The West Bend News
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VICTOR BENNETT RELEASES POETRY COLLECTION CELEBRATING FAITH, FAMILY & HOPE



A lifetime of faith, family, hard work, and personal experiences has inspired northwest Ohio author Victor Bennett to share his thoughts through poetry. His new book, Redistribution of Happiness: Poems of Faith, Family, and Hope, is now available through West Bend Printing & Publishing.

For Bennett, poetry became a meaningful way to express his feelings following the loss of his first wife, Janet, in 2016. What began as a personal outlet grew into a collection of heartfelt reflections celebrating loved ones, remembering those who have passed, and offering encouragement to others facing life's challenges.

The collection takes readers through six themes: Rediscovering Joy, Walking by Faith, The Gift of Family, Friends Along the Way, Love Remembered, and A Life Well Lived. Through these sections, Bennett shares his Christian faith, appreciation for family and friendships, and reflections on the blessings found in everyday life.

Whether honoring a loved one, reflecting on God's creation, or sharing wisdom gained through the years, Bennett's poems invite readers to slow down and appreciate life's simple blessings. His collection offers encouragement to those experiencing loss while reminding readers that happiness often grows when it is shared with others.

Redistribution of Happiness is available for $11.95 at West Bend Printing & Publishing's Antwerp and Defiance locations and through the company's online bookstore.

Bennett has spent his lifetime rooted in the values of faith, family, and hard work. A lifelong farmer and woodworker, he is owner of Seldom Rest Farm and co-owner of Hooterville Sawmill. His years of working the land, operating a sawmill, and raising a family

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VAN WERT CIVIC THEATRE PUTS A HILARIOUS TWIST ON HOLIDAY CLASSICS

Forget the traditional holiday plays! Van Wert Civic Theatre is bringing a fresh twist to the holiday season with its upcoming production of Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!), directed by Joelle May.

What happens when three actors decide they've had enough of performing A Christmas Carol? They take on just about every other holiday story instead! This fast-paced, 90-minute comedy takes audiences on a hilarious journey through the season's most beloved traditions, from The Grinch and Frosty the Snowman to Rudolph and other pop culture favorites. With outrageous costumes, hilarious antics, and plenty of unexpected surprises, it's a festive theatrical adventure guaranteed to keep audiences laughing.

The cast features Adam Shanaman as Adam, Travis Nihiser as Travis, and John Havill as John, with Stephanie Wagner appearing as the Yuletide Presenter.

Performances are scheduled for December 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, and 19 at 7:30 p.m., with Sunday matinees on December 13 and 20 at 2 p.m. All performances will take place at Van Wert Civic Theatre, located at 118 S. Race St. in Van Wert.

The holiday box office officially opens on Black Friday, November 27, 2026. Tickets can be purchased online at vwct.org or by calling 419-238-9689 and leaving a message.

Whether you're looking to start a new holiday tradition or simply enjoy a night of laughter, Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!) promises plenty of holiday fun for the whole family!

SEE 'A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS' AT MUSEUM'S FESTIVAL OF TREES



More than 80 decorated trees are on exhibit at Paulding County History Museum's Festival of Trees, Nov. 13-21. Last year's event (pictured above) was one of the most successful ever. Visitors also can view model train layouts, more than 100 Nativity scenes, Christmas collections and more.

PAULDING – It's time for The Festival of Trees, Paulding County History Museum's largest event and fundraiser of the year. The dates are Friday, November 13 through Saturday, November 21. Explore nearly 30,000 square feet of holiday trees, displays and decorations in three buildings with the theme, "A Few of My Favorite Things."

Admission and parking are free. Donations are greatly appreciated.

The museum is located at 600 Fairground Drive in Paulding, across from the fairgrounds. The buildings are handicap accessible.

The Festival Committee, led by chairman Julie Anna Densmore, has been busy preparing for this nine-day gala event. Lights and garland have been hung and museum buildings decorated by dedicated volunteers. The committee is grateful for the generous community support, contributions and donations that make the Festival possible.

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Support Local Organizations & Businesses making this edition of the West Bend News

Community Calendar

TUE & WED

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

November 10

- Rock decoupage class @ Antwerp Library, 2p
- Paulding Veterans Memorial Wreaths wreath orders DUE

November 11

- 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

November 13

- Wine & Beer Tasting Fundraiser @ Huber, Hicksville, 7-10p
- Fall Craft Bazaar @ Sherwood Methodist Church, 12-6p
- Festival of Trees @ PC History Museum, 4-8p, *schedule on pg 12*

November 14

- Author Mandy Lane @ Payne Branch Library, 11a
- Scouting For Food in Antwerp (Boy Scouts)
- Fall Craft Bazaar @ Sherwood Methodist Church, 9a-3p

November 16

- Holiday Essential Oils Class @ Payne Branch Library, 6p

November 18

- FREE Cozy Care Pkg. Pickup For Elderly @ Antwerp Manor, 1-2p

Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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OBITUARIES



ANTWERP, OH:

V. Joyce Cheek, 95, of Antwerp, passed away Thursday, October 29, 2026 at her home.

Joyce was born in Fort Wayne on March 8, 1931, the daughter of the late Leona & Earl Shuherk.

On September 28, 1968, Joyce married the love of her life, James (Jim) Cheek, and together they shared many wonderful and happy years. Joyce and Jim were actively involved in the American Legion and helped get it started at the Roller Rink in town. Joyce loved having her family gathered together at the cottage on Snow Lake. She also cherished her trips to Canada to visit her family and traveling out west to spend time with Jim's family. Joyce was a kind, pleasant, and caring person who always had a warm smile and treated everyone she met with kindness. She will be remembered for her love of family, her warm heart, and the many special memories she created with those around her.

Joyce will be sadly missed by her children, Rose (Rudy) Ouellette-French & Steve (Janice) Ouellette; grandchildren, Joseph & James; & great granddaughter, Aleea Rose French.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jim on April 25, 2017.

Service is Thursday, November 5th at 10:30 AM with viewing one hour prior at Dooley Funeral Home, Antwerp.

She will be laid to rest in Maumee Cemetery, Antwerp.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Visiting Angels, 121 S. Walnut Street, Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

Fond memories may be shared at dooleyfuneralhome.com



PAULDING, OH:

Donna M. (Goyings) Pieper, age 91, of Paulding, OH, passed away surrounded by her family at the Paulding County Hospital on Saturday, October 31, 2026.

She was born on June 15, 1935, in Paulding County, OH to her late parents, William S. and Mary C. (Unger) Goyings. She married Oscar F. Pieper in 1953, and they shared 51 years of marriage before his passing in 2004.

Donna is survived by her three sons: Fred (Susan) Pieper, Paulding, OH; Tim (Rae Ann) Pieper, Shawnee, OH; and Jeff (Anne) Pieper, Paulding, OH; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Donna is also preceded in death by her brothers: William "Buck", Homer, and Ray Goyings.

A polio survivor, Donna lived a life marked by strength, resilience, and a deep commitment to her family, and had a special way of making those around her feel loved and cared for.

A world traveler, Donna had the opportunity to see many remarkable sites, including the Holy Land, Buckingham Palace, the Eiffel Tower, and the Colosseum, among many others. She especially enjoyed summers spent at Hamilton Lake, IN, with family and friends, where laughter was plentiful and lasting memories were made.

Donna also had a deep love for St. Bernards. Raising 10 throughout her lifetime along with many litters of puppies.

She was deputy clerk for the Paulding County Auditor's Office for 22 1/2 years, retiring in 1995. She was a devoted member of the Paulding United Methodist Church where she taught Sunday school for 12 years. She was also a former member of the Know Your Neighbor Club and enjoyed volunteering at the Bargain Bin and the Paulding County Hospital Auxiliary.

Funeral service will be at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 5, 2026, at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, OH, with Rev. George Reed officiating. Burial will be in Live Oak Cemetery, Paulding, OH. Visitation will be from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at the funeral home on Thursday.

Memorial contributions may be made in Donna's memory to the Bargain Bin of Paulding Co., Inc.

Online condolences may be shared at www.denherderfh.

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GLORYWAY GOSPEL GROUP TO PERFORM AT EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH



Emmanuel Baptist Church in Paulding will host an evening of Gospel music featuring GloryWay, a Christian music group based in Mansfield, Ohio, on Friday, November 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

The group will present its "A Message That Matters" tour at the church, located at 1275 Emerald Road in Paulding. The concert will offer an evening of uplifting Gospel music, worship and fellowship for the entire community.

Admission to the concert is free, although a love offering will be collected to show appreciation for the group's ministry and musical talents.

Emmanuel Baptist Church invites everyone to attend and enjoy an evening of music, fellowship and praise. All are welcome.



A NIGHT OF FUN, FOOD, TRIVA, AND FUNDRAISING

CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY HOLDS FIRST HARVEST HOOPLA FUNDRAISER NOV. 19

This one-of-a-kind event mixes gourmet hot dogs, fancy baked beans, desserts, mocktails, a competitive group trivia game, and pull tabs to raise money for the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry. The event is Nov. 19 at 6:30 pm. The doors open at 6:00!

Event tickets are available by emailing ashleyg@caresharepantry.org or by scanning the QR code. Each ticket gets you a delicious meal of gourmet hotdogs, fancy baked beans, autumn mocktails and special fall desserts!

The Paulding Eagles is hosting and sponsoring the event.

There will be other fun ways to donate to Caring & Sharing at the event. Each table can compete in a "Food for Thought" Trivia game, and individuals can buy pull-tabs.

The delicious menu will feature the following gourmet hot dogs:

FALL HARVEST DOG—smothered in caramelized onions, shredded sharp cheddar, and smoked-applewood bacon

BLACK TIE DOG—topped with garlic aioli, shaved parmesan, crispy shallots, truffle oil drizzle, cracked black pepper, and caramelized onions

FIRECRACKER DOG—covered with shredded pepper jack, candied jalapeños, crispy bacon, and hot honey drizzle

MAPLE BACON BOURBON BEANS—thick, tangy-n-sweet navy and northern beans with applewood-smoked bacon

BRISKET BAKED BEANS—chopped smoked brisket and onions in beans flavored with smoke and a touch of sweetness

To play "Food for Thought" Trivia, each table assembles a team of no more than 8 people and collects a group trivia kitty, which can be funded by pull tab winnings and other donations.

The team kitty can be used to fund the table's pay-to-play entry fee…earning them points before the game even starts! The highest entry fee will earn the team 25 start-up points…all other teams will be eligible to earn 15, 10 or 5 start-up points. The kitty also provides the team extra cash to buy bonus points and special advantages during the game.

ALL PROCEEDS at this event will go to the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry to support the agency's operating budget, help feed families and children in Paulding County, allow the agency to expand program offerings and services…all to work against food insecurity among our neighbors.

Caring & Sharing had sponsors in 2026 that helped make this event and other activities possible. Thanks to the following CS Partners: John Paulding VFW Post 587 and Paulding Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 2405. CS Sponsors: A Plus Propane, Barker Farms/My102.7/MySports.Live/Drone Inc., Paulding County Hospital, and Reuben J. Smith American Legion Post 287 in Payne. CS Supporters: BRSW CPA, Paulding Ace Hardware, and Union Bank Co.

For more information about the pantry, follow the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry on Facebook. If you have questions about the event, please call the pantry, at (419) 399-9562 or send an email to info@caresharepantry.org.

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have provided inspiration for much of his writing. Today, Bennett lives in northwest Ohio with his wife, Cathie, continuing to find joy in family, faith, and sharing encouragement through poetry.

West Bend Printing & Publishing, publisher of the West Bend News, continues to expand its book publishing services, helping local and regional authors transform their manuscripts into professionally designed, printed, and published books.

TROOPER BRIAN MULL IS SWANTON POST TROOPER OF THE YEAR

Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Brian S. Mull has been selected as the 2026 Trooper of the Year at the Swanton Post.

The selection of Trooper Mull is in recognition of outstanding service during 2026 at the Swanton Post. Fellow officers stationed at the Swanton Post chose Trooper Mull based on leadership abilities, professional ethics, courteous treatment of others, enthusiastic work attitude, and cooperation with supervisors, peers, and the public.

Trooper Mull is now in contention for the District and State Trooper of the Year Award to be announced at a later date.

Trooper Mull joined the Highway Patrol in 2012 and has served at the Wapakoneta, Toledo, and Swanton Posts. A graduate of Delta High School, Trooper Mull served in the United States Marine Corps. and graduated from ITT Institute. Trooper Mull previously earned the ACE award for excellence in auto larceny investigations.

Scripture of the Week

"He made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ."

— Ephesians 1:9-10

COLOSSIANS 3: 1-15



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 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 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 Greek 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.

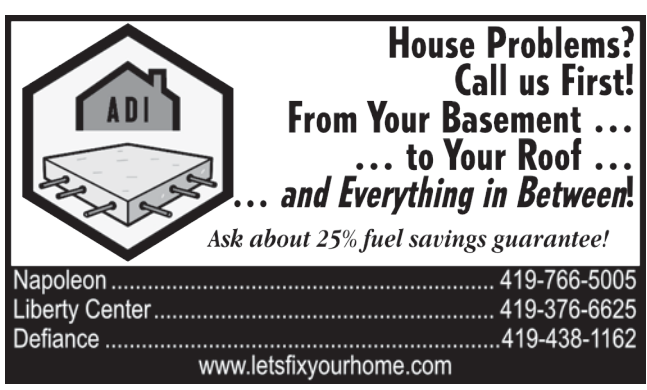
Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

And over all the 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.

Peace & Love,

—Pastor Dwayne







ME AND THE DOCTOR

Penny For Your Thoughts
By: Nancy Whitaker

One thing I have always hated was going to the doctor. I was scared to death of a doctor when I was younger. If we got sick we greased up with musterole and ate milk toast.

Clear back in the 50s doctors used to make house calls. My grandma seemed like she was always sick and about each week a doctor came.

That was fine cause he didn't come to see me.

Then one day I ran into the door casing and hit my head. I thought I was dying because it bled quite a bit. I slept on the couch that night (I don't know why) and the next day the doctor came to our house to see me and my head wound. He looked at it carefully and put a small bandage on it. I was so scared with that bandage on that all I could do was to look in the mirror. To me that bandage looked big and I just knew there was blood on it.

The next week I had to go to the doctor's office very for him to look at my cut and remove the small bandage. Ha! I knew what he was gonna do and some way I opened that office door and took off running.

I remember running down a couple long hall ways with the doctor and my Mom right behind me. Well somehow I wound up back at the doctors office and was small enough to get under his desk.

My mama coaxed, "Nancy Sue come out from under that desk" I peeked out and said, "No! He is gonna take that bandage off and I will bleed to death." Then the doctor came over and said, "Hey little girl if you come out I will give you a lollipop."

After thinking about it I told the doctor "I want the lollipop first" Well Dr told me I had to come from under the desk and could have the lollipop after he took off my bandage. Well with a swift jerk he pulled off the tape and then removed the scary bandage. He handed me a little mirror to look in and I saw that the cut on my head wasn't big at all. But I still got the sucker.

Another person I hated to see was a dentist. When I was about 5, my 2 front teeth wouldn't come out, so before they even loosened up I was drug to the dentist.

I was scared but since I had never been to a dentist I wasn't that scared. Well as soon as they put me in the dentist chair and told me, "Open up your mouth," I knew what they were going to do.

Immediately I started



screaming and kicking. I closed my lips tight and there was no way anyone was going to pull my two front teeth. So, basically I was held down by my mom and the dentist snuck in there and yanked out those two teeth. It hurt so bad because those teeth were not ready to be pulled. Now I wish I would have bit the dentist.

It probably isn't very funny or interesting to hear of my medical and dental fears, but it is a fear I that I still have. They even have a name for the fear of doctors. It is called latrophobia.

I have always been scared of nausea. I remember kids getting sick on the school bus or even in the class room and I just could not stand to see how ill that kid was. I thought whenever you had nausea you were going to die.

A fear of doctors but not of what they can do to help you, has always been a fear of mine. One time when walking to work at the Paulding paper, I had on a pair of high heels. The heel of my shoe got caught in a crack in the sidewalk, and down I went.

Well of all things I had broken my wrist. I was taken to the ER where they wanted to put me asleep and set it. I told them, "Oh no, you are going to do that today? I have a gig to play in two days and tomorrow I am going gambling"

So the Dr put a temporary cast on it and gave me some pain pills. I went on the bus trip to gamble and I played my gig with Harmonica John 2 days later. Haha I did not win any money, but played my gig with one hand.

Fear can be crippling and scary. After 4 kids I think I got used to doctors. Thank God for the wonderful doctors in our country, the super strides made in the medical fields and the knowledge doctors have to help us.

Are you scared of a doctor or dentist? Have you ever had surgery or broken a bone? Let me know and I will give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.



PCH Gift Shop Sale
Annual Nut Sale
NOVEMBER 19th!!
8am - 4pm in the Lobby
• Large selection of nuts, candies and snack mixes
(new company recommended by Terri Lynn)
• Riley Stork w/ Handmade cards & Christmas Items
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available in the Gift Shop!
We accept cash, check, credit/debit card*
*3.99% convenience fee
Gift Shop open M-F
9am-4pm
PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL

(Continued from Page 1)

More than 80 spectacular holiday trees have been decorated by organizations, groups and clubs, businesses and individuals from around the county. Look for the decorating award winners. The Festival is welcoming many first-time participants this year.

The committee has planned the daily schedule to include meals, musical entertainment and even a few surprises for Festival-goers.

The Festival opens Friday, November 13 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Museum volunteers will serve a spaghetti dinner with salad and garlic bread from 5-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 14, is Kids' Day. The museum will be open 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

From 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Santa will visit with children and hear their Christmas wish lists and Chris Bercaw will be creating balloon animals for the kids.

Enjoy lunch from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. with a menu featuring hot dogs, burgers and baked beans, served by the museum volunteers.

The Festival will be open the rest of the day with light refreshments served.

Sunday, November 15, the museum will be open from Noon–4:00 p.m., with a baked potato bar lunch served from Noon–2:00 p.m. Second Street Strings, a dulcimer group from Defiance, is returning this year by popular demand. They will perform at 2:00 p.m.

Monday, November 16, hours will be 4:00-8:00 p.m. A Turkey Tetrazzini Supper will be served from 5:00-6:30 p.m., prepared and served by the First Presbyterian Church Women. The Paulding High School Band will entertain guests at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 17, the Festival will be open all day from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Enjoy a Southern Supper from 5:00-6:30 p.m. featuring fried chicken, baked honey ham, candied yams and dessert. The Friends of the Paulding County Parks is providing the meal.

Afterward, a special program will be presented: "Meet the Authors Night," hosted by the Paulding Writers' Group. More than 20 Paulding County authors are scheduled to attend. Hear about their work, meet the authors and have books signed. The books will be available for sale.

The hours on Wednesday, November 18, are 4:00-8:00 p.m. The Paulding County Senior Center will be serving a Taco Bar from 5:00-6:30 p.m. The crowd-favorite St. Paul Lutheran Bell Choir will entertain at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 19, hours are 4:00-8:00 p.m. with a Soup and Chili Supper, prepared and served by the museum volunteers from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Sample a variety of their favorite recipes, including vegetable, taco soup and potato soup. Live music will include the Wayne Trace High School Band and Choir from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and the Gospel Strings group from 6:30-7:30 p.m.



Santa Claus will visit the Paulding County History Museum's annual Festival of Trees on Saturday, Nov. 14. Last year, this tiny tot had her first visit with Santa.

Friday, November 20, hours are 4:00-8:00 p.m. The highlight will be Jane's Heavenly Dessert Bar with tempting desserts of all kinds served from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 21 is the last day of the 2026 Festival of Trees. Doors will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The day coincides with the "Shop the Square" event organized by Paulding Chamber of Commerce.

Lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., served by the museum volunteers.

The Festival's final event is the conclusion of the Silent Auction. Bidding closes at 2:00 p.m.

In addition to the main museum building, don't miss the adjacent Barn 1 and Barn 2, which are filled with lights, animated figures, Nativity scenes, decorated trees, inflatable characters and a dozen model train layouts.

Several events will be held every day throughout the festival.

Another feature continues to be the Memory Tree. Remember loved ones by adding their names to the grand revolving tree, located near the dining room.

Place a bid on one of the exciting items in the silent auction. Local businesses, individuals and groups have generously donated dozens of quality prizes that will go to the highest bidders. This year, some of the offerings include a lighted stained glass church window, toys, holiday decor, gift baskets, many handcrafted items, memorabilia and more.

Visitors have the chance to vote for their favorite tree. Look for the jar under each tree and "vote" with coins, dollars or even checks. The tree that collects the most money wins a prize.

Children can take part in the fun Mouse Hunt. Browse the museum's Country Store for some unique gift ideas, including some branded museum merchandise.

For more information, printable schedule and updates, visit the museum's Facebook page at facebook.com/jphsmuseum.

The deadline for the West Bend News is THURSDAYS at 5pm for the following issue.
Send your news, ads, and classifieds to info@westbendnews.net
Call 419-258-2000 for information or printing quotes.

MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY





Ray Keck

By: Mark Holtsberry

Letter from Private Ray Keck Camp Carson, Colorado August 16, 1943

"Dear Mother, received your letter this morning. Was glad to hear that you are well and happy and the rest of the family. I am fine and getting along pretty well.

"It was nice and cool here today it is cloudy and the clouds are real low, they hide the mountains.

"I was on duty last night and was called out to a plane crash. The pilot got out safely and came down in his parachute. The plane was a mess of wreckage. About the only entertainment I get is picture shows.

"I usually go two or three times a week. I enjoy them very much. I am sending a couple small pictures in this letter they are not much but maybe you can tell that it's me.

"One of these days maybe I'll get to come and see you, however I have to wait my turn. The rest of the fellows have been gone from home as long or longer than I have. And they want to go home just as badly as I do.

"I'll bet you have your hands full with the work, since dad is working in the factory. [grandpa worked at Grizzley during the war.] Do the girls, [my aunt Joy and my mom] help you as they should. [my mom would have been 9 years old]. I'll bet you are proud of Roy, [Ray's brother] he is a Corporal now.

"That is swell isn't it?

"Well mother I will have to close for now. Hope this letter finds you well, write soon. Your loving son, Ray"

… Until Next Time!

2026 WOODBURN LIONS CLUB HALLOWEEN CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to all of the participants in the annual Woodburn Lions Club Halloween costume contest.

Ages 3 & under:
1st Kevin Stevens – Winnie the Pooh; 2nd Rayna King – Sally; 3rd Max Smith - Dragon

4 & 5 Yr. Olds:
1st Melanie Alonso – Sally; 2nd Calliope Collier - Rumi

Grades K & 1:
1st Jamie Alanso - Princess; 2nd Carson Mueller - Woody

Grades 2 & 3:
1st Olivia McFarland - Scarecrow; 2nd Oliver Conrad – Green Soldier; 3rd Luca Newberry – Air Bender

Grades 4 & 5:
1st Laurel Coryea-Harris – Hermine Granger; 2nd Reagan Bridge – Princess Peach; 3rd Finn Carter - Axolotl

Grades 6-8:
1st Harrison Conrad - Fisherman; 2nd Zander King – Plague Doctor; 3rd Lu Carter – Leo from Percy Jackson

HS & Adult:
Juliana Abbott – White Rabbit

Best Halloween Character:
Hannah Miller – Calypso

Best Group – Jonah Abbott & Mason Wippel – Woody & Buzz

Most Original:
Kaylyn Cameron – Cheshire Cat

Much appreciation to all who participated. The Lions Club has been hosting this event for over 50 years. A special thanks to Mrs. Hammon and the Woodlan FFA for their tremendous assistance with this year's event.

We would also like to recognize the community for supporting our Donut sales throughout the year. Proceeds support local, area and state projects. See you next year!

The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

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

There are two basic services the agency provides:

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

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

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

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

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

CAN YOU HELP ME?



Last night when the time changed I woke up at 1:45. Since I had to get up I thought I'm going to figure out once and for all how this time change works. I waited for 1:59 and I expected the next number would go back to 1:00. Apparently there is an hour that goes double.

As I watched the next number was 2:00 and then it kept going, 2:01, 2:02, 2:03.. .and now I was really stumped. So I still don't know how the time change works. If I would commit a crime at 1:59, how would they know if it's the first go-around or the second. What if I commit two crimes each at 1: 59?

The crazy part was that I had a wrist watch on and it would have shed a bit of light on what was happening. Through the time change I lost an hour of my life. There was a period of time when Indiana didn't change time. I was visiting my son in Illinois in the spring and we set our clocks ahead. When we got back to Indiana we had to set them back and I lost an hour of my life.

I told you that when I was a lad I used to bale hay with a New Holland model 76 baler. I never could figure out how it could tie a knot in binder twine. I would have someone feed hay into it and I would watch it put a knot in each string at the same time. I still didn't understand how it could tie a knot. Thinking about that I don't understand how a sewing machine can make a stitch. If I put a needle through cloth it would come out the same spot and not catch anything on the other side.

My problems were escalated when my friend bought a beautiful antique car which looked to me to be candy apple red. He told me the color was burgundy. Well I have no idea what color burgundy is.

Mrs. Google shows me nine shades of burgundy. A gal even had a gown which was two tone burgundy. Now I'm really confused. Mrs. Google says it's near the color wine. Wine is a medium dark, medium bright, shade of pinkish red. My mind thinks along mathematical lines, and sometimes they can be theoretical. Colors must be infinite, after all there are fifty shades of gray.

In mathematics we talk about counting numbers being infinite, and lines are also infinite. Colors must be infinite because you could always add a drop of white and get a different shade. Could it be there are an infinite number of things that are infinite.

I'm really confused here If you think this is confusing next time we meet we will try to discuss latitude and longitude.

The car pictures is a '64 1/2 Mustang that was purchased at Schwartz Auto in Grabill and is still in the area.

—James Neuhouser

MINDFULNESS SESSION TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Taking time to pause, reset, and focus on personal well-being can make a meaningful difference in everyday life, especially during the busy holiday season. The Bryan Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Parkview Bryan Hospital and Bryan Development, is offering a Holiday De-Stress session to help community members explore practical ways to manage stress and improve overall wellness through mindfulness practices.

Heidi Stark of H. J. Stark Wellness will lead the one-hour, experiential offering, where participants will learn what mindfulness is and is not and practice mindful meditation together. Research shows that mindfulness practices increase awareness, promote relaxation, and support healthier responses to everyday challenges. Heidi brings extensive experience in wellness education, yoga, and mindfulness instruction, offering participants practical tools they can begin incorporating into their daily routines. All are welcome. No equipment or special tools are needed.

The course will take place on Monday, December 14, 2026, at Parkview Bryan Hospital, with two options available to accommodate different schedules (participants pick one):

- Morning Session: 9 to 10 a.m.

OR

- Evening Session: 6 to 7 p.m.

The registration fee is $25 and is nonrefundable. However, participants who register and attend the class in accordance with the attendance policy will receive a $25 Bryan Chamber Gift Certificate at the conclusion of the course. This provides an opportunity to invest in personal wellness while also supporting local businesses through the Chamber's gift certificate program.

"Making time for wellness is an investment in ourselves and our community," said Erica Noggle, executive director, Bryan Area Chamber of Commerce. "We are pleased to partner with Parkview Bryan Hospital and Bryan Development to provide opportunities that encourage healthier, more mindful living while connecting participants with resources right here in our community."

Space and registration details are available online at www.bryanchamber.org/mindfulness-course.

For questions or additional information, contact Heidi Stark at hjstarkwc@gmail.com

PERI DIST 1 CHAPTER 30 MEETING DATE SET

Defiance County PERI District 1 Chapter 30 is meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 1:00 p.m. at Delaware Township Firehall located on ST RT 18, near Sherwood. All former retirees are urged to come. All are welcome and all members are encouraged to attend.

RIDIS SUNOCO RAISING FUNDS FOR THE VETERANS NATIONAL MEMORIAL SHRINE & MUSEUM

Ridis Sunoco Store #22 at 10317 Bluffton Road, Fort Wayne has announced a fund raising drive for the local Veterans Memorial 2122 O'Day Road. Donations can be made at the store with any fuel or convenience item purchase. According to store manager Kurt Czykoski "We're excited about this opportunity to partner with local Veterans and the memorial. The promotion will run all of November and end on December 31st.

We hope to raise quite a bit of money for the Veterans Memorial here in town and pay tribute to all the brave men and women who served this great country."

The Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum is also very excited about this fund raising opportunity. Greg Bedford Commander says "it's people like Kurt who help make the Shrine Shine! We really appreciate his energy and involvement in this project.

Thanks to Ridis Stores, Kurt and his team on Bluffton Road we know it will be successful."

The Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum are open Friday-Saturday-Sunday and Monday 11 am to 4 pm. Grounds are open 24/7. For group tours call 260-267-5022 or Visit honorforever.org

LIMA POST ANNOUNCES TROOPER OF THE YEAR

Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Kenton Gibson has been selected as the 2026 Trooper of the Year at the Lima Post.

The selection of Trooper Gibson, age 36, is in recognition of outstanding service during 2026 at the Lima Post. Fellow officers stationed at the Lima Post chose Trooper Gibson based on leadership abilities, professional ethics, courteous treatment of others, enthusiastic work attitude, and cooperation with supervisors, peers, and the public.

Trooper Gibson joined the Highway Patrol in 2016 and has served at the Lima Post since then. Originally from Lima, Ohio, he is a graduate of Temple Christian School. State Highway Patrol awards he received in the past include: Criminal Patrol Award, Ace Award, Traffic Safety Award, successfully trained another Trooper Ribbon, Safe Driving Ribbon, Auto Larceny Award of Excellence, and Physical Fitness Ribbon with Star.

Trooper Gibson and his wife, Shelby, reside in Lima area with their three children.

OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY SUPER KIDS EXPLORE THE WORLD OF NOCTURNAL ANIMALS



The KB Super Kids of Oakwood Elementary love to have guest teachers visit. We look forward to our monthly visit with Anna Gurney from Paulding County Soul and Water. She has an incredible list of lessons ready and always brings something interesting to share.

This time we learned about nocturnal animals. After our story and discussion students were able to be bats and mosquitoes to see how bats use their ears to find their food.

UNFORGETTABLE, POWERFUL, AND RAW



CCBanks Productions proudly presents the timeless American classic, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, live on stage at Studio 211 in Antwerp, Ohio!

SHOWTIMES

Friday, November 20, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 21, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 22, 2:00 p.m.

ABOUT THE SHOW

When the rebellious, free-spirited Randle P. McMurphy chooses a mental institution over a prison work farm, he thinks he's found an easy way out. Instead, he sparks a fierce, psychological war against the tyrannical Nurse Ratched. What follows is a deeply moving and electrifying battle between individual freedom and institutional control. Striking a perfect balance between biting humor and devastating tragedy, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest explores the true meaning of sanity, authority, and humanity.

FEATURING INCREDIBLE LOCAL TALENT

This gripping production brings together a phenomenal cast of actors coming right from our regional community! Experience the powerhouse performances of local artists hailing from Antwerp, Paulding, Bryan, and Fort Wayne.

Don't miss your chance to witness local theater at its absolute finest. Seating at Studio 211 is limited, so secure your tickets today and prepare for an unforgettable emotional ride!

Saturday, November 14th, 2026
Open 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
SALT SALE
H20 Water Stores
Your "Everything Water" Store
All
Salt
Pallet
Pricing
208 S. Main St.
Antwerp, OH
(419) 258-2684


PCH Gift Shop
OSU vs. Michigan Raffle Baskets
Drawing on NOVEMBER 13
$1 each or 6/$5 • 8am - 4pm in the Lobby
Place your entry in the jar of the team of your choice. There will be a winner for the OSU basket and a winner for the Michigan basket.
The winner of the team with the most tickets receives the basket and a bonus gift.

Gift Shop open M-F 9am-4pm
PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL

NEW CLUB HAS BONFIRE NIGHT



On October 29 the Friends and Neighbors 4-H club had a bonfire night at the Paulding county fairgrounds.

The Friends and Neighbors 4-H club is a brand new club with 45 members that branched off the Leaders of Tomorrow club.

The bonfire night included supper and 'smores, brought by club members' parents, along with the typical club agenda. When asked about the bonfire tradition kept for several years, Loral Manz, club adviser, said that it was made to enjoy Fall and give members an opportunity for more interactions.

The club enjoyed the various activities organized by Elena Schlatter and Rachel Webb, rounding out a fun evening.

WAYNE TRACE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL 1st NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2026/27

Academic Honor Roll (3.8-4.0)

**signifies 4.0*

SENIORS:

*Isabel Gilbert, *Grady Helms, McKenzie Johnson, *Stefany Lopez-Castillo, *Anna Manz, *Cole Manz, *Blake Noggle, *Noah Schlatter, *Amber Stoller, *Ka Maury Sullivan, *Eli Treece, Monica Williams

JUNIORS:

*Caylie Baker, *Jensen Beining, Brinna Collins, *Kendall Denning, *Lilly Holbrook, *Xylem Kashner, *Jenna Kipfer, *Addyson LaBounty, *Ashlyn Manz, *Cayla Noggle, Madison Pease, *Aries Ricker, *Aukele Schmidt, *Lilly Shepherd, Aubrie Stoller, *Brooke Tigner, *Owen Welch

SOPHOMORES:

*Nathan Benschneider, *Kendall Folson, Addilyn Gerardot, *Easton Jay, *Kinlee Miller, *Ian Scarberry, Brayden Sinn, Jonah Sinn, *Brooke Stoller, *Corbin Stoller, *Olivia Stoller, *Jennifer Treece, *Emma Whitman

FRESHMEN:

*Brenna Beining, *Hudsyn Burkley, Krandon Crites, Wyatt Head, *Jordan Howell, *Katelynn Hurd, *Lauren Kipfer, Jocelyn Mabis, Miranda McCord, Gracelyn Miller, Antonia Negrete Pawoli, Madisyn Morehead, *Megan Parker, *Audrey Reuille, Carter Ross, *Calliope Stanford, *Mailey Stoller, *Avery Welch

Honor Roll (3.0-3.79)

SENIORS:

Katelynn Bauer, Evan Benschneider, Leah Bland, Ella Crosby, Haylee Danner, Christopher Dilling, Boston Font, Sirus Jackson, Logan Lotz, Maizy Ripke, Brody Rosswurm, Johnalynn Shellenbarger, Zachary Stoller, Arianna Viola

JUNIORS:

Isabella Baker, Connor Burriss, Elynn Clemens, Columbia Dempsey, Jaxon Cook, Kayden Henthorne, Emma Hurd, Faith Jacobs, Teagan Kline, Reece Morehead, Brenan Miller, Luke Miller, Kenzie Ogle, Braylen Ross, Peyton Sennebogen, Karsyn Troth

SOPHOMORES:

Aaron Bohland, Kaiden Creighton-Smith, Collin Helms, Blaize Karhoff, Robert Kennedy II, Camden Kimmel, Evelyn Lyons, Sophia Marshall-Mencarelli, Waylon McCord, Elliot Parady, Nathaniel Peters, Grace Ringler, Cobain Rittenhouse, Makenna Schilt, Layla Shellenbarger, Madison Silance, Braylin Sinn, Luke Stoller, Witt Stoller, Abigail Tarlton, Olivia Tarlton, Joelle Thornton, Ehva-Jean Trentman, Abbie Williams, Maxton Williamson, Jacob Wobler

FRESHMEN:

Jocelyn Adkins, Mia Adkins, Hannah Bradbury, Calvin Coffman, Logan Cozart, Piper Densmore, Avah Farris, Wilhelmina Holmes, Zailee Johnson, Aubree Lamb, Connie Landwehr, Natalie Lord, Carter Ludwig, Kenzie Manz, Olivander McCague, Drew McClure, Ryleigh McGarvey, Griffin Miller, Lane Miller, Scarlett Neff, Carter Noffsinger, Braxton Parady, Zoey Schnipke, Stella Sinn, Kolson Stoller, Lienna Stoller

Junior High Honor Roll (3.0-4.0)

** signifies 4.0*

8th GRADE:

Lydia Benschneider, *Shawn Bradford, Londyn Dargenson, Aubrey Fairley, Zoey Kraegel, Beckett Jay, Clare Linder, Jennifer Lopez-Castillo, Grayson LaBounty, Brynlee Maenle, Adley Morehead, Carter O'Dell, Grayson Porter, Emmitt Schabbing, Sawyer Schlatter, Luke Shepherd, Jaxson Shelton, Aylan Stoller, *Shawna Stoller, Devon Tumblin, Nuria Valdez Velazquez, Emma Wilcox

7th GRADE:

Saylor Denning, Allison Donaldson, Sophie Donaldson, Raylynn Gerardot, Juliet Hall, Evan Heier, Mia Kamphaus, Brielle Linder, Adalyn Litzenberg, Hannah Mawer, Pieper Mansfield, Brianna McClure, Boston McGarvey, Jase Miller, Piper Mills, Dakota Miner, Alirah Ricker, River Rittenhouse, Lydia Shepherd, Chandler Sinn, Jayde Sinn, Austin Stoller, *Brynlee Stoller, Callen Stoller, *Lyla Stoller, Wade Stoller, Beckett Taylor, Bryleigh Wieland, Raelynn Warnimont, Brayden Williams

VANTAGE STUDENTS:

**Denotes a 4.0 GPA*

SENIORS:

Carter Baumle, Dakota Densmore, Kahlee Fore, Elizabeth Graham, Miley Jacobs, Caleb McClure, *Reece Olwin, Logan Schnepp, *Grayson Sutton, Corbin Varner

JUNIORS:

Maliyah Barnes, Cheyenne Brimmer, John Cavurro, Brisa Chavez, Kennedy Dempsey, *Alyvia Essex, Kamden Fore, Nicole Gerschutz, *Jada Gross, Brock Knowles, *Isabella Lowe, Kahne Mansfield, Karson Miller, Andres Negrete Pawoli, Avery Noffsinger, Levi Parisot, Hunter Peck, *LaShan Reynolds, *Hannah Ross, Blake Santo, Braxton Schnipke, Savannah Sinn, *Damara Stephey-Baldazo, Alyvia Thomas, Alivia Thrasher, Nora Wenninger

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH HOSTS LWML FALL WORKSHOP, SUPPORTS RECLAIMED LIVING



Antwerp's Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church women were hosts at the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Defiance Zone Fall Workshop.

On Sunday afternoon, November 1, 2026, the women of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Antwerp were hostesses to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Defiance Zone Fall Workshop.

A presentation was given by representatives of Reclaimed Living, a Paulding County organization that assists addicts transitioning to sobriety.

There was an ingathering of personal hygiene products to stock the Reclaimed Living homes.



Reclaimed Living representatives: Doretta Cline, Jane Nice & Dave Nice.

Call or Email your classified ad today!
419-258-2000
info@westbendnews.net

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Bryan R Post
Financial Advisor
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Hicksville, OH 43526
419-542-6260

> edwardjones.com

MKT-5894O-A AECSPAD

The deadline for the West Bend News is THURSDAYS at 5pm for the following issue.
Send your news, ads, and classifieds to info@westbendnews.net
Call 419-258-2000 for information or printing quotes.

READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS

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

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

Cecil: 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House

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

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

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

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

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

Ney: Marathon

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

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

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

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

Scott: Scott Post Office

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

INDIANA LOCATIONS

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

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

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

Hoagland: Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market

Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain

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

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

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

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

ANTWERP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: RAISED AT HOME



The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce is proud to feature Raised At Home, a locally owned business offering a unique combination of vintage treasures, refinished furniture, handcrafted goods, and natural home and body products. Owned and operated by Gabrielle, Raised At Home brings a welcoming shopping experience to the Antwerp community.

What began as a hobby refinishing furniture has grown into a storefront filled with carefully selected merchandise. Gabrielle, a stay-at-home mother, initially discovered furniture refinishing as a creative outlet while raising her young family. Over time, her passion expanded into something much bigger.

The opportunity to open a storefront came unexpectedly. While driving to church one day, Gabrielle and her husband noticed a building for sale. Her husband suggested they take a look, and that simple conversation eventually led to the creation of Raised At Home.

Today, the shop features a variety of vintage items, refinished furniture, and handcrafted products, including sewn goods created by Gabrielle and other local makers. Customers can also find clean-ingredient skincare, body care, and household cleaning products, along with sourdough bread, pantry mixes, and soup mixes.

Gabrielle believes one of the strengths of Raised At Home is its variety. Even customers whose decorating styles differ from the furniture and home décor on display may discover something useful among the shop's everyday essentials.

"I truly believe I have something for everyone," Gabrielle explained, noting that products such as laundry supplies, household cleaners, and personal care items appeal to a wide range of customers. Attention to detail is especially important to Gabrielle when refinishing furniture.

Each piece receives careful consideration, reflecting the craftsmanship and dedication that originally inspired her business.

One service customers may not realize Raised At Home offers is custom furniture refinishing. Gabrielle accepts commissioned projects, allowing customers to bring in their own furniture for a refreshed appearance. The shop also carries an artisan paint line from a U.S.-based company, providing additional options for those interested in furniture restoration and creative projects. Starting a business while raising a young family has not been without challenges.

Gabrielle's husband works full time, often putting in 12-hour days, seven days a week. Balancing family responsibilities with the demands of a growing business has required considerable dedication.

When asked what she is most proud of, Gabrielle pointed to the accomplishment of building something from the ground up. "It takes a lot to start something, especially raising a family," she shared. "I'm definitely proud of us for starting from nothing."

Beyond the merchandise, Gabrielle wants customers to feel comfortable and welcome when they visit. Her goal is to provide a warm, inviting atmosphere where shoppers can browse, discover something new, and enjoy supporting a locally owned business.

Raised At Home is an example of how a simple passion, combined with hard work and family support, can grow into a new opportunity for the community.

The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce encourages residents to stop in, explore the selection, and welcome Raised At Home to Antwerp's business community.

NOCAC OFFERS WINTER CRISIS PROGRAM TO HELP RESIDENTS KEEP THE HEAT ON

Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) want to help ease the burden of costly energy bills this winter and keep Ohio families warm. Beginning Nov. 1, income-eligible Ohioans can receive one-time help with their home heating bill through the Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis Program (WCP). The program runs through March 31, 2027.

WCP assists Ohioans who are facing service disconnection, have already been disconnected, need to establish new service, or must pay to transfer service. It also supports households with 25 percent or less of bulk fuel in their tank so they can maintain service.

To qualify, a household must have a gross annual income at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty level. For a family of four, that is $57,750.

Last year, WCP helped more than 73,000 Ohio households, providing $25.5 million in benefits.

To apply, households must schedule an appointment with their local Northwestern Ohio Community Action Agency. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 419-219-4641. Household can choose an in-person appointment or over the phone appointment. NOCAC serves Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Van Wert and Williams Counties.

Households can also start an application online and find their local energy assistance provider at energy-help.ohio.gov.

Applicants should bring copies of the following to their appointment:

- Their most recent energy bills
- A list of all household members and proof of income for the last 30 days or the last 12 months for each member
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members
- Proof of disability, if applicable

For more information about WCP and what is needed to apply, please visit www.nocac.org.

WOODBURN BUSINESS DECORATED PUMPKIN CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The winners of the 9th Annual Woodburn Business Decorated Pumpkin Contest have been announced! Local businesses once again showed off their creativity and Halloween spirit with their festive pumpkin displays.

This year's winners were:

1st Place: Maumee Valley Veterinary Clinic

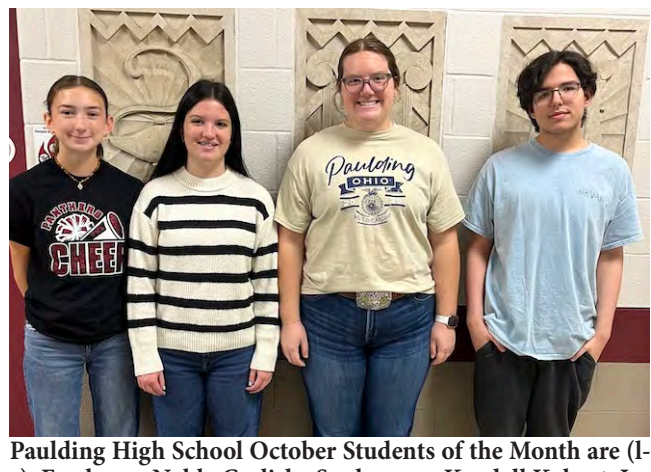
2nd Place: Chop Shop Meat Market

3rd Place: Safe Haven Baby Box

4th Place: Woodburn Veterinary Clinic

Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to the participating businesses for bringing a little extra fall fun and creativity to the Woodburn community!

PAULDING HS ANNOUNCES STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



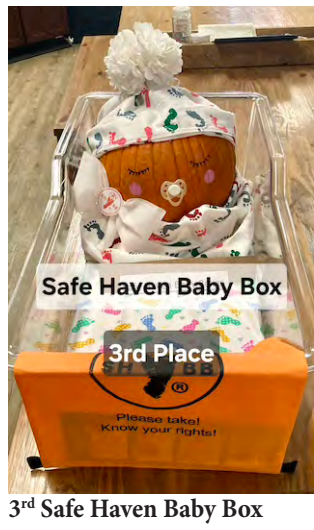
Paulding High School October Students of the Month are (l-r): Freshman Nahla Carlisle; Sophomore Kendall Kohart; Junior Delaney Johanns; and Senior Landyn Moore.



1st Maumee Valley Veterinary Clinic



2nd Chop Shop



3rd Safe Haven Baby Box



4th Woodburn Veterinary Clinic

Grover Hill
EBEL'S
BUTCHER SHOP
OH

THANKSGIVING MEAT PRE-ORDERS

FROZEN TURKEY- $3.69/ LB
MIXED TURKEY ROAST- $5.99/ LB
WHITE TURKEY ROAST- $6.29/ LB
SMOKED BNLS HAM- $5.99/ LB
SMOKED BONE-IN HAM- $4.99/LB
SPIRAL HAM- $5.49/ LB

All items need Pre-Ordered by **November 14th**
Stop in to order, call 419-587-3524,
or email ebelsorders@gmail.com

*Store will be closed **11/26-11/28** to allow employees to spend time with their families*

Paulding County's only...
locally owned bank
the Antwerp Exchange Bank
Est.1898
Member FDIC
Antwerp, Ohio
419-258-5351
Payne, Ohio
419-263-2705
Harlan, Indiana
260-657-1000
Paulding, Ohio
419-567-0999

EAGLES LADIES AUXILIARY DONATION TO CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY



Paulding Ladies Auxiliary #2405 made a donation to Caring & Sharing food pantry of $500.00 to be used to purchase ham and turkeys for families at Thanksgiving. Pictured above (l-r) are Lynn Vance - Paulding Ladies Auxiliary and Ashley Gonzales from the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry.

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP FIGHT STARVATION IN HAITI



Participants packing meals at last year's event.

First United Methodist Church (FUMC), Van Wert, OH is calling on families, local businesses, and community members to help pack life-saving meals for people in Haiti. The event will take place on Saturday, November 21, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Van Wert High School. Please note that this is a new location from past years.

Haiti is facing extreme gang violence, leaving millions of people without food, medical care, or safe schools. "The need is urgent," said Teresa Shaffer, Director of Agape Outreach. "God has called us to help our neighbors who are facing starvation and danger."

FUMC has hosted meal-packing events for 20 years. Volunteers will pack healthy meals filled with rice, vegetables, protein, and 21 essential vitamins. These meals will be shipped and delivered safely to over 500 schools and orphanages through Mission of Hope, an organization with 26 years of experience working in Haiti.

This hands-on volunteer event is open to all ages. Volunteers will learn how to quickly assemble and pack meal bags at simple work stations. FUMC will be happy to provide proof of participation to any students needed volunteer hours

"It's amazing to see what happens when the gym fills up with helpers," Shaffer said. "We invite you to bring your friends, family, and co-workers. Students can also earn community service hours for helping."

When: Saturday, November 21, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Where: Van Wert High School, 10708 State Route 118 South, Van Wert

Sign Up Online: Visit vanwertfirst.net and click on Rice Meal Pack.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged so organizers can prepare packing stations and supplies.

For questions or alternative sign-up options, contact Teresa Shaffer at 419-238-0631 ext. 104 or email teresa.shaffer@vanwertfirst.net.

VANTAGE CAREER CENTER CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS TO HOST ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCH

Vantage Career Center's Culinary Arts students are inviting the community to celebrate the holiday season at their annual Holiday Lunch on Thursday, December 10, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Cup N' Saucer restaurant, located inside Vantage Career Center.

Under the direction of Culinary Arts instructor Chef Luke "Chef T" Trinosky, students will prepare and serve a festive holiday buffet, giving guests the opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal while supporting the next generation of culinary professionals.

The holiday buffet will feature a salad bar, smoked turkey with gravy, pineapple-glazed ham, mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, cornbread dressing, buttered corn, fresh-baked warm bread, pumpkin pie, and assorted desserts. This annual Holiday Lunch provides Vantage Culinary Arts students with valuable hands-on experience in food preparation, customer service, and restaurant operations while sharing their talents with the community.

Reservations are required by Monday, November 30, 2026. Guests can reserve their seats by calling 419-238-5411, ext. 2069, and leaving a voicemail. Walk-ins cannot be accommodated.

MANURE SOIL HEALTH BENEFITS

Farmers have relied on fertilizer to improve crop yields, harvesting crops and losing nutrients from the soil year after year, then tilling the soil. This cycle often leads to severe soil degradation, topsoil loss, and nutrient depletion. While modern synthetic fertilizers offer a quick, short-term boost to plant growth, they fail to sustain the long-term vitality of the soil.

Incorporating animal manure into agricultural fields is widely recognized as one of the most effective and sustainable ways to restore and maintain overall soil health. Soil health is defined as the soil's capacity to function as a vital living ecosystem. Animal manure bolsters nutrients, enhances the microbes and organisms in the soil, the biology; and improves the physical soil aspects like soil structure, drainage, and water holding capacity.

From a chemical perspective, animal manure is an outstanding, multi-nutrient fertilizer. Synthetic alternatives typically focus strictly on the primary macronutrients: nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (N-P-K). While manure supplies an abundance of these essential macronutrients, it also contains a wide array of vital micronutrients and minerals that plants require for successful growth and development.

Manure also impacts the soil's Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) and pH stabilization. Manure increases the soil's ability to hold onto positively charged nutrient ions, preventing them from washing away during heavy rain or irrigation cycles. Unlike highly soluble chemical fertilizers, the nitrogen found in manure is largely bound within organic compounds. This creates a slow-release mechanism where nutrients are gradually broken down and made available with crop needs. This significantly reduces the risk of nitrate leaching into local groundwater, thereby protecting water quality.

Beyond changing the chemical composition, manure fundamentally transforms the physical properties of the soil. When manure is applied, it increases the volume of soil organic matter (SOM). This organic matter acts as a binding agent that helps individual soil particles aggregate into stable clusters. Improved aggregate stability directly reduces soil bulk density and relieves compaction, creating a looser, more well-aerated soil profile.

Well-aggregated soil has an increased water infiltration rate, which allows rainfall to absorb deeply into soil rather than pooling on the surface. The higher SOM acts like a sponge, improving the soil's water-holding capacity. For farmers, enhanced moisture retention improves yield stability and reliability, and helps with crop stress during prolonged drought. Surface-applied or incorporated manure creates a protective effect on the topsoil. By coating the soil and stabilizing its aggregates, manure reduces wind and water erosion by 13% to 77%.

Manure application stimulate the soil's biological community. Soil is a living ecosystem teeming with bacteria, fungi, earthworms, and other microorganisms. These organisms require a steady energy source to thrive, and manure supplies an abundance of labile digestible carbon and organic matter that serves as food for soil microbes.

As microbial biomass and respiration rates increase, these organisms accelerate the natural decomposition of crop residues, unlocking trapped nutrients and recycling them back into the crop cycle. Healthy biological activity aids in suppressing harmful plant diseases naturally.. By increasing soil organic carbon (SOC) levels, regular manure application actively sequesters atmospheric carbon in the soil. This storage helps offset agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, turning farmlands into active carbon sinks.

To fully unlock the advantages of manure without creating environmental hazards, land managers must adhere to strict best management practices. In Ohio, liquid manure is often injected into the soil to reduce runoff. The maximum rate allowed is .5 inches or roughly 13,500 gallons/acre and only 5,000 gallons/acre on frozen or snow covered soil. Lower rates are encouraged to prevent surface and tile runoff.

Farmers are encouraged to utilize the "4R" framework: applying the right source of manure at the right rate, at the right time, and in the right place. Regular soil testing is also imperative to balance N-P-K ratios and prevent an over-accumulation of specific elements like phosphorus.

When managed correctly, substituting animal manure for synthetic fertilizers offers immense economic and environmental advantages. Manufacturing commercial chemical fertilizers is an incredibly energy-intensive process that relies heavily on natural gas. Recycling livestock manure localizes the nutrient loop, directly reducing a farm's input costs while drastically lowering the overall carbon footprint of agricultural production.

Animal manure is far more than a simple waste byproduct; it is an invaluable resource for sustainable agriculture. By enriching the chemical nutrient profile, fortifying the physical structure against erosion, and breathing life into the biological microbiome, manure offers a solution to soil degradation. Agricultural faces the dual challenges of feeding a growing population and combating environmental hazards such as nutrient runoff or climate change. Using manure in a responsible and effectively manner enhances soil and plant health and improves the productivity of our soils.

—James J. Hoorman
Hoorman Soil Health Services

TINORA PEEWEE FOOTBALL RECEIVES $1,000 GRANT FROM DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE



Pictured with the grant are (L to R) Layne Schroeder - Tinora PeeWee Football president and Marilyn Clay - Moose Lodge Chaplain.

Congratulations to Tinora PeeWee Football for receiving a $1,000 grant from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. This grant will be used for a new portable scoreboard for their flag football games.

The Defiance Moose Lodge holds a donor advised fund at the Defiance Area Foundation. To learn how your organization can create a fund like this, visit https://defianceareafoundation.org/funds/.



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THE LEFT TURN



USAC Midwest Thunder Midgets Crown A Champion Campbell Photography.

By: Ron Burt

In USAC D2 Midwest Thunder Midget news, Tyler Nelson won his second straight Championship. The Olathe Kansas racer had 3 feature victories this season defending his title. He had a series-leading 10 top five's, 13 top ten's, three fast qualifying times, and seven heat race wins during the 13-race series to defeat Bryce Massingill by a 40-point margin in the final tally.

This year, Nelson quadrupled his career win count from one to four throughout the 2026 campaign. Along the way, he increased his average feature finishing position from 4.5 to 4.3 between 2025 to 2026. His goal coming this season, he wanted to up his game on the racetracks that had the upper hand on him in recent years.

2026 was a dog fight throughout much of the season, the point lead exchanged hands between Nelson, Matt Lux, and Bryce Massingill. However, with his fifth to first run to winning the next to last race in September at Putnamville, IN Lincoln Park Speedway, Nelson vaulted into the point lead for good. He sealed the deal with a solid fifth place result in the October finale at Indiana's Montpelier Speedway. Nelson became the third driver in the 11-year history of the series to capture consecutive titles: Aaron Leffel (2017, 2018 & 2019) and Jacob Denney (2020 & 2021).

Bryce Massingill finished inside the top three of the standings for the sixth year in a row. He was 3rd with the series in 2021, 2nd in 2022, 2nd in 2023, 1st in 2024, 3rd in 2025, and 2nd in 2026. The all-time winningest driver in series history (23) and a current University of Northwestern Ohio collegiate bowler added five more wins to his total in 2026, all in the latter half of the year. After going winless for 364 straight nights, he was victorious in five of the final eight races. His wins came at Moler (2), Millstream, Circle City, and Montpelier. Massingill also led a series high 96 laps and equaled Nelson as the series leader with 10 top five's and seven heat race wins.

Matt Lux started the season strong ending up third in the standings with one victory to his credit during the season. His lone win came in the season opener at Indiana's Montpelier Speedway. Lux made his biggest charge of the season in the series finale at Montpelier, gaining 16 positions after starting 22nd and finishing 6th.

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

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Juliet W. Thungu, Detroit, Michigan, had a charge of failure to control dismissed after successfully completing the traffic diversion program.

Devon J. Elston, Antwerp, pleaded guilty to an assured clear distance violation. Elston was fined $70 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Kimberley J. Mileto, Antwerp, had a charge of disorderly conduct dismissed.

Rebeca R. Dix, Payne, pleaded guilty to menacing. Dix was fined $100 and ordered to pay $380 in court costs. She was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 27 days suspended, and placed on standard probation for one year. Dix was also ordered to have no contact with the victim, complete an evaluation at Westwood and undergo a risk assessment. A separate charge of aggravated menacing was dismissed at the state's request.

Rebeca R. Brown, Payne, had a charge of disorderly conduct dismissed at the state's request.

Chad A. Mullins, Paulding, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle under the influence (OVI). Mullins was fined $565 and ordered to pay $105 in court costs. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 150 days suspended. His driver's license was suspended from November 2, 2026, through November 6, 2028. Mullins was also ordered to pay $37 in restitution to the Paulding County Sheriff's Office and was granted work release after serving three days of jail time.A charge of a marked lanes violation dismissed.

Neals L. McIntosh, Fort Wayne, Indiana, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle under the influence (OVI) involving a low breath-alcohol test result. Mcintosh was fined $565 and ordered to pay $105 in court costs. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 177 days suspended. His driver's license was suspended from August 21, 2026, through August 21, 2027. The administrative license suspension (ALS) was terminated. A separate OVI charge was dismissed.

Cade J. Lothamer, Payne, pleaded no contest and was found guilty of a stop sign violation. Lothamer was fined $55 and ordered to pay $97 in court costs.

Jacob N. Gallmann, Defiance, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. Gallmann was fined $55 and ordered to pay $100 in court costs.

Lupe Villarreal, Cecil, pleaded guilty to a prohibited turn violation. Villarreal was fined $55 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

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

Angela K. Dockery, Cecil, pleaded guilty to failure to control. Dockery was fined $70 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Eric A. Robison, Fort Wayne, Indiana, pleaded guilty to a permit violation. Robison was fined $70 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Billy J. Landreth, Edgewood, Illinois, pleaded guilty to a permit violation. Landreth was fined $70 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

PAULDING CO. PROBATE COURT MARRIAGE APPLICATION REPORTS

Marquise James Seibert (23), Paulding, OH, Laborer; ***Kaeli Ann Bustos*** (24), Paulding, OH, Laborer

Dustin Ryan Dugan (38), Oakwood, OH, Maintenance; ***Kristy Lee Megdadi*** (39) Oakwood, OH, Transportaion

ANTWERP SCHOOL BOARD HEARS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL, REVIEWS DISTRICT IMPROVEMENTS

A proposed residential development that could bring hundreds of new housing units to the Antwerp area was a major topic of discussion during the Antwerp Local Schools Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, October 21. Board members also heard updates on school safety, academic achievements, construction projects and district finances.

Tim Copsey of the Paulding County Economic Development office addressed the board regarding the proposed development and a request for a tax increment financing (TIF) agreement that would help fund infrastructure improvements.

Copsey explained that the project has received a $2.3 million Residential Economic Development (RED) grant from the state of Ohio to assist with infrastructure, including roads, sewer, water, drainage and utilities. The overall development encompasses approximately 88.9 acres, although the initial phase would focus on approximately 23 acres.

Infrastructure improvements for the first phase are estimated at $3.38 million, with the developer expected to contribute approximately $1.5 million toward the project.

The proposed development includes plans for 60 townhomes, 42 single-family homes and 144 multifamily units. Copsey said the goal is to provide affordable housing opportunities, particularly for younger residents and families who may wish to remain in or return to the community.

The housing development has also helped the village secure funding for a new water treatment system. After two previous unsuccessful applications, the village was awarded approximately $8.2 million, consisting of a $4.2 million state grant and a $4 million interest-free loan repayable over 30 years.

Copsey presented a proposed TIF agreement that would allocate 60% of the increased property tax revenue generated by the development toward infrastructure financing, while the school district would receive the remaining 40%.

Currently, the undeveloped property generates approximately $834 annually in school property taxes. Under the proposed arrangement, the district could receive an estimated $5.6 million in property taxes over 30 years, along with an estimated $10.2 million in school income taxes from residents of the development.

Board members questioned the potential impact of additional students on the district, the financial implications of the agreement and whether the proposed 60/40 split could be negotiated.

Copsey emphasized that the proposal was informational and that no vote was being requested during the meeting. Additional discussions, public hearings and approvals would be required before an agreement could be finalized.

Superintendent Dr. Martin Miller said the district has already begun considering how the development could affect school facilities and transportation. Representatives from Garmann Miller will meet with school officials to begin a feasibility study examining the potential need for additional classroom space and other improvements.

Miller noted that an influx of students would not necessarily be evenly distributed among grade levels, creating possible challenges with classroom capacity, cafeteria space and transportation. Safe walking routes and sidewalks connecting the development to the school were also discussed.

Treasurer Kristine Stuart reported September receipts of $933,295.82, with expenses of approximately $1.059 million. Interest earned during the month totaled $37,867.92.

With 25% of the fiscal year completed, the district had received 25.91% of its projected revenue and spent 23.12% of its budget.

Stuart also discussed property tax collections and the uncertainty surrounding recent changes in property tax calculations. She explained that the district had conservatively budgeted approximately $2.5 million in real estate tax revenue and currently anticipates receiving approximately $2.556 million.

Although the district had previously been advised it could experience a significant reduction in revenue, Stuart said her conservative budgeting approach appears to have helped offset the impact. She cautioned that the district will need to monitor future settlements, particularly the next one expected in March.

Academic Achievements and School Reports

High School/Middle School Principal Jessie Arnold reported that the first nine weeks concluded with a schoolwide PBIS Bingo celebration for students. Teacher evaluations are also underway.

Fall athletic seasons are wrapping up, with postseason competitions beginning. The marching band's fall indoor concert is scheduled for October 29, while the high school choir will perform at a naturalization ceremony in Fort Wayne.

Arnold thanked staff members involved in organizing the upcoming Washington, D.C., trip, scheduled for November 2-6, as well as fall coaches and activity sponsors for their dedication.

The Student of the Quarter trip to the Toledo Zoo was postponed until the following week because of the chemical situation in Toledo. The Teen Eco Challenge was also postponed.

Other upcoming activities include Character Day on October 30 and the junior high dance on November 13.

Elementary Principal Doug Billman reported that the school's after-school tutoring program is underway, serving approximately 40 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The program is directed by Chad Cox and provides additional academic support.

Third-grade students will participate in fall testing October 28-29 as part of Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Results are expected in December.

Billman also recognized the elementary school's August and September Students of the Month and thanked local businesses for their support. Worman's Heating and Cooling sponsored student recognition T-shirts, while The Antwerp Exchange Bank provided kindergarten T-shirts.

The new secured elementary entrance is now fully operational, including visitor badge scanning and student check-in and checkout equipment. Billman said the system has improved visitor traffic flow and security.

Special Education Program Receives Perfect Score

Miller announced that Antwerp Local Schools received a perfect score on its most recent state special education monitoring review.

For the first time in district history, the school received 100% compliance in every category, with no citations issued by the state.

Miller credited Jennifer Snyder, the district's special education staff, principals and behavior specialist Amy Schuffle for their efforts in improving procedures and ensuring compliance with state requirements.

He noted that the district has worked for several years to address issues involving individualized education programs, evaluations and special education identification.

Miller also announced that both Antwerp Elementary and Antwerp High School were recognized by U.S. News & World Report as ranking among the top 40% of schools in Ohio.

The district also received exempt status from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce based on its academic performance. This designation provides additional flexibility in hiring teachers when properly licensed candidates are unavailable.

School Safety and Technology

The district will conduct a school safety drill on Friday, October 23, involving students and staff.

Miller explained that the exercise will simulate an intruder situation, allowing students and teachers to practice appropriate responses, including evacuation or remaining secured in classrooms depending on the circumstances.

Some students and staff will evacuate to the football field during the exercise. Local law enforcement officials are expected to assist.

Parents and students will be informed in advance that the activity is a drill.

Technology coordinator Harold Gottke reported continued work on the district's visitor management system and cybersecurity procedures.

Gottke said schools face increasing cybersecurity threats, requiring regular updates to incident response plans, disaster recovery procedures and employee technology access policies.

He noted that regional cybersecurity systems blocked more than 251 million attempted attacks during September, illustrating the importance of maintaining strong security protections.

Building and Grounds Improvements

Construction of the district's new bus garage is nearing completion, with asphalt paving and garage door installation among the remaining major items.

Miller said the project is progressing close to schedule and should be ready before winter weather arrives.

The district also plans to reuse asphalt removed during construction to expand parking near the football field and track. The material will provide an economical way to increase parking capacity without purchasing additional aggregate.

Staffing and Donations

Miller reported that the district has hired an additional educational aide through the Western Buckeye Educational Service Center to help accommodate an increasing number of students requiring special education services.

The board also recognized a $700 donation from former Antwerp student Taylor Cohen Hills to help cover outstanding student cafeteria balances.

Miller thanked the donor for helping ensure that unpaid meal accounts do not become an additional financial burden on the district.

Board Approves Personnel and Other Items

During the consent agenda, the board approved the Western Buckeye Ed-

DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE AWARDS $1,000 GRANT TO TINORA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



Pictured with the check are (L to R) Ryan Mays - TPAC Director, Emilie Parsons - Marketing Director at Northeastern Local Schools and Stacy McCartney - Moose Lodge Administrator.

Congratulations to the Tinora Performing Arts Center for receiving a $1,000 grant from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. This grant will be put towards the upcoming Home for the Holidays Dueling Pianos event being held at the TPAC on December 13th. To purchase tickets for this event, please visit their Facebook page.

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PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY MAKES A DONATION TO PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL LABORATORY DEPARTMENT



Paulding County Hospital is pleased to announce that with funds donated from the PCH Auxiliary, we were able to purchase a new draw chair for within our laboratory department. The generous donation will allow our patients to have a more comfortable experience when coming to PCH with orders to have blood drawn.

Thank you to all of the PCH Auxiliary volunteers for your continued support to Paulding County and to Paulding County Hospital. We greatly appreciate all you do!

ucational Service Center substitute teacher list and the Paulding County Business Advisory Council Plan.

Supplemental contracts approved for the 2026-27 school year included Doug Billman, Mini Archers boys basketball coach; Scott McMichael, Mini Archers girls basketball coach; Jeremy Kosch, assistant wrestling coach; Skyler Octaviano, junior high wrestling coach; Sam Williamson, junior varsity boys basketball coach; Ryan Bagley, eighth-grade boys basketball coach; Dustin Greenwood, 50% junior class advisor; and Shelley Grimes, sophomore class advisor.

Volunteer wrestling coaches approved were Cameron Fender, Trayce Lengacher, Eli Reinhart and Caleb Wilson.

The board also approved a one-year cafeteria contract for Jessie Kniceley and rescinded Alicia Hook's contract as 50% junior class advisor and Karina Myers' contract as freshman class advisor.

Following the regular business portion of the meeting, the board voted to enter executive session at 5:54 p.m. to discuss matters required to remain confidential under federal or state law.

The next regular meeting of the Antwerp Local Schools Board of Education is Thursday, November 19, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board of Education conference room.

ACPL CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF KOMETS HOCKEY WITH EXHIBIT, STORYTIME, AND MORE

The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) is celebrating the Fort Wayne Komets' 75th anniversary with an exhibit of team memorabilia and a series of special events for all ages.

"The Komets are woven into the story of Allen County. For 75 years, they have brought generations of families together, and that history deserves to be recognized and preserved," said ACPL Executive Director Susan P. Baier. "We're proud to celebrate this milestone as a community, and to support the Komets' archival work. We hope everyone will stop by the library to see the exhibit, participate in programs, and share their own Komets memories."

According to the Komets, the team wanted to ensure that the 75th anniversary season would be a time to celebrate one of the oldest hockey franchises in North America.

"This team has always belonged to the fans, and seeing our history on display for families, readers, and neighbors means so much to all of us," said Shane Albahrani, Voice of the Fort Wayne Komets and Director of Media Relations & Broadcasting. "On behalf of the entire Komets organization, we are incredibly grateful to everyone who has been a part of the Komets family over the last 75 years and to the library and its staff for helping us celebrate this milestone."

The community is invited to celebrate the Komets and the Library with the following activities:

Komets Memorabilia Exhibit

November 18 through April 30, Main Library (900 Library Plaza)

Exhibit will display vintage memorabilia and game-worn apparel from Komets history. The exhibit is free and open during regular Main Library hours.

Storytime with the Fort Wayne Komets

Wednesday, December 9, 2–2:30 p.m., Main Library

Families can join Komets mascot Icy D. Eagle for a hockey-themed storytime. Attendees will have the chance to meet Icy and take photos afterward.

Great Day Cafe: Ice Hockey

Wednesday, January 13, 1:30–2:45 p.m., Main Library

This program is for adults with memory impairments and their caregivers. It offers activities that enrich the mind, body, and spirit, all with a hockey theme. It is presented in partnership with Aging & In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana.

Authors & Ales with the Fort Wayne Komets

Tuesday, February 9, 6:30–7:30 p.m., 2Toms Brewing Company (3676 N. Wells St.)

Guests can enjoy an evening of hockey romance books and pose for photos with special guests from the Komets.

Archival Efforts at the Genealogy Center

The Library's Genealogy Center worked with Komets staff to develop a 75th anniversary book. Genealogy Center staff helped uncover the photographs, memories, and history behind the team. The ACPL produced a video documenting the process available at acpl.info/komets.

All activities are free and open to the public. Details, registration links, and more details are available at acpl.info/komets.

PANTHERS STUN ALLEN EAST WITH DRAMATIC FOURTH-QUARTER COMEBACK

HARROD – The Paulding Panthers saved their best for last Friday night, October 30, rallying from a 14-point deficit to stun the Allen East Mustangs 21-17 in a thrilling opening-round playoff football matchup.

Trailing 14-0 late in the third quarter, Paulding scored 21 points over the final 12 minutes of action, including a game-winning 80-yard kickoff return by Jordan Manz with just 1:48 remaining.

Allen East struck first when Keagan Jones punched in a one-yard touchdown run with 5:23 remaining in the opening quarter. The extra point gave the Mustangs a 7-0 advantage, a lead they carried into halftime.

The Mustangs extended their advantage to 14-0 late in the third quarter when Miles McDorman scored on a three-yard touchdown run with 2:55 remaining.

With their season hanging in the balance, the Panthers finally found the end zone in the closing seconds of the third quarter.

Quarterback Ridge Hunt connected with Jordan Manz on a 42-yard touchdown pass with just three seconds remaining in the period. Magdiel Lopez added the extra point, cutting the deficit to 14-7 and giving Paulding much-needed momentum heading into the final quarter.

The Panthers' defense then delivered one of the biggest plays of the night.

With 6:53 remaining in the fourth quarter, Emmett Barnes intercepted an Allen East pass and raced 82 yards for a touchdown. Lopez converted the extra point, pulling Paulding even at 14-14.

The Mustangs responded with a late scoring drive, moving into field goal range before Travis Stanley connected on a 28-yard field goal with 2:02 remaining. The kick put Allen East back in front 17-14 and appeared to give the home team the advantage in the closing minutes.

However, Paulding needed only one play to turn the game around.

On the ensuing kickoff, Jordan Manz fielded the ball and raced 80 yards for a touchdown, sending the Panthers into the lead for the first time all evening. Lopez's third successful extra point made it 21-17 with 1:48 remaining.

The Panthers held on over the final moments to complete the dramatic comeback victory.

Despite being outgained 344-164 in total offense, Paulding capitalized on its opportunities, using a defensive touchdown and a special teams score to overcome the Mustangs.

Hunt completed nine of 23 passes for 134 yards and a touchdown without throwing an interception. Jordan Manz was his favorite target, hauling in five receptions for 101 yards and a touchdown.

Grady Arend added two catches for 21 yards, while Jalen Manz caught one pass for 10 yards and Nick Baughman added a two-yard reception.

On the ground, Avery Cooper led the Panthers with 29 yards on nine carries. Zach Salas added one yard as Paulding finished with 30 rushing yards.

Defensively, the Panthers turned in several outstanding individual performances.

Salas and Jalen Manz led the team with 17 tackles apiece. Salas recorded four tackles for loss, while Jalen Manz added two.

Arend contributed nine tackles, including a sack and a tackle for loss. Javvon Stiltner finished with seven tackles and three tackles for loss, while Jordan Manz added seven tackles and one tackle for loss.

Barnes recorded six tackles to go along with his game-changing interception return for a touchdown. Ivan Martinez also finished with six tackles, including one for loss.

Cooper added four tackles, a sack and a tackle for loss, while Wes Grindstaff contributed four stops.

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DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE DONATES $1,000 TO FORT DEFIANCE HUMANE SOCIETY



Pictured above are (l-r): Lynn Speiser, Moose Lodge Vice President; Linda Thurwell, Fort Defiance Humane Society Board Member; and Rick Speiser, Moose Lodge Trustee.

In October, Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 awarded a $1,000 grant to the Fort Defiance Humane Society to help cover medical expenses for animals newly arriving at the shelter.

Through their fund at the Defiance Area Foundation, Moose Lodge #2094 continues to make a meaningful difference in our community, including for our furry friends!

Call or Email your classified ad today!
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BOWLING GREEN POST INVESTIGATING MINOR INJURY CRASH

The Bowling Green Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a minor injury crash. The crash was reported on November 2, 2026, at approximately 3:51 p.m., on Miami Street at the exit ramp from Interstate 75 north, City of Toledo, Lucas County.

The preliminary investigation revealed that a 2025 Mitsubishi Outlander was operated by J'Hzayiah R. Lewis, 27 years of age, of Erin, Tennessee, and was traveling east on Miami Street. A 2016 GMC Sierra, operated by Leon Hernandez Ramirez, 46 years of age, of Toledo, was stopped for a red light at the intersection with Miami Street after exiting Interstate 75 north. Mr. Lewis was operating at an excessive rate of speed when his vehicle struck Mr. Ramirez's vehicle.

A passenger in the 2025 Mitsubishi Outlander, Sarah A. Clark, 28 years of age, of Tennessee Ridge, Tennessee, was transported by Toledo EMS to St. Charles Hospital for minor injuries. Both drivers were checked on scene by EMS personnel for minor injuries.

Mr. Lewis was cited for reckless operation and driving under suspension.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted on scene by the Rossford Police Department, Toledo EMS, Ray's Towing and Rau's Towing.

GRINNELL & DURBIN PUNCH TICKETS TO STATE AS PAULDING, ANTWERP COMPETE AT CROSS COUNTRY REGIONALS

TIFFIN – Paulding County cross country teams wrapped up regional competition Saturday, October 31, at Tiffin, with strong performances from both Paulding and Antwerp (other area schools also competed, but results were unavailable to WBN editors as of press time). While the regional meet marked the end of the season for several runners, two local athletes earned the opportunity to continue competing at the state championship.

Paulding's Landon Grinnell and Antwerp's Reese Durbin each secured individual state qualifying spots, advancing to the Ohio High School Athletic Association State Cross Country Championships on Saturday, November 7, in Obetz.

Paulding Panthers

The Paulding boys turned in an impressive performance, finishing seventh overall as a team at the regional meet.

Senior Landon Grinnell led the Panthers with a 14th-place finish, crossing the line in 16:38.9 to earn his trip to the state championship.

Fellow senior Leonel Reyes was close behind, placing 17th with a time of 16:44.2. Max Daeger finished 26th in 17:07.0, while Achilles Mead placed 40th with a time of 17:24.6.

Isaiah Koenig recorded a time of 19:00.6 to finish 106th. Quinton Laker crossed the line in 24:26.0 for 146th place, followed by Rooney Gutierrez Cortes in 147th with a time of 24:51.0.

The seventh-place team finish capped a strong regional showing for the Panthers, with Grinnell extending his season one more week.

Antwerp Lady Archers

The Antwerp girls opened regional competition with a 19th-place team finish among 33 competing schools.

Leading the Lady Archers was Reese Durbin, who placed 34th overall and earned an individual berth at the state championship.

Although the regional meet brought the team portion of Antwerp's season to a close, the Lady Archers finished on a high note. Two runners recorded all-time personal bests, while two others posted season-best performances.

Following Durbin were Gianna Laker, Emily Laker, Kora Zuber, Gabriella Snyder, Aleta Sorrell and Brooklynn Lawson.

The strong individual performances highlighted the team's determination to finish the season at its best, with Durbin now preparing to represent Antwerp at the state level.

Antwerp Archer Boys

The Antwerp varsity boys also delivered a strong effort, placing 22nd among 32 schools competing at the regional meet.

Jason McKay led the Archers with a 70th-place finish. He was followed by Braxton Peters, Marshall Rice, Tucker Doster, Gage Barker, Aiden Hook and Krayston Eicher.

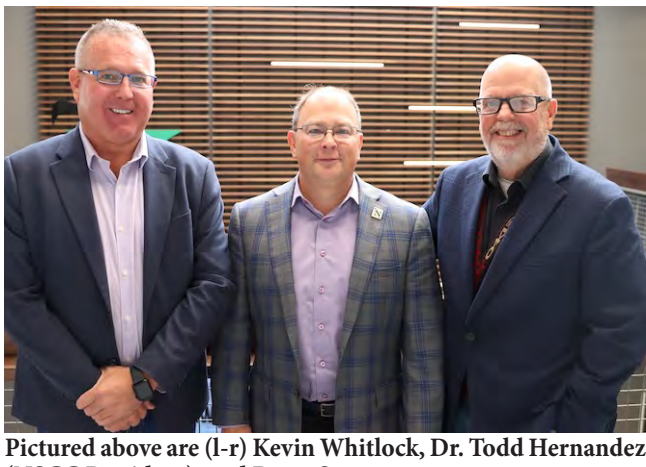
Despite seeing their season come to an end, the Archers turned in one of their strongest collective performances of the year, with five runners establishing all-time personal bests.

The improvements provided a fitting conclusion to a season of hard work and development for the Antwerp boys.

With regional competition complete, attention now turns to Grinnell and Durbin represented Paulding County at the state championships.

Both runners competed Saturday, November 7, carrying the hopes of their respective schools into the final meet of the 2026 cross country season.

NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SWEARS IN TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Pictured above are (l-r) Kevin Whitlock, Dr. Todd Hernandez (NSCC President), and Brent Stevens.

The Northwest State Community College Board of Trustees met in regular session on Friday, October 30th at the Van Wert Campus. After the call to order, two new Board members completed their swearing in ceremonies. Brent Stevens (Ohio City / Van Wert County) and Kevin Whitlock (West Unity / Williams County) were both

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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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
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Property For Sale

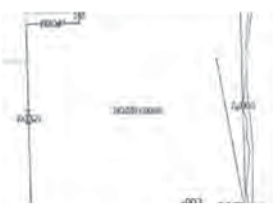






TBD State Rd 1, Saint Joe, IN 46785 – Discover your own private slice of Saint Joe, Indiana with this 29.5± acre property offering a unique blend of space, agricultural potential, and dream-home possibilities. Featuring tillable land and a picturesque river backdrop, the land provides both beauty and 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







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sworn in after recently being appointed to the NSCC Board of Trustees by Governor DeWine. Their terms began September 4, 2026 and will run through June 9, 2032.

Avi Zaffini, President & CEO at the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC) provided a state perspective to the Board of Trustees as part of the Board meeting. Zaffini shared state-level initiatives, including how community colleges are uniquely positioned to not only support, but drive economic development through hands-on education and training. Zaffini noted he has a goal to visit all 22 community colleges' Board of Trustees meetings to provide similar updates, and to provide support to each college's mission to serve their communities.

As part of the Board meeting, the Board also approved Emeritus Status for Greg Tefft, and Julie Curry. Both Tefft and Curry will be formally recognized during a dinner ceremony held prior to Fall Commencement on Monday, December 14th. NSCC enacted an Emeritus policy in 2013 to recognize individuals that have made an outstanding contribution to the College and to the community.

During the meeting, the Board also approved the establishment of a Veteran's Scholarship, to cover out-of-state tuition costs for veterans and their immediate family members who attend NSCC. NSCC currently has approximately 320 student-veterans pursuing coursework, credentialing, certificates and/or associate degrees.

In other Board action:

• Approved the promotion of Facilities Technician for Jade Sheets, and of Human Resources Manager for Aimee Thorpe.

• Approved the employment of Patrick Kroetz as Training Coordinator-Mechanical Fluid & Power (Fostoria), and Adam Glore as Maintenance Technician, as well as the transition to Faculty-Math for Marianna Doolittle.

• Approved a tuition increase, effective spring 2027 semester, from $207.33 to $217.33 for in-state students, and from $201.33 to $211.33 for out-of-state students (out-of-state students pay both in-state and out-of-state tuition fees totaling $428.66.)

• Approved using scholarship funds to offset the cost of the $10 per credit hour increase, so as to not pass the expense on to the learners.

• Approved the 2026 Affordability & Efficiency Report (textbook affordability / House Bill 49).

• Approved the completion of the General Education Core Curriculum Review (Amended Substitute House Bill 96 of the 136th General Assembly)

• Accepted miscellaneous gifts from Danfoss Power Solutions, of lab equipment and educational supplies to the Van Wert Campus.

• Approved curriculum changes to three courses: CIV120, MTH132 and MEA207.

• Approved three resignations and one termination, plus miscellaneous employment contracts.

OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL HONORS ARNOTT AND VERMILLION

Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Thomas J. Arnott has been selected the 2026 Trooper of the Year at the Van Wert Post.

The selection of Trooper Arnott is in recognition of outstanding service during 2026. Fellow officers stationed at the Van Wert Post, chose Trooper Arnott based on his leadership abilities, professional ethics, courteous treatment of others, enthusiastic work attitude, and cooperation with supervisors, peers, and the public.

Originally from Clio, Michigan, Trooper Arnott joined the Highway Patrol in 2017 as a member of the 162nd Academy Class. Trooper Arnott is also a graduate of the University of Northwestern Ohio where he earned a degree in Diesel Technology. Trooper Arnott serves as a Field Training Officer and has also been awarded the Patrol's physical fitness and safe driving awards.

Trooper Arnott and his family reside in Mercer County.

Radio Dispatcher Melissa D. Vermillion has been selected the 2026 Dispatcher of the Year at the Van Wert Dispatch Center. Vermillion joined the Highway Patrol in 2016. She is a graduate of Bath

High School. Dispatcher Vermillion serves as a Field Training Dispatcher. She was honored in recognition of her outstanding service over the past year. Supervision and dispatchers chose Dispatcher Vermillion based on her technical job knowledge and ability, her enthusiastic work attitude, teamwork, and prompt and courteous response to the public's request for information

and assistance.

Dispatcher Vermillion and her family reside in Darke County.

Both Arnott and Vermillion are in contention for District and State honors as Trooper of the Year and Dispatcher of the Year. Those honors will be announced at a later date.

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Classified ads are $8.50 for 20 words or less and $.15 for each additional word.

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FOR SALE: 2 good large wood stoves, $100 each; FORD 2000 wide front tractor, $2,500; 5x12 metal covered trailer, $1,000; 3 solid core 36" oak doors, finished, all hardware, $150 each; 2 chainsaws, $100 each. 419-551-8834 p

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

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

JEST A MOMENT: GREAT UNHERALDED MOMENTS IN FOOD HISTORY



By: Nick Thomas

November isn't just about turkeys. According to various websites that compile lists of national food celebrations, it's also Banana Pudding Lovers Month. Recipes for the sweet fruity and creamy dessert began appearing in the late 1800s and it soon became a favorite treat easily prepared at home or served in restaurants, especially in the South. Its creation could be described as a "notable" moment in food history. Here are some others that somehow escaped the food history books:

A.D. 79: Lone survivor of Mt. Vesuvius eruption relocates to find work in Italian bakery and the Lava Cake is born.

1195: British royal cook meets with King Richard, recovering from severe bout of acne, to discuss new menu items for upcoming commemorative banquet. Creates Spotted Dick.

1453: Personal chef of brutal Romanian ruler Vlad the Impaler invents the shish kabob.

1805: Admiral Lord Nelson inadvertently creates name for popular breakfast meal when asked to predict the outcome of England's naval campaign with France in the Battle of Trafalgar. "French? Toast!" he quips.

1894: Podiatrist brother of John Harvey Kellogg suggests use for growing collection of small calluses scraped from patients' feet and the name "Corn Flakes" created.

1909: Absent-minded Idaho chef prepares the first twice-baked potato.

1912: Rotund US President William Howard Taft stops by White House kitchen for evening snack and inadvertently sits on meat, cheese, and tomato pot pie left on chair. Observant staff chef immediately resigns to form first American pizza franchise.

1915: After visiting Fort Yukon on hottest day (100 °F) in the state's history, Anchorage dessert chef conceives Baked Alaska.

1919: Airline company serves first meal to passengers during London to Paris route creating what would become universally known as plain food.

1924: Italian-American restaurateur notices wife mixing romaine lettuce with parmesan cheese, croutons, anchovies, and Worcestershire sauce. Creates new leafy greens dish after he ….. sees her salad.

1837: Group of US senators talk endlessly on the Senate floor during first filibuster and the waffle is invented.

1942: Moe, Larry, and Curly perfect fastest known pie delivery service.

1940s: Nabisco first publishes banana pudding recipe on Vanilla Wafer box. Potluck cooks soon learn to prepare large quantities to prevent brawls breaking out at delivery destinations.

1953: Swanson markets first TV dinner ensuring the proliferation of couch potatoes for generations.

1971: Post cereal corporation introduces Fruity Pebbles. Despite high mineral content, product largely unpopular with consumers until company replaces the small fruit-infused rocks with flavored crisp rice bits.

2001: U.S. attempts to win support from Afghan population by airdropping humanitarian provisions during the former war. The food packages for civilians included more than 2 million Pop-Tarts, but program not universally applauded by locals. No explanation necessary.

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

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

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

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

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

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

PAULDING COUNTY RECYCLING ROUNDUP



Pictured above are Susan Deatrick, Head of Adult & Youth Services at Paulding County Carnegie Library and Shannon Ruschel, Paulding County's WMEA Program director.

It's hard to believe that we're coming up on the end of the year already. Our WMEA program in Paulding County is holding steady and we've had a modest increase in volume of tonnage processed, primarily from cardboard. I've had very few issues with dumping with the exception of the last couple of months. Unfortunately, someone is dumping at the Paulding trailers, which has cost the Program $400 to date. Werlor's pick up the trailers and if any of them have material that can't be recycled, they have to take it to landfill. They bill the Program for that, so as a result, I've had cameras installed and violators will be prosecuted. Thank you to the 99.999% of you that adhere to our procedures for what can be recycled, collapsing your cardboard, and not leaving bags unattended if the trailers are full.

On a more positive note, I want to profile our Paulding County Carnegie Library System for the fantastic job that they do for our County. Besides being a premier provider of so many resources, they are also premier recyclers. Corey Walker, our ED for the Library system, is very supportive of the Program as are all the branch staff. Thank you to them for their participation in the Program. Please be sure and stop in at the main branch in Paulding, for a chance to win either an OSU or Michigan wreath, designed by yours truly! Sue Deatrick, Director of Adult and Youth Services, is seen with me receiving this year's wreaths. The drawing for both will be Friday, November 20th, so be sure and make time to stop in. They would make GREAT Christmas gifts!

I've had a number of calls regarding "Special Events" such as tires, paint, electronics, etc. I'm hoping to have a tire event in 2027, but they're very expensive to recycle. I'm currently working on a couple of Grant applications so fingers crossed that we'd receive funding via one or both. I should be able to do a paint and fluorescent bulb event, but unsure of the date. It would be sometime next summer.

Keep up the "great work" Paulding County! You ARE making a difference, one box at a time!

Shannon Ruschel
Director/PC WMEA Program | 419-399-3630
shannon@pauldingcountywmea.com

ROLLING THUNDER MOTORCYCLE CLUB RAISES $3,009 FOR OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCHES



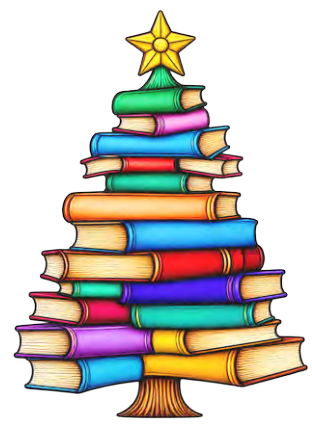
On October 10, the Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Club (RTMC) hosted a Bike Night at The Landing Strip in Oakwood, bringing the community together for a fundraiser benefiting Oakwood Elementary School's lunch program.

Two members of RTMC presented the Oakwood Cafeteria Crew with a generous donation of $3,009 raised through the event.

Oakwood Elementary would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Club, The Landing Strip, and everyone who contributed to making this event a success. Your generosity and willingness to support our students make a meaningful difference.

We are fortunate to be part of such a caring and supportive community. Thank you for reminding us what makes Oakwood such a special place to call home!

'MEET THE AUTHORS NIGHT' TO SHOWCASE LOCAL AUTHORS, BOOKS



Meet 20 authors from Paulding County at a special "Meet the Authors Night" on Tuesday, Nov. 17, hosted by the Paulding Writers' Group.

Admission is free. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. at Paulding County History Museum, 600 Fairground Drive, Paulding.

Each local author will be introduced and asked to briefly speak about their work. Tables will be set up for the authors to sell and sign their works and meet readers.

Paulding Writers' Group members believe this will be an inspiring opportunity to celebrate local talent and hear about a large variety of genres, from children's books to science fiction to memoirs.

Authors currently scheduled to attend include Caroline Arend, Kylee Baumle, Beth Ann Baus, Duane Bailey, Mark Holtsberry, Tonia Shinaberry King, Eva Sharron Kobee, Melinda Krick, Amber Krynock, Jane Nice, Susan Paulus, Rich Phelan, Carol Razo, Adam Snyder, Joel Steiner, Kim Sutton, Nichole J. Suvar, Janet Wagner and Elecia Wobler.

Light refreshments will be served. Before and after the program, tour the museum's annual Festival of Trees.

VAN WERT PEONY SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT APPLICATIONS OPEN

The Van Wert Peony Scholarship Pageant Committee has announced that their application window is open now until December 11. Potential candidates must be female members of the class of 2027 at our participating schools, or a home school student from within those districts. Participating schools include: Antwerp, Continental, Crestview, Delphos Jefferson, Delphos St. Johns, Ft. Jennings, Lincolnview, Kalida, Ottoville, Parkway, Paulding, Van Wert, Wayne Trace and Vantage Career Center.

One candidate will be selected from each school and will receive a minimum scholarship of $300. Total scholarships awarded total over $5,000.

Applications are available from each school's office or by emailing vanwertpeonypageant@hotmail.com.



