to lower the cost of care for employers and patients by reducing administrative expenses while continuing to focus on leading the state in quality and safety at the bedside. Over the past five years, Parkview has reduced commercial reimbursement rates by more than $1.1 billion for northern Indiana and northwest Ohio and committed to further rate cuts in 2025 that extend through 2029.

"Parkview was the clear choice for Ovation's next chapter because it shares our commitment to strengthening community healthcare and values the financial discipline of the shared services platform that has made Ovation a trusted partner to its clients," said Dr. Dwayne Gunter, CEO of Ovation Healthcare. "With Parkview's support, we can invest more deeply in our people and capabilities while combining our experience to help hospitals and health systems strengthen performance and keep care close to home, particularly in rural communities."

The transaction is anticipated to close in the coming weeks following standard regulatory review processes and approvals. Upon closing, Parkview Health will become the owner of Ovation Healthcare. Ovation will continue to operate as a separate healthcare services organization with its own governing board.

LIFEWISE ACADEMY

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

Kindergartener: "Why do we talked about God all the time here?" Teacher: "That is what we do at LifeWise."

Student: "I love LifeWise! I wish we have it every day!"

3rd Grader: "Wednesdays are literally the best! We have GATE, LifeWise and library!"

6th Grader: "I'd rather get to come to LifeWise then get the whole day off school."

Teacher: "Why do you come to LifeWise?"

Jr High Students:

"To learn to evangelize so I can make heaven crowded!"

"To learn about the Bible and more things and how things happened in the past. I love being here!"

"To learn more about God, Holy Spirt and Bible"

"To grow a relationship with Jesus."

"To learn what happened after Jesus."

"To be less sinful."

"Because it's cool!"

"To learn more about Jesus."

"To learn about God"

"Because I have been coming for a few years and I think it's really fun"

"To be reminded of what God has done for us"

"To learn about God because I can't go to church and I believe in Jesus"

"To further my faith and understand the why and how of the Bible"

"To grow closer to our Lord and Savior"

"To learn about God and His creations"

"To build my faith with the Lord Jesus Christ"

"To learn more about God. Theis is like a minichurch and I wanna know why He died for our sins."

"Because I believe in God but I have some doubts so I come to learn even more about God and I have been through some rough stuff and I just need to know God is by my side through every bit of it."

"Because of all the fun memories even from 1st grader and I like learning all of the different stories in the Bible."

Questions:

Kindergartener: "Why do we never get to see God when He is younger or when He is in Heaven?"

Talking about how God created Eve, 2nd Grader: "How did God make Adam when He didn't steal anything from anyone?"

5th Grader: "Do we know how long it takes to get to Heaven?"

Sr High: "How many prophecies are there about the second coming of Christ?"

Sr High: "Why are our Bibles not in chronological order?"

Scripture of the Week

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."

— Ephesians 2:8-9

COLOSSIANS 3:1-17



"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

source: NIV version

Peace & Love,

—Pastor Dwayne







SLANG OF THE 50s & 60s

Penny For Your Thoughts
By: Nancy Whitaker

Yep! I grew up in the 50s and 60s. Now that I am old, I think those were the best times in my lifetime. We dressed cool, the boys had well oiled hair and some were even growing side burns. Girls were wearing poodle skirts, had beehives and white buck shoes.

Football games were held usually on Friday nights where a group of friends would cheer in the bleachers for our Van Wert Cougars. Following the game we would go to a record hop where we danced till our curfew rolled around.

We danced the jitterbug, the twist, the stroll and slow danced to the best love songs ever. We loved shopping on Saturdays at the Five and Dime Store, shoe stores, and going to restaurants with soda fountains and drinking a nickel Coke.

A lot of us had part-time jobs. Sometimes we babysat, car-hopped, mowed yards or delivered newspapers. There was a movie theater downtown that had a balcony. If you were lucky enough to have a girl- or boyfriend, you might get to sit in the balcony. Of course at the movies, there was a commercial saying, "Let's all go to the lobby." The lobby was full of various kinds of candy, popcorn, and soda pops.

One of the first movies I saw was "Psycho". I was so scared during that movie that my mom, my brother and I were scared to walk home and we were also scared to take a shower. That movie I will never forget where the gal got stabbed in the shower. Tony Curtis starred in that movie with Janet Leigh as the girl in the shower.

Back in those days we also had certain sayings we said. Not bad words but cool sayings such as:

• Cool Cat: A stylish, calm, or admired person (I think cool cat was a saying for guys).

• Square: An old-fashioned, boring, or uncool person (I tried not to be square, but I probably was).

• Daddy-O: A casual term of address for a friend or cool guy.

• Dig It: To understand, like, or appreciate something ("I dig it"). I about forgot that one. Let me use it now, "Oh yes, I dig the West Bend News"

• Greaser: A rebellious youth with slicked-back, greased hair and a leather jacket (I dated a few of those).

• Fuzz: The police.

• Bread: Money (back then a quarter was a lot).

• Pad: Someone's home or apartment.

• Cruising for a Bruisin': Looking for trouble or a fight.

• See You Later, Alligator: A popular way to say goodbye (with the response, "After a while, crocodile").



• Far Out: Something incredible, strange, or amazing.

• Outta Sight: Awesome, impressive, or extraordinary.

• Right On: An expression of agreement or approval.

• Groovy: Trendy, cool, or fantastic

• Bummer: A disappointing or unpleasant experience.

• Psyched: Excited or full of enthusiasm.

• Sock It to Me: A catchphrase popularized by Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In meaning "give it to me" or "hit me with it". (Remember Laugh In?)

• Burn Rubber: To accelerate fast in a car, leaving a mark on the pavement (not me, I was a late driver).

I am sure not a cool cat, not groovy, or far out. I guess I am a square with little bread and if you remember any of these sayings, then you can " Sock it to me." No, I will just give you a Penny for your thoughts.

MORE LOVE



Dotting my Teas
By: Marlene Oxender

Writing prompts. I'll never run out of them. So much to write; so little time.

I became a writer somewhat by accident. After my mother passed away, I wrote a few words about her. Then came stories about the things I was finding in her estate. My words ended up on social media. Then in a blog. Then a newspaper column. Then a few books.

The good thing about writing a newspaper column is that a deadline comes with it. But the bad thing about writing a newspaper column is that a deadline comes with it. At times, I've thought it might be best to schedule a sabbatical for myself. I'd put new writing on hold, focus on publishing my books, and then return to the column.

But then something comes along and renews my energy. When a recipe for Get Well Custard appeared in my newsfeed, it reminded me of an essay I'd written a few years ago about how we care for one another. I had forgotten what I'd written, so I read it again. My own writing is often new to me.

Most of us would agree that creative writing is a learned skill. It takes time. It takes editing. Then more time and more editing. It's work, but it's fun work.

In 2023, I published a book about my brother Stevie who had Down syndrome. I knew the book would sell well. After all, Stevie had done the marketing by just being himself all his life. We scheduled a few book signings, and his friends came to see him and have him sign the front cover of the book.

A young friend recently asked if I ever receive feedback from readers regarding my newspaper column or books. I didn't mean to sound boastful when I told her yes – I receive cards and letters from people I don't even know. I then laughed as I told her my answer sounded like a Glen Campbell song: "getting cards and letters from people I don't even know." Then I had to tell her who Glen Campbell was.

A few weeks back, after my Newspaper Clippings story was published, I began receiving comments through texts and emails – 14 messages. All good.

I suspect part of the reason I receive encouraging feedback is that I tend to keep my words uplifting and steer clear of anything that may cause division. I like to think I write about God without using the word God, mostly because God is bigger than any one word.

There are those who believe humanity is more awake than ever to the happenings of the world. We're asking questions and having new conversations. Things once considered impolite or even impossible to discuss are being discussed.

I would have connected some dots years ago, but I didn't know there were dots to connect. Being open to new possibilities helps us look beyond beliefs and assumptions that may separate us. We just need to keep in mind that we never know what we may not know.

Whoever said that all the world's a stage had it figured out. We're discovering how much truth that sentence holds, and many of us have decided it's okay to stop watching the show and begin rewriting the script.

Life on earth means we arrive with nothing in our hands. We spend our days collecting things before departing with nothing in our hands.

But look at that beautiful soul of ours, meant all along to be the collector of things. Collections rich in memories. Collections full of wisdom. Collections of those little things we refer to as acts of kindness.

We can spend every moment extending love. Even while we sleep, we're renewing our energy and restoring a little inner peace. Those naps? A gift to ourselves.

My brother Stevie often led our mealtime prayers. We always listened carefully because he could be hard to understand. After he finished praying, there were smiles as we pointed out how many times we heard him bless the food and mention his family.

His prayers always included the words "more love." Looking back, I realize how much Stevie understood about love. When he said those two words, it was his way of speaking love into his world.

And now, when I think of him and miss him, I hear him tell me to put my wings on and buckle up. We're walking each other home, and we've got work to do.

Marlene Oxender is a writer, speaker, and author. She writes about growing up in the small town of Edgerton, her ten siblings, the memorabilia in her parents' estate, and her late younger brother, Stevie Kimpel, who was born with Down syndrome. Her three published books, Picket Fences, Stevie and Grandma, You Already Am Old, are available on Amazon. Marlene can be reached at mpoxender@gmail.com

PAULDING COUNTY MARRIAGE APPLICATION REPORTS

William Elliot Kyrnock (21), Paulding, OH, Site Foreman; **Adilynn Claire Girardot** (25), Paulding, OH, Social Worker

Steven James Laney (66), Paulding, OH, Group Lead; **Mary Elizabeth Hobart** (54), Cecil, OH, Warehouse Manager

Logan Christopher Hodson (23), Grover Hill, OH, Unemployed; **K-Lynne Marie Hawkins** (26), Grover Hill, OH, Unemployed

Logan William Viars (26), Paulding, OH, Forklift Operator; **Mechial Marie Mullins** (22), Paulding, OH, Unemployed

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.

TWO WILL BE ONE



A tribute to my bride on number 65. At 6 o'clock in the evening on a beautiful summer day in early August, on a Saturday night, the bell ring out at the small country Church at Turkey Creek. The little girl that they had watched grow up in a small church, and the farmer's only daughter, was getting married. It was a beautiful summer day in Indiana out in the country. Our 65th anniversary passed rather quietly, not much fanfare, very little hoopla. We had hoped for a party but it didn't happen.

Makes me wonder about the institution of marriage. Why did God make two different sexes. Why do we naturally pair up and be together. There are some real advantages of being married. I never liked to be alone. I have unmarried friends and they seem to be fine and are free to do anything they wish.

The Bible says that two become one. This is stated in Genesis 2, and the exact same wording a total of four times. When I have a question I often go to Mrs Google. She says two becoming one means a husband and wife leave their individual family units and form their own family, in a permanent bond. A single team making decisions and a future together. The Bible also talks about the bond or spiritual union between Christ and the Church as marriage. It talks about the marriage supper of the Lamb.

This is a bond that cannot be broken. The Bible says let no man put asunder. I was raised in the Mennonite faith and we were taught no divorce under any circumstances. Because of this I always considered marriage to be permanent. The only problem is sometimes you get a lemon. I am not sure what happens then.

I fortunately have a wife that is hardworking, has a strong faith, and was the best possible mother to our children and wife to me. She has a sense of what to do when a medical problem arrives and sometimes she is better than the doctor. She would have made a terrific nurse.

The marriage bond is one of the best things that God ever invented.

No matter what comes up you have someone on your side watching your back. Especially as you get older and health problems arise you realize that each of you need a bit of help, even someone to cheer for you when you are down.

—James Neuhouser

(Continued from Page 1)

there will be refreshments for the veterans to enjoy.

Our veterans have done so much for this country and our community, we truly want to honor them. We take pride in our community and want to invite all veterans to join us on November 11th at 1:00 p.m. as we remember and honor you!

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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
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ANTWERP LOCAL SCHOOL

Home of the Archers

November 2026

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

As we enter the month of November, our students and staff have settled into daily routines and procedures associated with attending school and advancing learning opportunities. With the daily routines established, it is an appropriate time to share some of the demographics associated with our school. There are currently 670 students in grades PK-12. Our preschool class includes 51 students. Our largest K-12 class is the Grade 1 class with 59 students. Our smallest class is the Grade 2 class with 37 students. We have 32 students (Juniors and Seniors) attending Vantage Career Center in Van Wert, Ohio. Our school district also has three students attending the Opportunity Center in Paulding and one student attending the Independent Education Center near Defiance, Ohio.

Our school bus and van fleet transport an average of 293 students to school and home each day logging an average of 479 miles per day. The district's yearly expense for diesel fuel is $56,647.38 compared to the prior year fiscal expense of $45,289. The fiscal year expense for gasoline was $10,282.66 compared to the prior year fiscal expense of $5,296.97. Our cafeteria staff serves an average of 33 breakfasts and 309 regular lunches per day. Approximately 37% of our students are designated as Free/Reduced Meal recipients. On the academic side, 15% of our students receive special education services. The school district's average monthly electric bill is $19,366.77 and our gas bill is approximately $8,860.33 per month.

We also have some data to share regarding our recent graduates. During the past eight years, 50.25% of our high school graduates enrolled in either a (2) or (4) year college. The highest college enrollment class was the class of 2022 with 61% of the students enrolled in a (2) or (4) year college. During that same eight-year period, Purdue University Fort Wayne and Bowling Green State University were the top two colleges our graduating seniors enrolled in to begin their collegiate careers.

Veteran's Day is an opportunity to educate our students about the important role our Veteran's have played in the history of our nation. Antwerp Local Schools will honor our Veterans Day Assembly, November 11th at 10:00a.m. in the main gymnasium. To Veteran's: We thank you for your dedicated service to secure our freedoms. We are free because of the brave.

The week of November 16-20, 2026 has been designated as *American Education Week*. This is the 105th observance of this event, which began in 1921 as a joint venture between the National Education Association and the American Legion. This event presents all Americans with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. The employees of Antwerp Local Schools are proud to be part of a quality public school system and appreciate the partnership with the community. Together we can accomplish great things for our students.

Dr. Martin A. Miller, Superintendent

MS. ARNOLD - HS/MS

We have officially ended the first quarter of the school year and are quickly advancing through the second quarter! With the completion of the first quarter of the year, I would like to remind students and parents about our Credit Recovery process. High School students who fail at least one semester of a class, and subsequently become credit deficient, will be required to attend Summer School. Middle School students will be required to attend if they fail a course for the entire school year. This will begin right after the school year ends and run for two or three weeks, depending on the number of credits that need to be recovered. If your student failed a class during our first quarter, please continue to encourage him or her during the 2nd grading period to earn the credits required for graduation. Checking Progressbook online can help you monitor your student's progress. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the teacher or high school office.

Thank you to all of the parents who attended our first two rounds of Parent-Teacher Conferences. We appreciate our working relationships with the families in our community and the collaborative effort in helping all of our students be successful.

As we finish up the fall season of extracurricular activities, I wanted to thank everyone for a smooth and successful season. These activities operate due to the people who dedicate countless hours to provide our students with a high-quality experience. A huge thank you to those who volunteered their time to our athletic and music programs. We truly could not do it without you and we are looking forward to our winter seasons kicking off soon!

~ Ms. Jessie Arnold, MS/HS Principal

HS/MS GUIDANCE NEWS

Interested Sophomores will tour Vantage Career Center on Friday, November 13th. Students met with Vantage representatives in October to look at the programs Vantage has to offer and learn about the new application process.

Students taking an AP Exam, your exam fees are due on Friday, November 30th. The initial payment is $40 and final balances will be due in April.

8th graders will be attending the Annual Vantage 8th grade tours on Thursday, November 12th. Students will be touring all the programs that Vantage has to offer for their junior and senior year.

SCHOOL APP

A reminder for parents, students, and community members to download our school App! Go to the App or Play Store, search "Antwerp Schools," and install the free Antwerp Local Schools App. The App has numerous features that will keep you updated on news, events, school delays and closings, and more.

SCHOOL NURSE

A notice to parents that our school nurse completes vision and hearing screenings on all students throughout the school year.

MR. BILLMAN - ELEMENTARY

There will be plenty going on in our building during the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving break! Reminder that we do have a 2-hour delay on Wednesday, November 4th.

AR REWARDS

Many students have been working towards their AR Goals for the first quarter. Students were rewarded with donuts and cookies on Friday, October 30th. Special thanks to the Antwerp PTO for helping with this party!

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our August/September Students of the Month! Keep up the great work!

Kindergarten: Ben Derck, Addie Copsey, Ashlyn Thomas, Beckyn Hormann, Hazel Coressel & Miles Englehart

1st Grade: Grady Taylor, Esme Farinacci, Maylen Griffiths, Mikayla Parisot, Josie Wiesehan & Ivy Thieme

2nd Grade: Isla Graham, Vivian Sensabaugh, Barrett Rothenbuhler & Mataeo Ash

3rd Grade: Amelia Fidler, Wyatt Bassler, Kaylynn Schwartz, Saylor Billman, Melody Bidlack & Micah Mendez

4th Grade: Coralynn Smith, Starlette Ruffing, Max Reith, Liam Gill, Whitney Miller & Leah Ruffing

5th Grade: Matias Rivera, Everyly Glenn, Jaxton Schilt & Lyric Smith

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

There will be **NO SCHOOL** for preschool students on Thursday, November 19th.

~ Mr. Doug Billman, Elementary Principal

ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE

This month in classroom guidance, kindergarten students worked on their listening skills by reading *David Goes to School*, and following directions from Mrs. Lichty's magic wand. First graders learned about friendship and what qualities make a good friend. They read the book. *Friendship Soup*, and then made their own friendship soup for a snack. Second and third graders talked about medication safety by watching a short video and discussing ways to keep themselves safe. Fourth grade watched a video, showing how kindness is like a boomerang and always comes back to people if they are kind themselves. They each passed their own paper boomerang around and wrote kind notes to each other on them before getting them back. Fifth graders talked about how they want to be remembered when they leave elementary school by watching a video and doing an activity where they erased mean words off of a whiteboard and replaced them with kind words.

Christmas and Coats for Kids sign up will be November 7th from 9a.m. to 4p.m. at the Antwerp VFW Post 5087. The address for this location is 105 Railroad Street Antwerp, OH. If you would like to register your children for this program, you will need proof of Paulding County residency as well as your child's social security card, birth certificate, and if necessary, custody paperwork. If you have any questions about this program, you can contact Jennifer or Michelle at 260-222-8544.

ATHLETIC CALENDAR

BOYS JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL

Nov 30	5:00	@ Lincolnview

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Nov 27	6:00	@ Ft. Jennings

GIRLS JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL

Nov 20	5:00	@ Woodland
Nov 30	5:00	vs. Tinora

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 2-6	8th Grade to Washington, D.C.
Nov 3	PTO Bingo Night
Nov 4	2-Hour Delay - Inservice
Nov 5	Fall Athletic Awards
Nov 11	Veterans Day Program
Nov 19	NO Preschool
Nov 19	Board of Education Meeting
Nov 25	No School - P/T Trade-Off
Nov 26-27	No School - Thanksgiving Break

CAFETERIA MENU

Nov 2	Chicken teriyaki, broccoli, rice & milk
Nov 3	Taco, guacamole or salsa w/ chips, peach cup & milk
Nov 4	Macaroni & cheese, roll, carrots, pear cup & milk
Nov 5	Chicken strips, tater tots, fruit & milk
Nov 6	Pizza, Broccoli & Cauliflower, Applesauce & milk
Nov 9	Tuna noodle casserole, peas, pears & milk
Nov 10	Chicken fajita, rice, banana & milk
Nov 11	BBQ pork on bun, scalloped potatoes, peach crisp & milk
Nov 12	Chicken nuggets, fries, fruit & milk
Nov 13	Pizza, salad, applesauce & milk

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Another data point that continues to amaze people is the age of our beautiful school building and grounds. The building was completed in 2003 and is now 23 years old. With that age, numerous physical aspects of the building have been or need repair and/or replacement. One major replacement that will take place during the summer of 2027 is the bleachers in the main gym. Many of the parts that assist with the movement of the bleachers are failing due to use. We hope that the current bleacher system will get us through the upcoming basketball season. Plans are also in the works to replace the light fixtures and bulbs at the football field/track complex with new LED energy efficient fixtures and bulbs. The current fixtures and bulbs were purchased from another northwest Ohio school district back in 2013 and had several years of use prior to installation at our football/track complex. That project will take place during the summer of 2027 as well.

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Antwerp, OH 45813
419-258-5421

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Treasurer Kristine Stuart
http://www.antwerpschools.org

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

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

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Antwerp, OH 45813

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a freedom loving American, I would urge all Republicans, Independents and Democrats to vote in this election to preserve the Constitution of this country.

The Democratic Socialist's and Muslim's (who vote at a 95% turnout) are aligned with several candidates for federal office. While they are not a majority of the Democrat Party the leaders of the Party don't distant themselves from their views E.g. eliminate the Senate, eliminate the border, government control of businesses and Sharia law.

Please vote Jon Husted for Senate and Derick Merrin for House this election. When they take the oath of office, they will mean it when they say support and defend the Constitution.

Let's not forget this great state of Ohio. From Vivek Ramaswamy to Roy Klopfenstein Republicans have great candidates for all offices.

Please get out and vote. To quote John Kennedy of Louisiana "If dead people can do it, you can too".

—Tony Wilson
Paulding, Ohio

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Many of you may know that I joined the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry team in July as the new executive director. While I wish Caring & Sharing didn't need to exist, it does. And I'm honored to be working with a great staff, group of volunteers and board members to help people dealing with food insecurity in Paulding County.

There are many things I could tell you about how we do what we do, but here are a few.

Over the last twelve months, Caring & Sharing served a monthly average of just over 900 people, in 300 households at the pantry. In addition, we are serving 130 elementary students at Paulding and Oakwood Elementary Schools through our Blessings in a Bag program, which provides weekend food. We are planning to extend this program at the end of November to Junior High and High School students.

And although we receive an average of 5,000 pounds of food donated from our generous community each month, we need 3.5 times that much food to operate effectively and meet the needs of the neighbors throughout Paulding County.

We do acquire food from other sources, but in the last twelve months, we have purchased over 110,000 pounds of food. We need to operate our warehouse and market where we provide services. We need to plan for the future because in the past four years we have quadrupled the number of people we provide food to…and we expect that growth to continue.

So why am I telling you all this? Because we rely on the generosity of our community to fund our work. We sponsor three fundraisers annually: the Sweet Shop in the Spring, a 127 Yard Sale in the Summer, and this Fall our inaugural Harvest Hoopla on Nov. 19.

And over the next few months we have two additional tremendous fundraising campaigns running…simultaneously. Of course, it would be easier for everyone if the campaigns didn't overlap, but they do. The dates set for the campaigns were predetermined and out of our control. However, we are so fortunate to have some big corporate support from Meijer and Chief Supermarket. Meijer Simply Give is currently running through December 26. Select a Simply Give gift card at the checkout…you donate $10 for each card. On December 12 double match day, Meijer will also donate $20 for each card purchased. Chief Supermarket's campaign runs through November 25 and you can donate up to $10 per transaction to the Heroes & Hope Foundation when you make a purchase. Both fundraising campaigns will directly benefit Caring & Sharing.

For the pantry to do what we do, we need funds donated from businesses, churches, organizations and individuals. So, please give if you can, when you can. I know most of us have a budget for giving. And many other expenses these days have risen faster than our income. We understand it's a balancing act. We promise to take good care of your generousness…and it is our mission to take on food insecurity and make sure Paulding County families and children have food.

Thank you for your support in the past…and in the future.

—Ashley Gonzales,
Executive Director
Caring & Sharing
Food Pantry,
Paulding County Ohio

PATROL INVESTIGATING SERIOUS INJURY CRASH

The Defiance Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a two-vehicle crash that occurred in Delaware Township, Defiance County.

The crash occurred at the intersection of Buckskin Road and The Bend Road at approximately 8:20 p.m.

The preliminary investigation revealed that a 2011 Toyota Camry was westbound on Buckskin Road. A 2019 Buick Enclave was eastbound on Buckskin Road. The driver of the Toyota Camry ran the stop sign and struck the Buick Enclave that had stopped and was making a left turn onto The Bend Road. The Toyota Camry continued off the right side of the roadway and struck a pole.

The Toyota Camry was operated by Adebusola G. Balogun, age 39, of Toledo. Mr. Balogun was not injured. The Buick Enclave was operated by Marion L. Woodring, age 78, of Defiance. Mrs. Woodring sustained serious injury and was taken by Life Flight to Saint Vincent's Hospital in Toledo. Both drivers were wearing their safety belts at the time of the crash.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted at the scene by the Defiance County Sheriff's Office, Delaware Township Fire Department, Life Flight, Toledo Edison and John's Towing.

This crash remains under investigation.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol wants to remind motorists to always wear your safety belt.

IS FIRE RIGHT FOR YOU? WHAT EARLY RETIREMENT REALLY TAKES

The idea has never been more appealing: quit your 9-to-5 decades ahead of schedule and spend your days on your own terms. You may have heard of the FIRE movement, but what is it really and does the hype live up to reality?

FIRE stands for Financial Independence, Retire Early. While some FIRE advocates focus on retiring early, others are more interested in achieving enough financial independence to gain greater flexibility over their career, lifestyle and future.

Wherever your goal fall on that spectrum, FIRE is typically built around three commitments: high savings, frugal living and disciplined investing. Proponents generally save from 50-75% of their yearly income, according to CNBC Select, live more frugally and invest those savings for growth potential over time.

Why FIRE resonates with some people

• It can help you prioritize. While you may want a long and successful career, you may instead prioritize earlier retirement or a path that allows you more time with family, a more meaningful job or a downshift from your current daily grind.

• It advocates for some sound financial principles. Living within your means, saving for your goals and investing for long-term growth potential can help build a solid financial foundation.

• It helps you set a strategy for the future. Achieving your retirement goal is easier when you've defined what you want retirement to look like and built a strategy to help achieve it.

What to consider before pursuing FIRE

• Your budget may change. Future expenses may look different than they do today. Family obligations, emergencies and other life changes can increase the amount you'll need in early retirement.

• You may need to bridge the retirement benefit gap. Medicare covers many healthcare costs for retirees 65+, but if you retire early, you'll need to find and pay for health insurance until you become eligible. You'll also need to rely more heavily on personal savings for longer before claiming Social Security benefits. Because Social Security benefits are generally based on your highest 35 earning years, retiring early may result in a lower benefit than if you'd continued working.

• Your flexibility may be limited. Market declines can be particularly challenging in retirement. One way to help weather a decline is by reducing spending, but a lean budget with more necessary expenses may leave you with fewer options to adjust your spending.

• Your strategy should be personalized. Many FIRE proponents advocate for rules of thumb like the 4% withdrawal rate and saving 25 times your annual expenses. However, retiring earlier than normal means your savings must support a longer retirement, and inflation has a larger impact. Therefore, your withdrawal rate may need to be lower and your planned savings higher than traditional rules of thumb, and those targets should be personalized to you.

Start planning now

Whether your goal is early retirement or a more traditional path, a financial advisor can help you with a plan for your goals and the path ahead.

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

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READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS

Antwerp: Antwerp Library, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Antwerp Manor, Dollar General, Family Dollar, G-Mart, Genesis House, H20 Water Store, H&W NAPA, Pop-N-Brew, Pit-Stop, Small Town Bliss

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

Cecil: 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House

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

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

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

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

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

Ney: Marathon

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

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

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

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

Scott: Scott Post Office

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

INDIANA LOCATIONS

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

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

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

Hoagland: Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market

Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain

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

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

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

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PAULDING FFA RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD AT 99TH ANNUAL FFA NATIONAL CONVENTION



Pictured here are the Paulding FFA members who attended the National FFA Convention: Back (l-r) Chase Manz, Makenna Manz, Delaney Johanns, Darcy Taylor, Gabby Stork, and Remington Boroff; Front (l-r) Tucker Stoller, Mariah Klopfenstein, Myrriah Klopfenstein, Symon Manz and Kendall Kohart.

Pictured here are the American degree recipients that attended the National FFA Convention to get their awards: Back (l-r) Kadence Thomas, Hopeful Rose, Grace Goyings, Jalyn Klopfenstein, and Harley Collins; Front (l-r) Maci Kauser and Anna Clemens.

By: Makenna Manz,
Paulding FFA Reporter

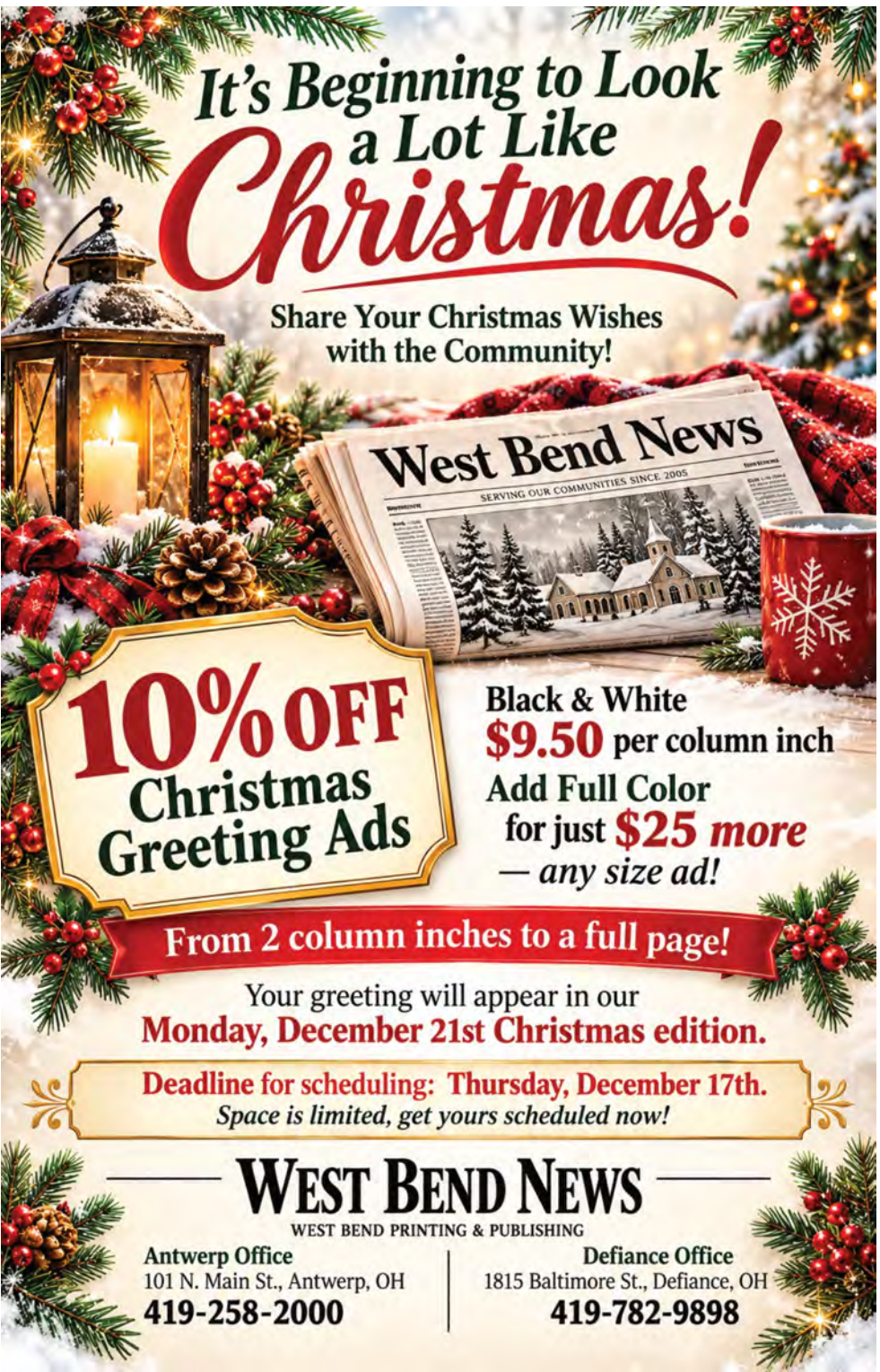
Indianapolis, Indiana was filled with a sea of blue jackets from October 20th through October 24th. Thousands of FFA chapters from across the nation, including 11 Paulding FFA members, their 2 advisors, and 1 chaperone who traveled to Indianapolis for the 99th Annual National FFA Convention. Our members had a busy schedule full of educational and leadership experiences that allowed them to learn more about agriculture industry and FFA. On October 20th, members departed Paulding HS and had a busy day touring J&M manufacturing and the Coopers Turkey Processing Plant. They then got to go shopping and spend the evening at Topgolf. After golfing, members headed to their hotel to wind down for the night.

On October 21st, members woke up and headed to the Indy 500 Tour. Members were able to kiss the famous bricks at the end of the raceway and tour the museum. Students were able to see many famous race cars and memorabilia from races as well as some hands-on activities such as changing a racecar tie and a simulation of driving on the race track. From the Indy 500 tour, the members then traveled to Umbarger Show Feeds for another tour. This tour taught members how Umbarger's provides a variety of different show feeds that farmers all across the country use to feed their animal operations. They were given a tour of the operation and got to see the feed made for certain show feeds. Members then got dinner from The Old Spaghetti Warehouse. From there students got to attend an Avery Anna and Ty Myers concert before heading back to the hotel for the night.

On October 22nd, the members woke up bright and early to attend the opening session of the National Convention. Members listened to the keynote speaker Scott McKain, who spoke about finding your drive and staying committed until the end. Students then explored the expo center before the next session started. At the 2nd general session, Officers Darcy Taylor and Myrriah Manz walked across the stage for Paulding as we received the prestigious 3-Star National Chapter only 22 chapters in Ohio received this 3-Star Rating. This is the 6th year the chapter has been nationally recognized. Later that evening, members ate dinner at Binkley's which served American dishes. Then the students had a great time at the rodeo before going back to the hotel for the night.

On October 23rd, members woke up and ate breakfast before an exciting day. The students got to go to the Indianapolis Zoo for the afternoon. From there, some members went back to the school. The other students got to go back and explore the expo center.

On the last day of the National Convention, October 24th, members and advisors were up very early to attend the American Degree Ceremony, where they watched 7 Paulding FFA members walk across the stage to earn their American FFA Degrees, which is the highest FFA degree possible. The seven members were Anna Clamens, Harley Collins, Grace Goyings, Maci Kauser, Jalyn Klopfenstein, Kadence Thomas, and Hopeful Rose. Five other members also earned their American FFA Degrees that were unable to attend including; Matthew Bail, Brooke Kilgore, Brooklyn Schlatter, Johnathan Lipps and Marley Parrett. The Paulding FFA Chapter is very proud of these twelve members and their accomplishments. After the ceremony the Paulding FFA headed back to Paulding after a fun-filled week. The Paulding FFA would like to say a special thanks to the Paulding FFA Alumni for their support to the Paulding FFA and its members.



WT GROVER HILL ELEMENTARY 1st NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2026/27

THIRD GRADE:

All A's – Zoey Dias, Gunner Young, Emery Boyer, Brantley Motycka, Brinley Voll, Juan Negrete Pawoli

All A/B's – Kain Evans, Max Lash, Matthew Peters, Josephine Proctor, Mack Sinn, Ayrabella Spangler, Joyce Unger, Emma Harris, Wyatt Mengerink, Sadie Noffsinger

All B's – Aria Huss

FOURTH GRADE:

All A's – Aliyah Duer, Levi Laukhuf,Venna Ruble, Tessa Stoller

All A/B's – Tobias Beining, Grayson Bocook, Kanin May, Brookelyn Plummer, Kaylee Stoller, Dale Clutter, Izabella Hicks, Emmelynn Okang, Kolby Reichert, Tatum Treece

FIFTH GRADE:

All A's – Clara Laukhuf, Aizlee Ricker, Mason Stoller, Weslen Tucker, Bentley Wright, Kipton Jay, Kinsley Sinn

All A/B's – Skyler Goins, Natalie Heier, Ari Ludwig, Emily McClure, California Nieto, Avalyn Beining, Cameron Miller, Nelliel Orona, Gracelynn Shelton, Sloane Sinn

SIXTH GRADE:

All A's – Emery LaBounty, Addilyn Noffsinger, Aleyah Stoller, Aden Stoller

SIXTH GRADE:

All A/B's – Lane Noffsinger, Katelyn Plummer, Allison Rojas Palma, Gabe Schlatter, Damien Selzer,Rosealeen Burns, Marlie-Jane Clutter, Landyn Miller, Makenna Miller, Clara Porter, Kollin Reichert, Bode Roth

ANTWERP ELEMENTARY 1ST NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2026/27

THIRD GRADE:

All A's – Darius Ash, Saylor Billman, Evelyn Gaisford, Emmie Livingston, Anderson Foust

All A's & B's – Melody Bidlack, Jensen Gill, Chance Dickess, Brynley Bissell, Emmy Hoersten, Ameila Fidler, Braxton McVay, Rose Larson, Sophia Griffiths, Landon Miller, Micah Mendez, Davion Owens, Emma Smith, Bryson Perry, Waylon Parisot, Amelia Zuber, Kaylynn Schwartz, Eloise Scharr, Claire Bechstein

FOURTH GRADE:

All A's – Jett Johnson, Riley Henschen, Thatcher Friend, Zeke Laker, Owen Larson, Liam Gill, Lilah Martenies, Adalind Muir, Hadley Jackson, Whitney Miller, Sawyer Parisot, Abel Kauser, Anya Moore, Maxx Reith, Deana Miller, Ethan Taylor, Leah Ruffing, Landon Myers, Duke Wiesehan, Owen Wells, Coralyn Smith, Stella Gaisford, Evelyn Yenser, Lane Zuber, Elise Graham

All A's & B's – Emmagrace Baumert, Amelia Dunham, Ethan Flanary, Rowan Morrow, Ashton Overly, Emberly Dunderman-Hutchinson, Brooke Dzib, Tekota Putnam, Starlette Ruffing, Luna Sigman, Westin Winslow, August Gordon, Greta Kobee, Cole Schneider

FIFTH GRADE:

All A's – Everly Glenn, Matias Rivera, Maryn Cottrell, Eve Graham, Irenia Hand, Mo Reyes, Jaxton Schilt, Benson Slattman, Lyric Smith, Nash Zartman

All A's & B's – Cambria Beregszazi, Ava Fidler, Azlyn Foster, Payton Heine, Braxton Schneider, Zac Barker, Kinley Gordon, Sarah Willson, Joanna Zuber

WT PAYNE ELEMENTARY 1st NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2026/27

No honor roll for grades K-2

THIRD GRADE:

All A's – Bennett Beaverson, Theodore Hartzler, Laikynn Sweet, Miranda Valdez-Velazquez, Bentley Vance

All A's & B's – Kyla Barajas, Quentin Couts, Finn Feasby, Mylann Good, Ellie Helms, Benson Hitchcock, Kane Hosler, Teresa Monterroso, Ariella Ripke-Gee, Sawyer Stoller

FOURTH GRADE:

All A's – Jayce Linder, Landon Sherry, Elaine Temple

All A's & B's – Ellie Burkley, Zaina Danner, Silas Dempsey, Bennett Gerardot, Evan Kipfer, Arya Litzenberg, Amelia Mawer, Lydia Osbun, Andrew Stoller, River Stoller, Monroe Taylor, Chase Wright

FIFTH GRADE:

All A's – Soraya Jackson, Xander Mansfield, Ethan Valdez

All A's & B's – Atlas Allenbaugh, Titus Allenbaugh, Andrew Cox, Aydenn Good, Ayla Praul, Gunner Reeves, Emersyn Showalter, Waylon Stoller, Connor Strahley, Natalie Zart-



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LADY ARCHERS CAPTURE SECTIONAL TITLE, ADVANCE TO DISTRICT SEMIFINALS



Antwerp HS 2026 Volleyball team. ***Photo credit: Angel Sproles***

The Antwerp Lady Archers wrapped up a memorable 2026 volleyball season with an impressive tournament run, capturing a sectional championship and advancing to the district semifinals before falling to Calvert Senecas on Wednesday, October 28.

Antwerp opened postseason play on Wednesday, October 21, with a hard-fought 3-1 victory over Holgate in the sectional finals. After dropping the opening set 18-25, the Lady Archers rallied to win three straight sets, 25-17, 25-12 and 25-23, to claim the sectional championship.

The Lady Archers carried that momentum into the district tournament opener on Monday, October 26, at Archbold, defeating North Central in four sets. Antwerp battled to a 28-26 victory in the opening set before North Central evened the match with a 25-16 win. The Lady Archers responded by taking the final two sets, 25-23 and 25-19, securing another 3-1 victory and advancing to the district semifinals.

Antwerp's tournament run came to an end on Wednesday, October 28, against Calvert Senecas. The Lady Archers struggled to find their rhythm against a strong Calvert squad, falling in straight sets, 25-9, 25-7 and 25-2.

Despite the loss, Antwerp finished the season with 10 victories and reached the district semifinals for the first time in a decade, marking a significant accomplishment for the program.

Following the conclusion of the season, Antwerp head coach Fuller reflected on the team's accomplishments and the lasting impact of its senior leadership.

"I'm extremely proud of this team and everything they accomplished this season. Winning 10 matches, reaching the district finals for the first time in 10 years, and achieving several firsts for this group made this a memorable season. What stands out to me most, though, is the way these ladies came together. Our seniors did a tremendous job leading by example and creating an environment where everyone felt included, encouraged, and valued. They embraced the opportunity to lead, and their impact on this team will extend beyond the wins and accomplishments of this season. This group has given our program so much to build on, and I'm excited about what the future holds."

man

All B's – Lyra Cubbage, Braiden Hitchcock, Celeste Hollar, Brezlyn Mohr

SIXTH GRADE:

All A's – Aubree Phlipot, Maylee Stoller, Elise Steffen, Allie Wilcox

All A's & B's – Mary Gerardot, Peyton Hollar, Norah Mawer, Cash McBride, Nellie McMillan

All B's – Clara Dewaard, Jack Meyers

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

SENIORS:

4.0 – Anija Acevedo, Destiny Aldred, Remington Boroff, Olivia Breier, Isabella Burtch, Avery Cooper, Landon Dasher, Kayleigh Dunham, Avryl Godinez Maya, Jayla Griffith, Reina Kleman, Mariah Klopfenstein, Esther Lemieux, Myrriah Manz, Landyn Moore, Vivienne Myers, Gannon Parrett, Estie Pease, Eli Pessefall, Lucy Porter, Leonel Reyes, Tori Schlatter, Cadence Schwab, Audrey Stoller, Darcy Taylor

3.5-3.99 – London Ametewee, Max Daeger, Milee George, Esperanza Kline, Brody Lindsey, Jalen Manz, Olivia McCrory, Monico Moreno, Colton Roehrig, Lily Speelman

3.0-3.49 – Emmet Barnes, Landon Grinnell, Aaliyah Lee, Elizabeth Mitchell, Elijah Wilder

JUNIORS:

4.0 – Annabelle Ametewee, Addison Arend, Nicholas Baughman, Jack Daeger, Kyler Foor, Tyler Goyings, Quinton Laker, Gannon Landers, Ava Leatherman, Jason Manz, Graham Miller, Gabriella Mullins, Alayna White

3.5-3.99 – Giselle Arend, Coehen Benard, Zaine Bidlack, Kinzley Collard, Trevor Durham, Parker Egnor, Addyson Gribble, Jarret Griffith, Easton Griffiths, Delaney Johanns, Alivia Kingen, Kaydence Kuckuck, Kayana Lipps, Tyson Manz, Anabel Martinez, Miracle Omonayin, Holly Peffley, Dallas Schuchart, Gabriella Stork, Alexander Thompson, Cameron Williams

3.0-3.49 – Sophie Colon, Civil Pumphrey,Dylan Weible

SOPHOMORES:

4.0 – Sean Elder, Jakob Elkins, Wesley Grindstaff, Addalynne Halter, Charity Kochel, Lily Leatherman, Kevin Lin, Brynlee Mangette, Allison Manz, Makenna Manz, Jordyn Nagy, Shohawna Shepherd, Lilly Steingass, Owen Stoller, Kendyl Sunday, Audrey Trejo Marin, Harley Troyer

3.5-3.99 – Makenna Adams, Cora Agler, Jonah Anders, Paisley Bartley, Daniella Borland, Karli Breedlove, Conner Burkley, Madison Clark, Yoselin Cortes Becerra, Ingrid Escobar, Aspen Grace, Rooney Gutierrez Cortes, Kendal Hodge, Kendall Kohart, Gracie Leal, Chase Manz, Lincoln Manz, Luciana Martinez, Kristen Rader, Evelyn Reyes, Elliette Roughton, Kinlee Sherry, Sage Stork

3.0-3.49 – Paityn Dobbelaere, Gabriel Gonzales, James Gonzales, Savannah Harris, Zander James, Lexine Johnston, Karlee Kohart, Brynley Manz, Landon Manz, Isabella Nally, Mason Parker, Aldo Rico - Zarate, Nolan Schlatter, Merissa Schroeder, Hunter Webb

FRESHMAN:

4.0 – Katherine Arend, Annaleise Baughman, Larissa Bautista Enriquez, Kimber Boroff, Finnegan Bradford, Nahla Carlisle, Harrison Coil, Brady Dunham, Madison Durham, Abisai Escobar, Bindy Font, Maria Silvia Gastelum Lopez, Elayna Kleman, Victor Lechuga, Symon Manz, Avaeah Mezuk, Gavin Parrett, Lylah Schlueter, Hudson Spangler, Sophia Speelman

3.5-3.99 – Braelynn Averesch, Legend Buckler, Preslee Cline, Easton Gee, Lillian Gunderman, Carlie Lero, Miranda Lewis, Weston Manz, Balan Miller, Maddalayna Mullins, Adalynn Ordway, Piper Pease, Kenneth Peffley, Gage Ramey, Taia Rios, Tucker Stoller, Mason Weible, Ella Zimmerman

3.0-3.49 – Alexis Aburto Arreola, Sophia Antoine, Elena Baker, George Carnahan, Logan Dunson, Levi Fisk, Larry Gutierrez Cortes, Grayson Thomas, Brylee Thompson, Gihanna Wagenhauser, Paxxton Wesley

LADY ACES' SEASON ENDS WITH SECTIONAL LOSS TO TINORA

The Hicksville Lady Aces saw their volleyball season come to an end Thursday, October 22, falling to the Tinora Lady Rams in straight sets during the Division VI sectional opener.

Tinora controlled the match from the start, taking the opening set 25-15 before dominating the second set 25-7. Hicksville continued to battle in the third, but the Lady Rams secured the sweep with a 25-14 victory.

Mika Inkrott led the Lady Aces offensively with six kills while adding six digs. Jocelyn Baldwin contributed three

LADY PANTHERS' TOURNAMENT RUN ENDS IN DISTRICT SEMIFINALS AGAINST ARCHBOLD



Paulding HS 2026 Volleyball team. ***Photo credit: Nate Taylor***

The Paulding Lady Panthers saw their volleyball tournament run come to an end Tuesday, October 27, falling to Archbold in four sets during the Division V district semifinals at Bluffton University.

Paulding came out strong, capturing the opening set 25-23, but Archbold rallied to take the next three sets, 25-21, 25-14 and 25-22, to secure the 3-1 victory.

Karli Breedlove led the Lady Panthers offensively with 13 kills, two aces and seven digs, while Kayde Kuckuck added nine kills, two aces and nine digs. Kayleigh Dunham contributed nine kills and three blocks, while Elliette Roughton finished with six kills, two blocks and six digs, while McKenna Baird recorded two kills, three assists and five digs.

Tori Wells provided a spark from the service line with three aces and anchored the defense with a team-high 10 digs. Braelynn McCain directed the offense with seven assists while adding five digs.

McKenna Bergman chipped in two kills and three digs, while Liberty Doctor contributed three digs.

Estie Pease directed the offense with 35 assists while adding three kills, three blocks and 11 digs. Tori Schlatter anchored the defense with a team-high 15 digs, 37 receptions, two aces and four assists.

Libby Breier chipped in nine digs and an ace, while Addison Arend recorded two kills. Cora Agler added a kill and a dig as the Lady Panthers battled throughout the contest.

Despite the loss, Paulding's postseason appearance in the district semifinals capped off a strong tournament effort for the Lady Panthers.



Karlie Breedlove goes up for the block at Tuesday night's District game. ***Photo credit: Nate Taylor***

GMC ANNOUNCES 2026 ALL-CONFERENCE FOOTBALL SELECTIONS

The Green Meadows Conference (GMC) has announced its 2026 All-Conference football selections, recognizing outstanding athletes from Antwerp, Ayersville, Edgerton, Fairview, Hicksville, Paulding, Tinora and Wayne Trace.

Wayne Trace senior Carter Baumle was named Offensive Player of the Year, while Antwerp senior Keegan Gray-Wyckoff earned Defensive Player of the Year honors.

FIRST TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE:

Offense:

Offensive Ends: Logan Olinger, 12, Fairview; Jordan Manz, 12, Paulding; Dane Ewers, 11, Ayersville.

Offensive Tackles: Keegan Gray-Wyckoff, 12, Antwerp; Blake Villarreal, 12, Fairview.

Offensive Center: Ben Meulman, 12, Ayersville; Eli Pessefall, 12, Paulding.

Offensive Guards: Alex Doster, 12, Wayne Trace; Kayden Garza, 11, Fairview.

Quarterback: Gavin Brown, 10, Fairview.

Offensive Running Backs: Carter Baumle, 12, Wayne Trace; Avery Cooper, 12, Paulding; Tucker Sprow, 12, Ayersville.

Place Kicker: Magdiel Lopez, 11, Paulding.

Tight End: Josh Lieb, 12, Tinora.

Defense:

Defensive Tackles: Carter Radzik, 12, Tinora; Avery Cooper, 12, Paulding; Kahne Mansfield, 11, Wayne Trace.

Defensive Ends: Keegan Gray-Wyckoff, 12, Antwerp; Alex Doster, 12, Wayne Trace.

Linebackers: Jalen Manz, 12, Paulding; Josh Lieb, 12, Tinora; Michael Rohrs, 12, Antwerp.

Defensive Backs: Logan Olinger, 12, Fairview; Jordan Manz, 12, Paulding; Emmet Barnes, 12, Paulding.

Punter: Alex Sigler, 11, Ayersville.

SECOND TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE:

Offense:

Offensive Ends: Gavin Meade, 12, Fairview; Brayden Fuller, 11, Antwerp.

Offensive Tackles: Ty Leppelmeier, 12, Edgerton; Kahne Mansfield, 11, Wayne Trace.

Offensive Guards: Koby Bumb, 12, Tinora; Nathan Sattler, 12, Tinora.

Quarterback: Owen Ferrell, 12, Tinora.

Tight End: Stephen Mendez, 11, Fairview.

Place Kicker: Jensen Beining, 11, Wayne Trace.

Offensive Running Backs: Cooper Replogle, 12, Tinora; Gavin Garza, 12, Fairview; Gage Clevinger, 12, Antwerp.

Defense:

Defensive Backs: Dane Ewers, 11, Ayersville; Owen Reynolds, 11, Tinora; Brayden Fuller, 11, Antwerp.

Defensive Tackles: Aiden Dunderman, 12, Antwerp; Ty Leppelmeier, 12, Edgerton; Judah Evan, 9, Fairview.

Defensive Ends: Gage Mullins, 12, Fairview; Grady Arend, 12, Paulding.

Linebackers: Carter Baumle, 12, Wayne Trace; Stephen Mendez, 11, Fairview; Gavin Garza, 12, Fairview.

Punter: Josh Lieb, 12, Tinora.

HONORABLE MENTION:

Ryder Hines, 11, Antwerp; Parker Bermejo, 9, Antwerp; Jaiden Campos, 11, Ayersville; Garrett McConnell, 12, Ayersville; Mason Elden, 11, Edgerton; Kellen Sanchez, 12, Edgerton; Iziaah Weed, 12, Fairview; Brody Williams, 12, Fairview; Brody Walter, 12, Hicksville; Wyatt Bell, 12, Hicksville; Javvon Stiltner, 11, Paulding; Parker Egnor, 11, Paulding; Braylon Blue, 11, Tinora; Douglas Hattemer, 12, Tinora; Caleb McClure, 12, Wayne Trace; Easton Jay, 10, Wayne Trace

ANTWERP & PAULDING CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS ADVANCE TO REGIONAL COMPETITION

The Antwerp Archers and Paulding Panthers turned in strong performances at the cross country district tournament on Saturday, October 24, with three teams earning spots in the regional championships.

Competing against a field of 22 other schools at Napoleon, Antwerp's girls and boys teams both secured regional berths, while Paulding's varsity boys also punched their ticket to the next round.

(Continued on Page 8)

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THE LEFT TURN



Cap Henry the 2026 Attica Raceway 410 Sprint Car Champion. ***Action Photos Ohio.***

By: Ron Burt

Toledo Speedway recently shared, Richard Childress Racing announced the formation of an ARCA Menards Series program, with Cleetus McFarland returning to the team to chase the 2027 championship, including a race at Toledo Speedway on May 15th. McFarland will drive the No. 33 Chevrolet for Richard Childress Racing during his first full ARCA Menards Series campaign. McFarland joined the team earlier this season, competing in two NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series events.

Attica Raceway Park & Fremont Speedway will keep the current series. The All Pro Aluminum Cylinder Heads/Kistler Racing Products Attica Fremont Championship Series Presented by the Baumann Auto Group for the 410 sprint teams and the Real Geese Decoys/Real Capz Attica Fremont Championship Series for the 305 sprint teams will continue in the 2027 racing season. With the departure of AFCS promoter Duane Hancock, both Fremont Speedway and Attica Raceway Park officials have indicated the series will be a big part of both tracks' plans in 2027.

The offical 2027 Attica Raceway Park Track Champions, 410 Winged Sprints, Cap Henry. This was Cap's 4th straight track championship and 5th over-all at Attica. Bryan Sebetto won his first 305 Wing Sprint Championship. UMP Late Model Devin Shiels from Britton, Mich recorded his 6th championship at the track since 2016.

Attica Raceway Park passed out $50,000 in point fund money for the top 10 in points in the track's three weekly divisions that competed in the 2026 season. Rain washed out 11 of the scheduled events in 2026, meaning 13 races were contested.

The 2026 Rumble In Fort Wayne returns to the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum December 18th and 19th. The Midgets headline the two days bringing in racings top drivers. Also, this year the 600cc Wing and Non-wing Midgets, several classes of Race Karts, Mini Wedges and Quarter Midgets.

Friday, October 23rd Montpelier Motor Speedway IN hosted the first night of the Annual Monster Mash Weekend. Drew Charlson won the UMP Modified Feature, Josh Gamblin found Victory Lane in the Hornet Class. Vienna Ohio's Eric Wilson took the win in the DIRTcar Super Late Model Division.

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

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(Continued from Page 7)

The Antwerp girls opened the foggy morning with an impressive fourth-place team finish, missing third place by just two points.

Reese Durbin led the Lady Archers with a 12th-place finish. She was followed by Gianna Laker, Gabriella Snyder, Emily Laker, Kora Zuber, Aleta Sorrell and Brooklynn Lawson.

The fourth-place performance secured Antwerp's girls a spot in the regional meet, continuing their successful postseason run.

The Antwerp varsity boys followed with a seventh-place team finish, also earning advancement to regional competition.

Jason McKay led the Archers, crossing the finish line in 25th place. He was followed by Braxton Peters, Marshall Rice, Tucker Doster, Gage Barker, Aiden Hook and Kahne Moore.

With both teams advancing, Antwerp will send its entire varsity boys and girls squads to the regional championships.

The Paulding Panthers also enjoyed a successful district outing, with the varsity boys placing fifth as a team to qualify for the regional meet.

Senior Leonel Reyes led the Panthers with an 11th-place finish in 16:47.6. Fellow senior Max Daeger followed in 18th place with a time of 17:00.2, while Landon Grinnell finished 22nd in 17:09.2.

Achilles Mead placed 28th with a time of 17:21.8, while Isaiah Koenig finished 55th in 18:55.3. Rooney Gutierrez Cortes crossed the line in 70th place at 23:22.5, followed by Quinton Laker in 71st at 26:07.7.

The fifth-place team finish secured Paulding's boys a spot in the regional competition.

The Paulding varsity girls also competed in district action, led by sophomore Dani Borland, who finished 43rd with a time of 23:54.2.

Kyler Foor followed in 45th place at 24:22.8, while Maria Gastelum Lopez placed 47th in 24:26.3. Aly White finished 53rd with a time of 26:09.5, and Karlee Kohart rounded out the Panthers' results in 54th place at 26:14.5.

ACAC ANNOUNCES 2026 ALL-CONFERENCE BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER TEAMS

The Allen County Athletic Conference (ACAC) has announced its 2026 All-Conference selections for boys and girls soccer. Players from Heritage, Woodlan, Jay County, South Adams and Southern Wells earned recognition for their performances throughout the season.

BOYS SOCCER

First Team All-Conference

Defenders: Damian Martinez – Heritage, 12; To Fine – Heritage, 12; Jaxon DeHoff – Jay County, 11.

Midfielders: Sa Nam – Heritage, 12; Dylan Graber – Woodlan, 12; Emmitt Reynolds – Jay County, 12.

Forwards: Mohammed Saddk – Heritage, 10; Lucas Gramajo – Woodlan, 12; Brody Collins – Jay County, 10.

Goalkeeper: Zavier Hudson – Jay County, 12.

At-Large: Jacoby Penrod – Jay County, 10.

Second Team All-Conference

Defenders: Sam Wiggins – Jay County, 10; Daniel Lopez – Heritage, 12; Tanner Martin – Woodlan, 12.

Midfielders: Raif Beiswanger – Jay County, 11; Christopher Vargas – Heritage, 10; Camden Koch – Woodlan, 10.

Forwards: Rockland Beiswanger – Jay County, 11; Blake Collins – Jay County, 12; Eduardo Lopez – Heritage, 12.

Goalkeeper: Nyi Zar – Heritage, 12.

At-Large: Ryon Hathaway – Woodlan, 11.

Honorable Mention

Defender: Hasain Hee – Heritage, 12.

Goalkeeper: Angel Gutierrez – Jay County, 11.

At-Large: Max Baumert – Woodlan, 10; Sergio Salarte – Heritage, 9; Abu Ba Kan – Heritage, 12.

GIRLS SOCCER

First Team All-Conference

Defenders: Lydia Bauman – South Adams, 12; Ariel Beiswanger – Jay County, 12; Savannah Roy – Heritage, 10.

Midfielders: Elise Hissong – Heritage, 12; Charlee Peters – Jay County, 10; Lydia Bender – Woodlan, 10.

Forwards: Kenley Geels – South Adams, 11; London Lloyd – Jay County, 11; Rosie Kyi – Heritage, 11.

Goalkeeper: Liza Fonte – South Adams, 11.

At-Large: Tessa Frazee – Jay County, 12.

Second Team All-Conference

Defenders: Emily High – Heritage, 12; Maria Laux – Jay County, 10; Mia Hertig – Woodlan, 9.

Midfielders: Marian Tenorio – South Adams, 11; Luelle Schoch – South Adams, 11; Macy DeHoff – Jay County, 9.

Forwards: Allie Graber – Woodlan, 11; Ayla Jackson – Jay County, 10; Kameron Hawkins – Southern Wells, 11.

Goalkeeper: Taylynn Mart – Heritage, 12.

At-Large: Elena Baumart – Woodlan, 12.

Honorable Mention

Defenders: Reagan Needler – Southern Wells, 12; Bailey White – Heritage, 10.

Midfielders: Aubree Meyer – Southern Wells, 12; Savannah Scheumann – Woodlan, 11; Quinn Hissong – Heritage, 9; Addi Smith – Heritage, 11.

Forwards: Gabby Gibson – Jay County, 10; Molly Krey – Heritage, 11.

Goalkeepers: Lucy Fairchild – Southern Wells, 11; Maizie Bearman – Woodlan, 9; Brenna Ruble – Jay County, 11.

At-Large: Kaylea Coffel – Southern Wells, 12; Edith Gonzalez – Heritage, 10; Charis Lehman – South Adams, 11.

PAULDING PANTHERS SHUT OUT BY TINORA IN REGULAR SEASON FINALE

TINORA – The Paulding Panthers struggled to find offensive momentum Saturday, October 24, falling to the Tinora Rams 20-0 in their Week 10 football matchup at Tinora.

Both teams battled through a scoreless opening quarter before Tinora broke the deadlock with 4:23 remaining in the first half. Owen Reynolds connected with Isaac Gunter on a three-yard touchdown pass, giving the Rams a 7-0 halftime advantage.

Neither team managed to score in the third quarter, keeping Paulding within striking distance entering the final period. However, Tinora pulled away in the fourth behind two touchdown runs from Cooper Replogle. Replogle scored from five yards out with 6:51 remaining before adding a 12-yard touchdown run at the 4:32 mark to seal the 20-0 victory.

Paulding quarterback Ridge Hunt completed 10 of 32 passes for 91 yards but was intercepted twice. Grady Arend led the Panthers' receiving corps with six catches for 49 yards, while Jordan Manz added three receptions for 28 yards.

The Panthers struggled to establish their ground game, finishing with just 18 rushing yards on 14 attempts. Manz led the rushing attack with 18 yards on four carries, while Avery Cooper contributed 10 yards on eight attempts.

Defensively, Zach Salas turned in a standout performance with a team-high 12 tackles, one tackle for loss and an interception. Jalen Manz followed with 11 tackles, while Jordan Manz, Javvon Stiltner and Nick Baughman each recorded eight stops.

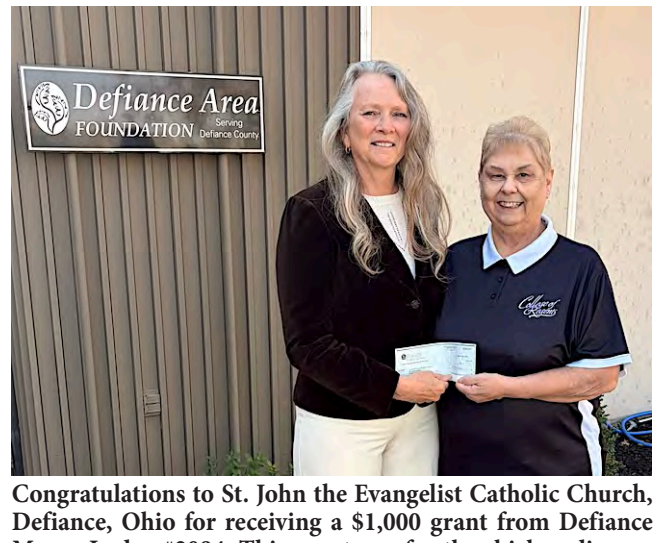
Avery Cooper added six tackles, including a sack and a tackle for loss, while Jason Manz contributed seven tackles.

Tinora finished with 252 yards of total offense compared to Paulding's 109. The Rams recorded 14 first downs to the Panthers' eight and controlled the ground game with 129 rushing yards.

Jalen Manz handled punting duties for Paulding, averaging 36.3 yards on three punts, while Nick Baughman added 20 yards on two punt returns.

The loss closed out the Panthers' regular season as Tinora secured the shutout victory on its home field.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST RECEIVES $1,000 GRANT FROM DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE



Congratulations to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Defiance, Ohio for receiving a $1,000 grant from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. This grant was for the chicken dinners at their Fest-For-All event which took place on October 11. Pictured are (l-r) Patty Nezick - Fest-For-All chairperson and Roberta Phlipot - Moose Lodge Treasurer.

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Ciera R. Lipp, Defiance, had a charge of criminal damaging dismissed with prejudice at the state's request. Court costs were waived.

Stacy A. Landis, Antwerp, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. Landis was fined $50 and ordered to pay $153 in court costs. Landis was also ordered to maintain good behavior.

Jimmie Hullinger, Butler, Indiana, pleaded no contest and was found guilty of disorderly conduct. Hullinger was fined $50 and ordered to pay $105 in court costs. Hullinger was also ordered to maintain good behavior.

David W. Ball, Paulding, pleaded no contest and was found guilty of an animals-at-large violation. Ball was fined $25 and ordered to pay $108 in court costs. He was sentenced to one day in jail, which was suspended, and ordered to maintain good behavior.

Roberta S. Hart, Antwerp, pleaded no contest and was found guilty of disorderly conduct. Hart was fined $25 and ordered to pay $115 in court costs. Hart was also ordered to maintain good behavior.

Nathan A. Zuber, Antwerp, pleaded guilty to a vehicle registration violation. Zuber was fined $70 and ordered to pay

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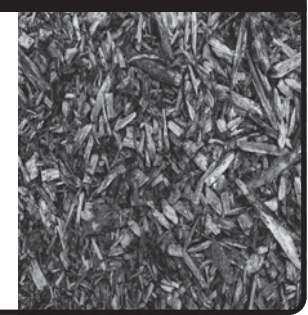


$95 in court costs.

Randy L. Moore, Grover Hill, pleaded guilty to menacing. Moore was fined $100 and ordered to pay $280 in court costs. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 29 days suspended. Moore was also ordered to maintain good behavior and have no contact with the victim.

Caleb D. Tracy, Paulding, pleaded guilty to domestic violence. Tracy was fined $100 and ordered to pay $105 in court costs. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 26 days suspended. Tracy was also ordered to comply with probation rules for one year and have no contact with the victim. The state's motion to withdraw bond was withdrawn.

Jerry L. Christo, Paulding, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle under the influence (OVI). Christo was fined $565 and ordered to pay $105 in court costs. He was sentenced to 90 days in jail, with 87 days suspended. His driver's license was suspended from August 24, 2026, through August 24, 2027. Christo may complete a driver intervention program in lieu of serving three days in jail. A separate stop sign violation was dismissed.

Cody A. Champion, Hicksville, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. Champion was fined $30 and ordered to pay $57 in court costs.

Matthew D. Keeran, Paulding, pleaded no contest and was found guilty of driving under suspension. Keeran was fined $100 and ordered to pay $97 in court costs.

Federico A. Garza, Toledo, had a charge of driving under a financial responsibility suspension dismissed. Garza was ordered to pay $97 in court costs.

Reagan N. Akom, Paulding, pleaded guilty to failure to control. Akom was fined $70 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Brianna Scott, Paulding, was found guilty of operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license. Scott was fined $150, all of which was suspended, and ordered to pay $97 in court costs. Scott was also ordered to continue making payments to the court and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Danielle L. Parmenter, Fort Wayne, Indiana, was found guilty of operating an unsafe vehicle. Parmenter was fined $150 and ordered to pay $105 in court costs.

ANTWERP VILLAGE COUNCIL ADDRESSES UTILITY RATES, ZONING AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The Antwerp Village Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, with Mayor Bryan Smith presiding. All six council members were present, including Derek Demongeot, Bill Boylan, John Ganger, Jason Franks, John DeVore III and Dean Rister. Council addressed several ordinances and resolutions involving utility rates, zoning changes, emergency services and village infrastructure.

Council held the first reading of Ordinance 2026-26, which establishes utility rates for 2027 and sets a schedule for rate increases beginning in 2028. The ordinance would also repeal previous rate-setting ordinances.

Council unanimously approved Resolution 2026-12, authorizing Village Administrator Brian Davis to make expenditures exceeding $75,000 for professional services associated with the Canal Wentworth Waterline and Storm Improvement Project.

Resident Bob Myers attended the meeting seeking information about the proposed sewer force main location. Davis explained that the project's engineer had not yet finalized the plans.

Council considered Ordinance 2026-25, which would amend the village's zoning regulations to allow light manufacturing as a conditional use within the B-2 zoning district. An attempt to suspend the required three readings and pass the measure as an emergency failed by a vote of 2-4. Following discussion, council agreed to revise the ordinance and proceed with the normal reading process.

Council unanimously approved emergency Ordinance 2026-24, accepting a plat submitted by the Community Improvement Corporation of Antwerp. The ordinance dedicates Meyer Avenue and divides an adjacent lot.

Another measure, Ordinance 2026-23, was unanimously approved as an emergency. The ordinance authorizes the village to advertise for and accept bids for the lease of village-owned real estate and allows the village administrator to execute a lease agreement.

Council also held the first reading of Resolution 2026-13, which would accept the donation of several parcels of land from Marsha Oberlin for incorporation into the village park system.

Council conducted second readings of four ordinances authorizing five-year agreements with Carryall Township and Harrison Township for fire protection and emergency medical services beginning in 2027 and continuing through 2031.

Police Chief George Clemens addressed council regarding Ordinance 2026-18, which would regulate unreasonable noise and public nuisances within the village. The proposed ordinance includes enforcement provisions, penalties and nuisance abatement procedures. Clemens provided information regarding applicable sections of the Ohio Revised Code and discussed the village's ability to enforce the regulations. No action was taken on the ordinance.

During new business, Councilman Jason Franks raised concerns about streetlights that were not functioning. Council discussed the process for residents to report outages through the village website so that American Electric Power could be contacted to make repairs.

Davis reported that he was working to have outdoor electrical outlets installed at Village Hall to accommodate Christmas lighting.

Council members John DeVore, Bill Boylan and Jason Franks also identified trees throughout the village needing trimming, including low-hanging branches.

Mayor Smith discussed the landscaped village-owned lot at the corner of Main Street and Canal Street. The property has experienced problems with weeds, and a landscaping contractor is expected to evaluate the site and recommend maintenance improvements.

Council unanimously approved the August meeting minutes, financial statements and bank reconciliation.

Resolution 2026-11 was unanimously approved, accepting the amounts and rates determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies to be certified to the county auditor.

Mayor Smith presented the Mayor's Court report for August, showing receipts totaling $3,665. Of that amount, $2,651 was distributed to the village, $975 to the state and $39 to the county.

Council entered executive session to discuss property acquisition. The session lasted approximately 10 minutes, and no action was taken upon returning to regular session.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

MCCRAY CALLS FOR FULLY FUNDED PUBLIC SCHOOLS, STRONGER STAFFING AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Ohio House District 82 candidate Maddux McCray is calling for full funding of Ohio's public schools, action to address educator and school employee shortages, and protection of the local schools that anchor rural communities.

Through conversations with superintendents across the district and his experience as a substitute teacher, McCray has heard and seen the pressures facing schools. His priorities include fully funding the Fair School Funding Plan using updated costs, addressing staffing shortages, maintaining school buildings and confronting the expansion of private school vouchers.

Funding Schools and Protecting Local Communities

McCray believes Ohio must provide dependable funding that reflects the actual costs of educating students. Schools should have the resources to support classroom instruction, retain employees and maintain safe buildings.

"Schools should not have to choose whether to repair existing infrastructure or buy new textbooks and resources for learning," McCray said.

He is concerned that inadequate funding, staffing shortages and uncertainty surrounding property tax proposals could increase pressure on rural districts to consolidate. In Putnam County and throughout the district, preserving local schools means protecting institutions closely tied to community life and identity.

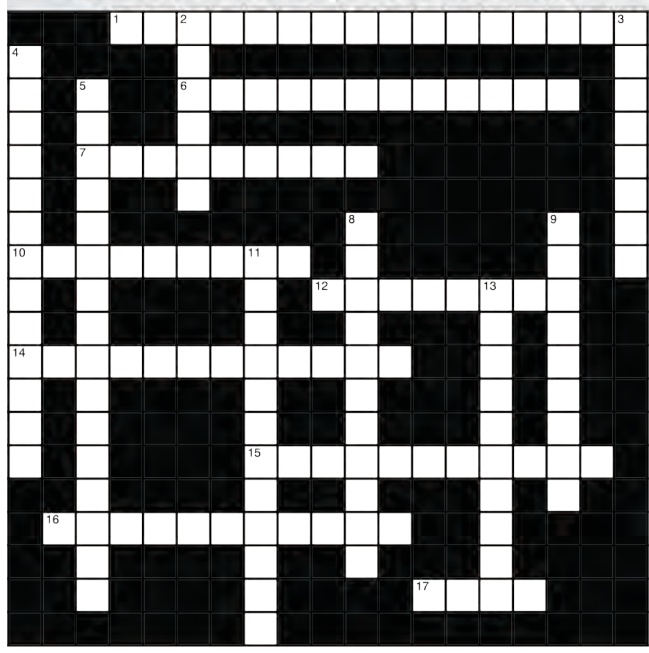
McCray supports meaningful property tax relief but opposes eliminating that revenue without a suitable, dependable replacement.

Eliminating property taxes without a suitable replacement threatens local schools, the communities, small businesses and cultural identities built around them.

(Continued from Page 10)

West Bend News Crossword Puzzle

2026 OHIO ELECTION SEASON



Across

1. State's highest court, with two judicial seats appearing on the November 2026 ballot.
6. Independent write-in candidate in Ohio's 2026 U.S. Senate election.
7. Date of the 2026 general election throughout the United States.
10. Cincinnati City Council member running as the Democratic candidate for Ohio treasurer.
12. Former Ohio Department of Health director running for governor as the Democratic candidate.
14. Former Ohio House minority leader running as the Democratic candidate for secretary of state.
15. Former Ohio Democratic Party chairman running for lieutenant governor alongside Amy Acton.
16. Former Republican gubernatorial primary candidate appearing as an independent write-in candidate in Ohio's November election.
17. Date Ohio held its 2026 primary election.

Down

2. Proposed Ohio constitutional amendment on the November 2026 ballot concerning voter identification requirements.
3. Libertarian candidate for Ohio secretary of state who has worked in the printing industry and owns a printing and mailing business.
4. Current Ohio treasurer running as the Republican candidate for secretary of state.
5. Democratic candidate for Ohio auditor who has served as mayor of Maple Heights.
8. Libertarian candidate for Ohio lieutenant governor running alongside Don Kissick.
9. Republican U.S. senator seeking election in 2026 after being appointed to replace JD Vance.
11. Former U.S. senator challenging the Republican incumbent for Ohioâ€™s Senate seat in 2026.
13. Political party other than the two major parties, such as the Libertarian Party, that offers voters additional choices.

solution on page 11

THIS PUZZLE BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
The Union Bank Co.
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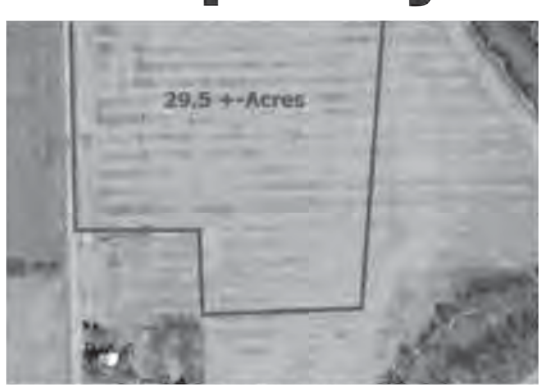
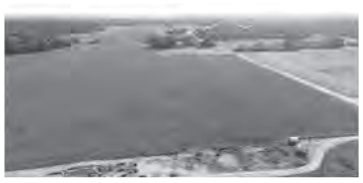
419.567.1075

Property For Sale







TBD State Rd 1, Saint Joe, IN 46785 – Discover your own private slice of Saint Joe, Indiana with this 29.5± acre property offering a unique blend of space, agricultural potential, and dream-home possibilities. Featuring tillable land and a picturesque river backdrop, the land provides both beauty and functionality—ideal for buyers seeking a peaceful setting while keeping options open for future use. The property is residential agricultural and includes tillable ground, offering opportunities for farming/land stewardship. Whether you envision building a custom residence, a barndominium-style home, or a homestead with room to breathe, please check with the Local Building Department for Permits. This is a rare opportunity to create your long-term vision on a generous acreage parcel in a desirable area. Don't miss the chance to own!

Lot Dimensions 1306 x 927+- • **School District** Dekalb Co. Eastern







James Wagler
Realtor
Lic #RB24001436
Work (260) 210-3223
hooverrealty24@gmail.com

HOOVER Auction & Realty Inc.
http://hooverar.com/
HOOVER AUCTION REALTY INC.
5652 County Road 64
Spencerville, IN 46788

IRMLS Indiana Regional MLS
MLS #202643625

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

PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages

1st Weekend- Paulding , Fair Grounds
2nd Weekend- Grover Hill , VFW
3rd Weekend- Payne ,
(Paved lot east of Homier's)
4th Weekend- Antwerp ,
(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)

New Schedule For Smaller Villages

3rd Wednesday of each month
Cecil 11:30-12:00 (Fire Station)
Junction 12:30-1:00 (Catholic Church)
Haviland/Scott 1:30-2:00 (SR 114 at Haviland Park)
Latty/Briceton 2:30-3:00 (Latty Park)

For Questions Call : 419-399-3630
or Visit : www.pauldingcountywmea.com

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

WT PAYNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NAMES STUDENTS OF THE QUARTER



Students of the Quarter for WT Payne Elementary School were recently recognized and received a certificate for this achievement. They represent the character trait of 'Courage'. Pictured above are (front row, l-r) Gabriel Metcalfe, Sawyer Stoller, Ayla Praul, Teresa Monterroso, Kenley Eversole, Giovanni Mullins, Lilian Alberts, Finley Stoller, William Warnimont, Jameson Carnahan, and Elyse Carpio Luis; (back row, l-r) Jeremy Seibert, Peyton Osbun, Aubree Phlipot, Elise Steffen, Brezlyn Mohr, Brayden McGary, Miguel Gambler, Lena Perry, Grady Huston, and Teddy Alix.

VANTAGE HONORS 27 STUDENTS DURING NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION CEREMONY



Front row (l-r): Moriah Bertsch, Yaddo Von Stetina, Tory Singer, Gwyneth Kahle, Kara Pierce, Lillian Schneer, and Leah DeVelvis; Middle row (l-r): Kenadi Short, Sophia Brickner, Ava Knippen, Hailey Clem, Grace Welch, and Laney Nienberg; Back row (l-r): Landen Saxton, Reece Olwin, Cole Miller, Evan Myers, Alex Doster, Colton Kimmel, and Braylon Barnes; Not pictured: Isaac Brinkman, Tyler Eddy, Elizabeth Graham, Logan Koester, Gavin Priest, and Olivia Zartman.

Vantage Career Center recognized 27 students for their academic achievement, leadership and dedication to career-technical education during its National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) induction ceremony held in October.

Being inducted into the National Technical Honor Society is a special achievement for students who have shown dedication to their education, career goals, and personal growth. These students have worked hard to excel in the classroom, develop their technical skills, and demonstrate strong leadership and character. As members, they will have opportunities to grow as leaders, give back to their communities, and continue building skills and connections that will help them succeed in their future careers.

This year's inductees represent 10 of Vantage Career Center's partner school districts and a variety of career-technical programs, ranging from healthcare and information technology to skilled trades, education and public safety. Throughout the ceremony, students were recognized for their accomplishments, strong work ethic and commitment to excellence both inside and outside the classroom. Their instructors described them as dependable, hardworking and motivated individuals who consistently demonstrate leadership, responsibility and a willingness to help others.

For many of the inductees, membership in NTHS represents the culmination of their dedication to maintaining strong academic performance while developing the technical and employability skills necessary for success after graduation. The students have a wide range of career aspirations. Some plan to continue their education in nursing, physical therapy, engineering technology and other specialized fields, while others intend to enter the workforce in industries such as construction, welding, electrical trades and information technology. Regardless of their chosen paths, each inductee exemplifies the mission of Vantage Career Center: preparing students for employment and further education through authentic, student-focused career-technical training.

The 2026 National Technical Honor Society inductees include: Braylon Barnes, Paulding High School – Network Systems; Moriah Bertsch, Lincolnview High School – Sports Exercise Therapy; Isaac Brinkman, Ottoville High School – Industrial Mechanics; Sophia Brickner, Lincolnview High School – Health Technology; Hailey Clem, Antwerp High School – Health Technology; Leah Develvis, Delphos St. John's High School – Auto Collision; Alex Doster, Wayne Trace High School – Industrial Mechanics; Tyler Eddy, Lincolnview High School – Industrial Mechanics; Elizabeth Graham, Wayne Trace High School – Health Technology; Gwyneth Kahle, Crestview High School – Early Childhood Education; Colton Kimmel, Wayne Trace High School – Carpentry; Ava Knippen, Fort Jennings High School – Sports Exercise Therapy; Logan Koester, Ottoville High School – Industrial Mechanics; Cole Miller, Crestview High School – Carpentry; Evan Myers, Crestview High School – Electricity; Laney Nienberg, Continental High School – Auto Collision; Reece Olwin, Wayne Trace High School – Carpentry; Kara Pierce, Antwerp High School – Culinary Arts; Gavin Priest, Lincolnview High School – Industrial Mechanics; Landen Saxton, Ottoville High School – Industrial Mechanics;; Madison Schmidt, Antwerp High School – Sports Exercise Therapy; Lillian Schneer, Delphos St. John's High School – Sports Exercise Therapy; Kenadi Short, Crestview High School – Carpentry; Tory Singer, Crestview High School – Health Technology; Yaddo Von Stetina, Lincolnview High School – Criminal Justice; Grace Welch, Fort Jennings High School – Machining Engineering Technology; Olivia Zartman, Wayne Trace High School – Health Technology

The induction of these 27 students highlights the importance of recognizing excellence in career-technical education and the role that hands-on learning plays in developing the next generation of skilled professionals.

(Continued from Page 9)

His infrastructure priorities include helping schools address aging HVAC systems, boilers, roofs and other essential repairs before deferred maintenance becomes a larger and more expensive problem.

Recruiting and Retaining School Employees

McCray supports recruitment incentives, competitive wages and benefits to attract new educators and retain experienced teachers and school employees. Particular attention is needed for intervention specialists, special education teachers, foreign language teachers and other hard-to-fill positions.

He also supports making the transition to Ohio licensure easier for qualified graduates of colleges in neighboring states. His approach would reduce unnecessary testing barriers and give greater weight to demonstrated classroom preparedness and supervised field experience.

Substitute teaching should provide a stronger pathway into permanent education careers, especially for substitutes completing education degrees. McCray supports better pay, access to benefits and incentives that recognize their contribution to school operations.

He also supports educator-led retirement oversight, with former educators and school employees serving on the STRS board of trustees.

Staffing policy must address the broader workforce schools depend on, including bus drivers, custodians and other essential employees.

Making State Requirements Affordable and Accessible

McCray believes state education requirements must account for the costs districts face when replacing textbooks, technology and instructional materials. New requirements should come with adequate resources and realistic implementation timelines.

He supports protecting public schools from profiteering and ensuring purchasing decisions prioritize educational value, affordability and the needs of students and communities.

Physical and digital materials each offer benefits. Digital textbooks can provide updates, annotation tools and convenient access, but those advantages depend on students having suitable devices and reliable access outside school.

Schools need the resources and flexibility to ensure every student can use required

ANOTHER GORRELL BROS
AUCTION
REAL ESTATE AUCTION
611 N. MAIN ST., PAYNE, OHIO 45880
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026 | 6PM
AUCTION LOCATION: 611 N. MAIN ST., PAYNE, OHIO 45880 | AUCTION HELD LIVE ON SITE
OPEN HOUSE / INSPECTION: Monday, November 16, 2026, from 5:00–6:00 P.M. and Tuesday, November 17, 2026, from 5:30–6:00 P.M. Meet a Gorrell Bros. representative at the property.
Cute two-bedroom, one-bath ranch home in the Village of Payne! Built in 1970, the home offers approximately 896 square feet of living space, a one-car attached garage, electric radiant heat, a crawl space, and a shingled roof. Situated on a 0.23±-acre lot with public water and sewer, the property is located in the Wayne Trace School District.
PARCEL NUMBER: 19-02S-011-00
SELLER: Julie A. Johnston
CLOSING / TITLE COMPANY: Cook & Gorrell, Ltd.
AUCTION TERMS: Visit our website for complete auction terms and additional information.
AUCTION CONDUCTED BY:
GORRELL BROS. AUCTIONEERS AND REAL ESTATE LLC: Zachary B. Gorrell, Broker/Owner & Sale Manager; Larry D. Gorrell, Associate Broker; Kenneth D. Thomas • Chris Aufrance, Auctioneers
Gorrell Bros. Auctioneers LLC 112½ N Water St Paulding, Ohio 45879
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Call Today to Reserve Your Auction Date!

TWO EAST ALLEN WOODBURN FARMS
LAND AUCTION
Tuesday, November 24 • 6pm
150± acres
Offered in 6 Tracts
• All Quality Tillable Soils
• Potential Country Building Sites
AUCTION LOCATION: The Woodburn Community Center, 22651 Main St, Woodburn, IN 46797
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)
SELLERS: Farm #1 – Deborah Knoblauch & Judith Privett
Farm #2 – S & L Schrenk Family LLC
AUCTION MANAGER: Jerry W. Ehle • 260.410.1996
#AU19300123, #RB14044208, #LC20700176, #AC63001504
SCHRADER REAL ESTATE & AUCTION of Fort Wayne
260.749.0445 • 866.340.0445
SchraderFortWayne.com
SchraderAuction.com

ANOTHER GORRELL BROS
AUCTION
153.26± ACRE LAND AUCTION
PAULDING & VAN WERT COUNTIES, OHIO; THREE TRACTS — OFFERED INDIVIDUALLY OR IN ANY COMBINATION
AUCTION LOCATION: Paulding County Fairgrounds, 501 Fairground Drive, Paulding, Ohio 45879
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 | 6PM
TRACT 1 — 78.50± ACRES: Approximately 76.16 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 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.
153.26± TOTAL ACRES • APPROXIMATELY 144.66 TILLABLE ACRES; An opportunity to expand your farming operation or invest in agricultural real estate!
OPEN HOUSE / INSPECTION: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026 • 5:00–6:00 P.M; Meet a Gorrell Bros. representative at Tract 2 for additional information
TERMS: $5,000 down per tract on the day of the auction. Visit www.gorrellbrothers.com for additional information.
SELLERS: BG Fast LLC
ATTORNEY FOR SELLER: Maryam E. Rezayat, Baker & McClure Law and Title
GORRELL BROS. AUCTIONEERS AND REAL ESTATE LLC: Zachary B. Gorrell, Broker/Owner & Sale Manager; Larry D. Gorrell, Associate Broker; Kenneth D. Thomas, Chris Aufrance, Auctioneers
Gorrell Bros. Auctioneers LLC 112½ N Water St Paulding, Ohio 45879
"We Sell the Earth and Everything on It."
Call Today to Reserve Your Auction Date!

learning materials at school and at home.

Public Dollars and Public Accountability

Public tax dollars should go to public schools.

McCray supports reducing private school vouchers as a first step toward prioritizing public education. He respects parents' ability to choose private education while maintaining that the state's priority should be adequately funding the public schools that serve its communities.

If private schools receive public funding, McCray believes they should meet the same standards as public schools. Those expectations include accepting and serving students with IEPs, following the same state education requirements, and meeting equivalent accountability, accessibility and financial transparency standards.

Public funding must come with public accountability.

McCray is committed to working across party lines to address these challenges and carrying the concerns of local educators, school employees, families and students into the Statehouse.

WESBANCO REPRESENTATIVES HIGHLIGHT BANKING SERVICES AND FRAUD PREVENTION AT KIWANIS



This week at Kiwanis we were joined by Breanne Fifer of WesBanco and her colleagues, Danielle Fowler and Jim Williams. WesBanco is committed to community involvement. We learned about the wide-range of community members with ways WesBanco can support its customers from personal banking, commercial banking, insurance and more. Recently, Breanne kicked off a series of Fraud Prevention Seminars, which help to arm the knowledge and tools to fight against fraud in the never-ending attacks we face.

The Kiwanis Club meets every Thursday at noon at Branch Christian Church. Come make connections, learn more about our community, and enjoy lunch with us!

97.5 WELT RADIO TIPS OFF ANOTHER SEASON OF PURDUE FORT WAYNE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

95.7 WELT radio at the Allen County Public Library is bringing back live Mastodon basketball this season. Broadcaster Derek Decker returns to call Purdue Fort Wayne women's basketball home games, offering listeners play-by-play action, interviews with players and coaches, and postgame wrap-ups.

Decker said: "Last year, we brought Mastodon women's basketball to life on local radio for the first time in more than a decade. I'm honored to once again help tell the story of a team with a long history and a terrific fanbase in the Summit City."

The next broadcast of the season is on Monday, November 2, featuring Purdue Fort Wayne vs. Xavier. 95.7 WELT's live coverage begins at 6:45 p.m. with tipoff at 7 p.m. Game broadcasts will preempt regularly scheduled programming.

95.7 WELT, which stands for "We Encourage Local Talent," is a non-commercial, community-driven, low power radio station through which volunteer producers create shows around the music and topics they care about. The weekly lineup includes classic rock, classic country, smooth jazz, 1960s and 1970s pop, and more, along with talk programs, interviews, and live performances by local musicians.

The station's programming is produced at the Main Library and is the only radio station in the United States owned by a public library. The station celebrated its 10th anniversary earlier this year and continues to engage new producers every month. Anyone in the community can apply to go on the air.

PFW fans can tune in to 95.7 FM WELT or stream live at acpl.info/welt. Fans can find the team's full schedule, news, and roster at gomastodons.com/sports/womens-basketball.

Classified Ads

Sell it in the Classifieds!

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

BUYING OLD Collections, coins, postcards, comics, toys, knives, watches, jewelry, trading cards, paper antiques, pens, zippos & lighters, pins. 419-786-9514. Text or call. tf

DESIGN-PRINT-ADVERTISE: West Bend Printing & Publishing can get you what you need *FAST*! Call or stop in today! 419-258-2000.

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

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

RAIN TECH SEAMLESS GUTTERS, 419-258-1818 42-44

DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIEDS IS FRIDAYS AT 12NOON!

FOR SALE: 2012 Ford Fusion. 139,000 miles, dependable, well maintained but needs AC repaired. Driving my clients weekly. Smoke free. $4500 firm. Text 517-536-0467 p

WINNERS ESTATE SALE: 9521 Rd 180 Paulding. Fri 11/6 9-5, Sat 11/7 9-12. Household – Barn loaded. All for sale! p

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

ESTATE SALE: Everything Must Go! Décor Cleanout, November 6,7, and 8. Vintage cookware, various vintage items, kids toys, stereos, VCR/DVD players, tools, a lawn mower, antique furniture, and much more! CASH only. 303 E. Jackson Street, Grover Hill, OH 45849

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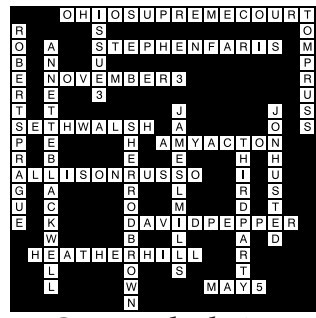


Crossword solution from page 9

HELP WANTED:

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

Family owned business located in Antwerp, Ohio looking for general labor associates to do light manufacturing and assembly. Will provide on the job training. Hours are Monday-Friday from 5:00 am-1:30 pm. Competitive wages, vacation and personal leave after probationary period.

To apply contact us via phone or email

HELP WANTED

SEWER DEPARTMENT LABORER I AND II

The Village of Hicksville is seeking dependable, hardworking, and motivated individuals to serve as full-time Sewer Department Laborers I and II.

Under the supervision of the Sewer Superintendent and Foreman, these positions assist with the operation, maintenance, and repair of Village wastewater facilities, sewer lines, and lift stations. Candidates must be mechanically inclined, physically capable, and willing to assist other departments as needed.

Key Responsibilities:
- Operate and maintain wastewater facilities, lift stations, sewer lines, and equipment.
- Perform sewer cleaning, jetting, vacuuming, repairs, and general facility maintenance.
- Operate Village vehicles and machinery; assist other departments as needed.
- Respond to after-hours sewer emergencies and equipment failures.

Qualifications & Requirements:
- Must obtain Ohio EPA Class I Wastewater Operator Certification within a reasonable time after hiring.
- Valid Ohio driver's license with acceptable driving record; CDL a plus.
- Mechanical, electrical, construction, or wastewater experience preferred.
- Ability to perform physical labor in varying weather conditions.
- Hepatitis A/B vaccinations required; paid by the Village.

Compensation & Benefits:
Competitive pay based on experience and qualifications. Health, dental and vision insurance, OPERS retirement, paid time off and holidays, and certification/training support.

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

THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E

HELP WANTED

WATER DEPARTMENT LABORER I AND II

The Village of Hicksville is seeking reliable, motivated, and hardworking individuals to fill full-time Water Department Laborer I and II positions.

Working under the direction of the Water Superintendent and Foreman, these positions assist in the operation, maintenance, installation, and repair of the Village's water distribution system. Successful candidates will help ensure residents and businesses receive dependable water service while supporting the daily operations of the department.

Key Responsibilities:
- Install, maintain, & repair water mains, service lines, meters, & related equipment.
- Assist with water system operations, service connections, and customer concerns.
- Operate Village vehicles and equipment; assist other departments as needed.
- Respond to after-hours water emergencies and service interruptions.

Qualifications & Requirements:
- Valid Ohio driver's license; CDL required within six months of employment.
- Water distribution, construction, or mechanical experience preferred.
- Ability to operate equipment, follow instructions, and perform physical labor in all weather conditions.
- Hepatitis A/B vaccinations required; paid by the Village.

Compensation & Benefits:
Competitive pay based on experience and qualifications. Health, dental and vision insurance, OPERS retirement, paid time off and holidays, and training opportunities.

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

THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E

HELP WANTED

Gym Membership Coordinator

Supports daily operations of the gym. Will provide gym tours, orientations, complete follow up calls or respond to members' questions/concerns. Responsible for all gym member applications and necessary paperwork for renewals
Opening: Full Time
Schedule: Monday - Friday - Day shift hours

Physician Office Assistant

Performs a variety of tasks including scheduling and checking in patients.
Opening: Full Time
Location: Antwerp Location

Outpatient Registration

Register patients for outpatient testing and clinic visits.
Opening: Part Time - 2 days a week

Apply online or in person today!

Apply on line at: www.pauldingcountyhospital.com or email resumes to kwannemacher@pauldingcountyhospital.com

Paulding County Hospital is an Equal Opportunity Employer

PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL

HELP WANTED

STREET DEPARTMENT LABORER I AND II

The Village of Hicksville is seeking dependable, hardworking, and motivated individuals to serve as full-time Street Department Laborers I and II.

Under the supervision of the Street Foreman, these positions perform maintenance, construction, and equipment operation duties for Village streets and facilities. Candidates must be mechanically inclined, physically capable, and able to work in varying weather conditions.

Key Responsibilities:
- Maintain and repair Village streets, catch basins, traffic signs, and related infrastructure.
- Operate and maintain Village vehicles, machinery, and equipment.
- Perform street sweeping, refuse collection, and general public works maintenance.
- Assist other departments and respond to after-hours emergencies.

Qualifications & Requirements:
- Valid Ohio driver's license; CDL required within six months of employment.
- Street maintenance, construction, or equipment operation experience preferred.
- Mechanical aptitude and ability to perform heavy physical labor in varying weather conditions.
- Hepatitis A/B vaccinations required; paid by the Village.

Compensation & Benefits:
Competitive pay based on experience and qualifications. Health, dental and vision insurance, OPERS retirement, paid time off and holidays, and training opportunities.

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

THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E

SIGN ON BONUS AVAILABLE!!

Registered Nurse (MedSurg)

Openings: Full & Part Time Opening (every third weekend)
Day and night shift openings

Laboratory – MT/MLT

Must be registered as a Medical Technologist, Medical Laboratory Technician, ASCP or HHS approved or equivalent.
Opening: Full Time (7P – 7A), weekend and holiday rotation

Apply online today or in person today!

Apply on line at: www.pauldingcountyhospital.com or email resumes to kwannemacher@pauldingcountyhospital.com

Paulding County Hospital is an Equal Opportunity Employer

PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL

HELP WANTED

Water Department Superintendent

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

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

Key Responsibilities:
- Oversee water treatment, distribution, wells, storage facilities, and equipment maintenance.
- Ensure Ohio EPA compliance, water quality testing, and required reporting.
- Supervise personnel, coordinate schedules, and maintain department records and inventory.
- Respond to customer concerns, coordinate repairs, and handle after-hours emergencies.

Qualifications & Requirements:
- Ohio EPA Class I Water Operator Certification or higher; Class II or III preferred.
- Valid Ohio driver's license; CDL or willingness to obtain one preferred.
- 3–5 years of water system experience, including 1–2 years in a supervisory role.
- High school diploma or equivalent; related college education preferred.
- Strong mechanical, technical, communication, and recordkeeping skills.

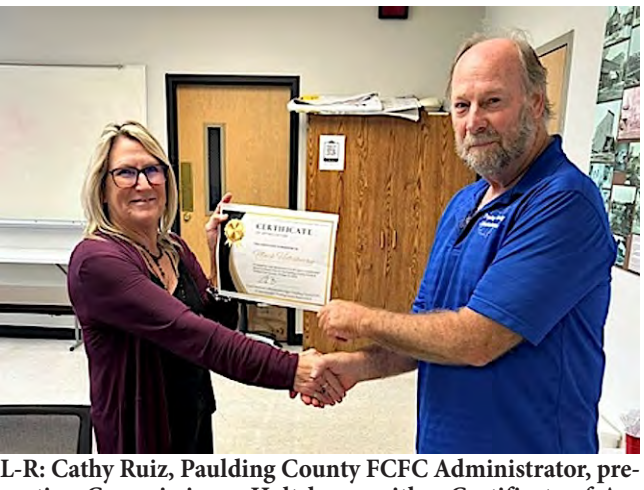
Compensation & Benefits:
- Competitive salary based on qualifications. Health, dental and vision insurance, OPERS retirement, paid time off and holidays, and certification/training support.

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

THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E

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

PAULDING COUNTY FCFC HONORS COMMISSIONER MARK HOLTSBERRY FOR 10 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP



L-R: Cathy Ruiz, Paulding County FCFC Administrator, presenting Commissioner Holtsberry with a Certificate of Appreciation for ten years of dedicated service as Board Chair

The Paulding County Family and Children First Council (FCFC) recognized County Commissioner Mark Holtsberry at their October meeting for ten years of dedicated service, leadership, and thoughtful guidance as the FCFC Chair. Council expressed their heartfelt thanks to Commissioner Holtsberry on this significant milestone.

FIREWORKS OF FALL COLOR DOMINATE THE BUCKEYE STATE AS THE SEASON APPROACHES ITS FINALE



Fall Color Update No. 5

COLUMBUS, Ohio – It's a fall color extravaganza in Ohio as foliage flaunts some of the best colors the state has seen in a while. Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is reporting "peak" color throughout the state with some "fading" colors in Northern Ohio.

"Ohio is definitely putting on a great show right now with some of amazing fall colors all across the state," said ODNR Fall Color Forester David Parrott. "As we near the end of the season, it is a great time to get outdoors!"

To watch the latest fall color update video, head to ODNR's YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/@TheOhioDNR) .

ODNR is reporting "peak" color throughout the state with some "fading" colors in Northern Ohio.

Lake Hope State Park offers a truly relaxing and rustic getaway. The entire park lies within the Zaleski State Forest. The park's forested region is marked by steep gorges and narrow ridges with remnants of abandoned mining and iron-producing industries. The park surrounds the lake and boasts a wooded family campground, cabins, as well as a Dining Lodge.

And don't forget, outdoor burning is prohibited in unincorporated areas from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. through November. ODNR encourages anyone burning to take protective actions and be safe. Burning is restricted in the fall due to the abundance of dry grass, weeds, and leaves on the ground.

Lake Hope State Park's forested region is marked by steep gorges and narrow ridges with remnants of abandoned mining and iron-producing industries.

With the fall color season coming to an end, don't forget the holidays are right around the corner. Give the gift of the outdoors with items from ODNR including our Parks Passport, gift cards from Ohio State Parks or Wildlife, and our limited edition ornament all available at ohiodnr.gov (https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/gifts-and-mechandise/browse-gifts-and-merchandise) .

Those interested in finding the most eye-catching leaves throughout the season should check out ODNR's Fall Color website (https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/see-the-sights/fall-color/) , the official guide to the changing colors. The website includes:

Weekly color updates and information to help plan a fall color adventure;

Overnight accommodations at Ohio State Parks;

Fun and informational fall color videos; and

Family-friendly events happening around the state.

"Ohio is definitely putting on a great show right now with some of amazing fall colors all across the state. It is a great time to get outdoors!" - ODNR Fall Color Forester David Parrott

CHRISTMAS & COATS FOR KIDS SIGN UP SCHEDULED

Christmas and Coats for Kids sign up will be November 7, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Antwerp VFW Post 5087, 105 Railroad Street Antwerp, OH. If you would like to register your children for this program, you will need proof of Paulding County residency as well as your child's social security card, birth certificate, and if necessary, custody paperwork.

If you have any questions about this program, you can contact Jennifer or Michelle at 260-222-8544.

VETERANS MEMORIAL ANNOUNCES SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

In The veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum 2122 O'Day Road in Fort Wayne, has announced plans to host a new monthly Suicide

Bereavement Group to be held the first Thursday of every month at the Shrine from 5 pm to 6:30 pm.

When a veteran dies by suicide the loss reaches far beyond one life. Fellow veterans, spouses, children and family members are left to navigate grief that can be difficult to bear alone. That's why the Veterans Memorial is introducing a Suicide Bereavement Group specifically for veterans and family members grieving the loss of a friend or loved one to suicide.

According to Greg Banicki who is heading up the group sessions " the U,S, Department of Veterans Affairs 6,488 veterans died by suicide in 2024. An

average of 17.7 lives are lost each day, the continuing loss underscores the need for prevention, treatment and community support." He continued to say,

"we welcome veterans and family members who have lost a veteran friend or veteran family member to suicide. This group provides an opportunity to connect with others who share the unique grief associated with losing someone who served."

The Veterans Memorial offers three mental wellness support groups:

• Veteran Support Group - Mondays 5pm to 6:30 pm

• Spouse/Family Support Group -First Saturday of each month 11 am to 12:30 pm

• Veteran Suicide Bereavement Group- First Thursday of each month 5 pm to 6:30 pm

• Additional Northeast Indiana resources for veteran suicide prevention include FW22 inc., the Fort Wayne Vet Center and the Fort Wayne VA

Medical Center. To reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network which is available 24/7 call or text 988 and you'll be connected to trained counselors.

For more information you can contact the Shrine office 260-267-5022 at the Veterans Memorial or just come to our session on the given time and day.

MERRIN AND MORENO VISIT PAULDING COUNTY AHEAD OF NOVEMBER ELECTION



The Paulding County Republican Party welcomed congressional candidate Derek Merrin and U.S. Senator Bernie Moreno to Auglaize Golf Course on Tuesday, October 27, 2026. Merrin, who is challenging incumbent U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur in the November election, joined Moreno to speak with local Republicans.
Pictured (left to right) are Derek Merrin, Laurie Lucas and Senator Bernie Moreno.



