The West Bend News
www.westbendnews.net
VOLUME 22 – ISSUE 46 | Good News for Good Communities - Serving Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2026

PAULDING COUNTY CELEBRATES 2026 COLLABORATION & SUCCESS



Pictured above is Village of Payne Mayor Lora Lyons with PCED exec. Director, Tim Copsey. PCED recognized Lyons for her exemplary leadership skills with navigating the numerous projects of the past year in the village.

ANTWERP – Nearly 200 business leaders, elected officials, educators, and community members gathered at Grant's Catering in Antwerp for the 26th Annual Paulding County Economic Development (PCED) Business and Industry Appreciation Banquet. The America 250-themed event provided an opportunity to celebrate economic progress, recognize outstanding leadership, and look ahead to future opportunities throughout Paulding County.

PCED Board President Fred Manz opened the evening introducing board members before Director Tim Copsey highlighted several significant accomplishments from 2026 that continue to strengthen the county's economy and quality of life.

Among the year's major developments was the new occupancy of Polyethics, in the former DANA building currently owned by Keller Logistics. Polyethics is a new manufacturing operation producing commercial and residential garbage bags. Also recognized was the recent award of a $2.3 million Residential Economic Develop-

(Continued on Page 2)

VANTAGE CAREER CENTER INTRODUCES LOCAL EIGHTH GRADERS TO HANDS-ON CAREER EDUCATION



Auto Technology Junior, Luke Miller, showing 8th graders during their tour a diagnostic scan tool used in lab.

More than 780 eighth graders from 13 local schools got a firsthand look at possible future career pathways during Vantage Career Center's annual 8th Grade Tours on November 3rd and 4th. Over two action-packed days, students explored 19 career-technical programs through hands-on activities that brought real-world careers to life.

The annual tours introduced students to opportunities in skilled trades, health sciences, business, public safety, and technology. Students from Lincolnview, Continental, Crestview, Delphos St. John's, Ottoville, Delphos Jefferson, Goedde, Van Wert, Wayne Trace, Fort Jennings, Kalida, Paulding, and Parkway visited Vantage throughout the two days.

Vantage Career Center is incredibly thankful for the continued partnership and collaboration with these schools, whose support helps make these tours possible each year and introduces students to career opportunities at an early age.

Current Vantage students proudly led the tours, sharing their experiences, answering questions, and giving eighth graders a firsthand look at the skills they've developed in their programs. Throughout the tours, eighth graders had the chance to get involved and experience career-technical education for themselves. From exploring podcasting

(Continued on Page 4)

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.

Speaker will be Warren Schlatter Defiance Co. Engineer, speaking about road and bridge projects for 2027. All former retirees are urged to come. All are welcome and all members are encouraged to attend.

REESE DURBIN CAPS HISTORIC CROSS COUNTRY CAREER AT STATE MEET



Antwerp's Reese Durbin concluded her outstanding cross country career at the OHSAA State Cross Country Championships in Obetz, Ohio, on Saturday, November 7. Durbin finished 119th with a time of 20:51, capping a decorated career as a Lady Archer. The Antwerp school record holder, Durbin became only the second female runner in school history to qualify for the state meet.

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West Bend
Printing & Publishing
Upcoming Holiday Schedule
Thanksgiving
• Both offices - Defiance & Antwerp - will be CLOSED on Thursday, Nov 26.
• Defiance office will be also be CLOSED Friday, Nov 27.
• Antwerp office will be OPEN ONLY for newspaper classified ad drop off on Friday, Nov 27 and will CLOSE AT 12PM.
Deadline for the November 30th edition will be WEDNESDAY, Nov 25
December
There will only be a newspaper on the following MONDAYS:
Dec 7 Dec 14 Dec 21
Dec 21 will be our Christmas / New Years edition!
Let us know if you have a Christmas / New Years greeting ad you would like to place. Deadline is Thurs, Dec 17th.
Our office will be CLOSED
Dec 24, Dec 25, Dec 31 & Jan 1
West Bend Printing WB Publishing
CUSTOM PRINTING
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Local Advertisers appreciating local news

Ace Development Inc	11
Aderman Dental	2
Antwerp Exchange Bank	6
Caring & Sharing Harvest Hoopla	12
Christ Lutheran Church	2
Creative Design & Construction	1
Den Herder Funeral Home	2
Den Herder FH Wells obituary	2
Derck's Landscaping	8
EACS EAU	7
Edward Jones Bryan Post	5
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Grover Hill Nuisance Notice	9
Heckley Restorations	11
Hicksville Public Hearing Notice	9
Hoover SR1 Property	11
Innovative Assembly HW	11
Klopfenstein Repair	8
Krazy Krafters Holiday Sale	3
Mount Calvary	2
PC Comm Heating Bills	12
PC Land Bank Request for Proposals	9
PC Legal Notice Grubb CI 26 151	9
PC Veteran's Service	3
PC WMEAd	4
PCH Flu Shot	6
PCH Gift Shop Sale	3
Puzzle – CW PCH	9
Ron Burt Ohio Sports Blitz	8
Schmucker Decks	1
Schrader R. Smith (793)	10

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

Community Calendar

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

November 16
- Holiday Essential Oils Class @ Payne Branch Library, 6p

November 18
- FREE Cozy Care Pkg. Pickup For Elderly @ Antwerp Manor, 1-2p
- Cross & Crumb Bake Sale @ First Christian Church, Paulding, 10a-1p
- Chicken Pie & Steak Supper @ First Christian Church, Paulding, 4:30-7p

November 19
- Caring & Sharing Harvest Hoopla @ Paulding Eagles, 6:30p
- Weeds University @ PC OSU Ext., 9a-1p
- Annual Nut Sale @ PCH Gift Shop, 8a-4p
- Author Tricia Springstuff @ Defiance Library, 6p

November 20
GloyrWay in Concert @ Emmanuel Baptist Church, Paulding, 7p

November 21
- NextGen Artists Workshop @ PC Opportunity Center, 9a-2p
- Family Trivia Night @ Paulding Eagles, 5pm

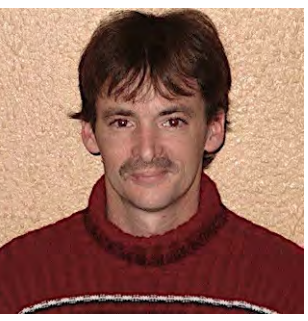
November 22
- Ham & Turkey Dinner @ St. Louis Besancon, New Haven, 11a-3p

WMYW 102.7 PAULDING COUNTY'S OWN

Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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

OBITUARIES



PAULDING, OH:

Lynn P. Wells III, age 55, formerly of Payne, passed away from cerebellar ataxia, a rare brain condition, on November 12, 2026 at The Community Care Center in Paulding, Ohio.

Lynn was born on May 22, 1971, to Lynn "Phil" and the late Vickie (Lehman) Wells. He grew up in Broughton and graduated from Wayne Trace High School and Vantage Vocational School in 1989.

Lynn loved the outdoors. He spent his spare time fishing the rivers and reservoirs of Paulding County and making memories with his family at deer camp. He also enjoyed collected and trading sports cards and watching NASCAR, always cheering on his favorite driver, Dale Earnhardt Jr., and his No. 88 car. After graduation, he worked at M&W Countertops in Grabill, Indiana, for 33 years as an assembler and truck driver.

Lynn will be fondly remembered for his good nature, soft-spoken manner, and funny humor. One of his favorite sayings was, "Don't do something stupid!" He lived life his own way.

Lynn leaves behind a son, Lynn IV, of Paulding; a daughter, Anna, of Payne; a sister, Wendy, of Van Wert; a brother, Jamie (Mikala), of Arizona; his father, Phil (Judy), of Cecil. He also leaves behind many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, grandparents, and a cousin.

Visitation will take place on Monday, November 16, 2026 from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm at Den Herder Funeral Home in Paulding. Funeral services will be held at 12:00pm on Monday, November 16, 2026 at the funeral home with Rev. Ron Hofacker officiating. Burial will take place in Scott Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Elara Caring Hospice Foundation, P.O. Box 58, Jackson, MI 49204, or to Community Care Center, 199 Road 103, Paulding, OH 45879.

Online condolences may be shared at www.denherderfh.com.



PHS Vantage Career Center Senior, Silas Foltz, was recognized at Tuesday's PCED banquet for his success in earning a national championship in Server Administration through Business Professionals of America.

PAULDING PUTNAM NAMES BURKHART BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, ADDS TWO BROADBAND TECHNICIANS

Paulding Putnam is pleased to announce that Luke Burkhart has taken on a new role as Business Development Coordinator. Burkhart brings more than 20 years of sales experience and will help drive growth as the primary contact for fiber business customers.

In this role, Burkhart will build strong relationships with existing business accounts, coordinating with internal teams to make sure customers' needs are met. He will also promote Paulding Putnam's products and services through community engagement, member and customer visits, and networking.

"Sometimes growth starts long before anyone else can see it," Burkhart said. "At the end of the day, technology is only part of the equation. The real opportunity is in how we use it to build stronger communities and open doors for what comes next."

Burkhart will place special focus on schools, hospitals, businesses, and large industries that serve as lifelines to local communities, helping them find the right internet, fiber transport, and carrier-class solutions.

"I enjoy helping these anchors of our communities find solutions that make sense," he said. "Same roots. Same cooperative values. Huge possibilities."



Luke Burkhart has taken on a new role as Business Development Coordinator at Paulding Putnam.

New broadband technicians join the team

The co-op has also hired two new broadband technicians, Louis Davies and Seth Overmyer, to assist with the cooperative's growing fiber network and home installations. Nearly 1,075 miles of mainline fiber have been constructed to date, with more member communities still planned for service. An availability map can be found online at www.PPEC.coop/internet.

Businesses interested in Paulding Putnam's fiber solutions can contact Luke Burkhart at lburkhart@ppec.coop or call 567-440-6679. More information is available online at www.PPEC.coop/internet.

LIFEWAY WESLEYAN CHURCH TO HOST CRAFT BAZAAR DECEMBER 5

Lifeway Wesleyan Church will host its annual Craft Bazaar on Saturday, December 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at 7722 Moeller Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The event will feature more than 70 vendors offering a wide variety of homemade and unique crafts. There will be opportunities to find one-of-a-kind gifts while supporting local artisans and talented crafters.

Breakfast and lunch will also be available throughout the event, making it a great opportunity to enjoy a day of shopping and fellowship.

For more information and updates, visit the Lifeway Wesleyan Craft Bazaar page on Facebook.

ST. LOUIS BESANCON TO HOST ANNUAL HAM & TURKEY DINNER

On Sunday, November 22nd, St. Louis Besancon is hosting their annual ham and turkey dinner from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. serving ham, turkey, several sides and dessert. Featuring the popular country store with homemade food and hand-crafted items. Also featuring a silent auction and selling tickets for a chance to win a trip to Florida or a turkey.

Drive thru available for the dinners until 1:00 p.m.

TOLEDO POST TROOPER OF THE YEAR

TOLEDO – Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper John Sanders-Tirado has been selected as the 2026 Trooper of the Year at the Toledo Post.

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

Trooper Sanders-Tirado is now in contention for the District and State Trooper of the Year Award to be announced later.

Trooper Sanders-Tirado joined the Highway Patrol in 2017 and served at the Lima and Toledo Posts. A graduate of Findlay High School, Trooper Sanders-Tirado studied Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Management at the University of Findlay. Trooper Sanders-Tirado previously earned the Ohio State Highway Patrol Criminal Patrol Award.

Scripture of the Week

"For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves."

— 1 Peter 2:15-16

I'M WALKING IN VICTORY



I am victorious in life. I am more than a conqueror. I am a world overcomer. I overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony. My faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

The favor of God surrounds me like a shield. I have favor in the sight of all men. God goes before me making the crooked places straight and opening doors that no man can shut.

I have the mind of Christ and hold the thoughts, feelings and purposes of His heart. I have the mind of the Holy Spirit which is life and peace. I am spiritually minded. I am living the life of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells within me and directs me.

I have an unction from the Holy One and I know all things. The Holy Spirit is leading me and guiding me into all truth. He is revealing things to me and showing me things to come.

I have been born again of the incorruptible seed of the Word of God which lives and abides forever. I am a new creation in Christ. Old things have passed away and all things have become new. I have the nature of God. I am created in His image and in His likeness. I am seated with Christ in heavenly places.

I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I am in right standing with God. I am accepted in the beloved. God loves me and nothing can separate me from His love. I am sanctified, consecrated and separated from the world. I am one with God.

I am strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. I am empowered through my union with Him. I am anointed. I have been created by God to prosper and make a difference in this world. I am a success. I am the head. I am above only. I am blessed.

I am the redeemed of the Lord. I am redeemed from sickness and disease. I am the healed of the Lord. Sickness, disease, viruses and infections cannot live on my body. My body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus flows throughout every cell, organ and tissue of my body. By His stripes I am healed.

Peace and Love,

—Pastor Dwayne



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SOUP IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

Penny For Your Thoughts
By: Nancy Whitaker

Soup weather is approaching fast and I am a soup lover, soup maker and soup eater. Let's see! I like about every kind of soup I can think of.

First of all, when I was growing up, Campbell's Soup was popular and, of course, our favorite was Chicken Noodle Soup. Then the other soup we liked was Vegetable Beef Soup.

Today, I buy some canned soup, but usually use them in a sauce or gravy. Now one recipe my grandma had was chicken noodles and dumplings. Served over mashed potatoes, it was so good that i cooked it for my kids and they cook it for their kids.

Granny's recipe for Chicken and Dumplings was this: She used some kind of baking flour called Bisquick. You can still buy it today and follow the directions. You would think Grandma would have boiled down a chicken. took the meat off the bone, cooked noodles and drop in the hot soup her homemade (Bisquick) dumplings. But she used chicken noodle soup!

One kind of canned soup I like is Tomato Soup. There is nothing better than a grilled cheese sandwich dunked in tomato soup.

I enjoy making soup in cold weather. There is nothing better than coming in from the cold to a pot of homemade soup cooking slowly on the stove. One of my favorite soups to make is homemade Vegetable soup. I start out with beef broth (in a can or box) and some shredded cabbage (If you don't want to shred the cabbage yourself pick up a bag of shredded cabbage in the grocery store). Normally, it's used to make coleslaw, but it works in your veggie soup too.

The next step is adding chopped onions, potatoes. and carrots. When these vegetables get partway cooked, put in a can of beef. Now, it's time for either canned or frozen vegetables. I like frozen corn, peas and green beans.

Stir and cook till all the vegetables are soft and then add 2 cans of diced tomatoes.

As the soup slowly cooks, you can smell the beef and all those vegetables throughout the house. Now I am hungry for soup!



I occasionally watch Mama Sue on the internet. She is a southern cook and airs a show online called Mama Sue's Kitchen. A few years ago, Mama Sue was diagnosed with breast cancer. She was very brave, went through surgery and then took chemotherapy.

Of course, she was sick to her stomach and could hardly eat anything. However, with the help of her husband, she gave it her all to fight the cancer. Once she recuperated enough to go back on her show she thanked all her viewers for their gifts, love and support.

She then told of a special recipe a viewer had sent her that might be something that she could eat. It was a recipe for homemade potato soup and Mama Sue said the recipe was so good that she ate it regularly. She gave the recipe and let me say this — it's the best tator soup I have ever eaten! It's not spicy and is something that just soothes your insides and it tastes so good.

Here is that simple Potato Soup recipe:

One box or container of Chicken broth

A medium-sized bag of frozen O'Brien hash brown potatoes

1 package of Pioneer Country gravy mix

Combine the items and bring to a boil. As it cooks it becomes a little thicker. This is the soup I turn to when I have a cold or upset tummy.

Tonight the air grew cooler. I had all the items here to make that simply good hot potato soup.

I hope you enjoy it too.

Are you a soup maker or lover? What's your favorite kind of soup? Share some of your recipes for soup and I'll 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

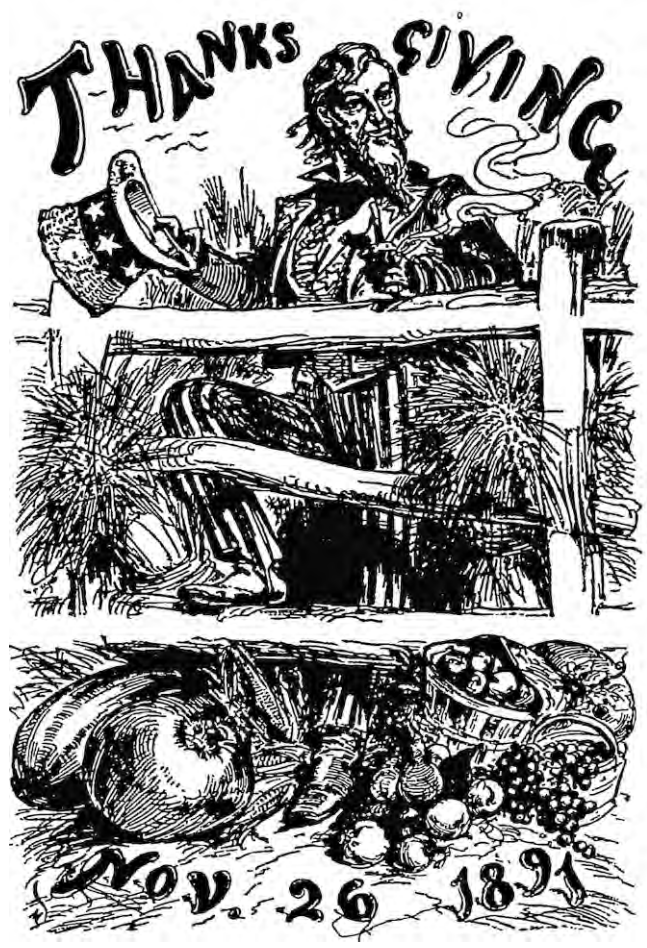
OSU / Michigan Items & Gift Cards available in the Gift Shop!

We accept cash, check, credit/debit card*
*3.99% convenience fee

Gift Shop open M-F 9am-4pm

PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL

YEARS AGO IN PAULDING COUNTY



November 1891: A Thanksgiving illustration from the Paulding County Republican newspaper on Nov. 26, 1891, depicting Uncle Sam and a bountiful harvest.

By: MELINDA KRICK

For November, here are a few timely about past Thanksgivings, including pioneers in Charloe in 1844, a message from a local poet and a Thanksgiving song from the days of one-room schools.

From the Paulding Democrat, Dec. 2, 1897:

"First" Thanksgiving

Fifty-three years ago [1844] last Thursday the first Thanksgiving dinner in Paulding County was given at the Hankins hotel in Charloe, which was then the county seat and the largest village in the county.

The menu consisted of wild turkey, venison, pheasant, squirrel, bear meat and fish (no oysters) served in every style, and supplemented by an abundance of cakes, pies, candies, etc. It was a swell affair and the elite of the surrounding country sat down at the happy pioneer board.

Among those in attendance were Judge A.H. Palmer, Judge Robert Shirley, Judge A.S. Latty, G.H. Philips, Hon. John W. Ayers, Judge A.J. Taylor, Judge D.C. Carey (then a lad of 18), John Mason, sen., Nathan Shirley, William K. Daggett, John McClish, Dimmitt Mackerel, Dr. John Kingery and Dr. Royal B. Cooper.

The evening was spent in dancing and other festivities. The proclamations were issued by John Tyler then president of the United States, and Wilson Shannon governor of Ohio. It was truly a pioneer feast and no doubt a very happy one.

From the Paulding Democrat, Nov. 24, 1938:

Songs of the Flatrock

The story is told of Abraham Lincoln—how he once stopped at a mud puddle and, in his Sunday-go-to-meetin' clothes, assisted a pig out of the mire. We can only take for granted that the pig was grateful, although we are certain that Lincoln was happy.

Now let us suppose that the pig had deliberately crawled back into the mire—how do you think Lincoln would have felt?

Perhaps that is the way it is with the God of our Thanksgiving. Each year He hears the thanks from the sons of men, grateful for what He has done for them, and when the day is past they forget His kindness, and often neglect to help themselves or their fellowmen.

Let us be grateful this year for the many blessings received, and resolve to stay and assist our fellowmen, to stay upon life's highway away from the mire—then indeed God will see us through.

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is more than a name
Heartfelt thanks it should proclaim
A time to pause in the busy year
Noting the harvest treasures here
Keeping the faith our fathers knew,
Seeking new tasks yet to do
Giving thanks for all things good
Inspiring only brotherhood
Visions for the future see
In this land of liberty
Nearing goals yet untrod
Giving ever thanks to God.
— Don Parson,
"The Bard of Flat Rock"

From the Paulding Progress, Nov. 26, 1953:

This And That

By: Emma Sutton

For all these many years Thanksgiving Day has been traditional in America. It has meant happiness to families, especially. In days gone by, a few farmers raised turkeys but all of them raised chickens, so for this holiday always there was the dressing-stuffed, roast chicken or chickens. Little children's eyes almost popped out, as they looked at those nice drum-sticks. Pumpkin pie was a must, and mother did not get the pumpkin from a can either. Can't you, who remember a few years back, just see the big yellow pumpkin that had to be cut up, cooked and then made into perhaps six or eight luscious pumpkin pies?

I do not know if the present-day school children have a Thanksgiving song that they like to sing or not. The one formerly enjoyed by all children went something like this:

"Over the river and through the woods

(Continued on Page 4)

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

MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY

By: Mark Holtsberry

Arthur John "Jack" Priest is an interesting fellow I thought I would share with you.



Arthur John "Jack" Priest was born August 31, 1887, in Southampton, Hampshire, England. He was one of twelve children born to Harry and Elizabeth (Garner) Priest.

Arthur spent his working life as a "stoker" aboard steam-powered ships. Deep in the bowels of the ships, he shoveled coal into the boilers. He was part of a group called the "black gang." These fellows were often covered in black coal dust.

The men worked in groups that included firemen, trimmers, and a fireman's steward known as a "peggy," whose task was to bring food and refreshments to the crew. The work was intense and often performed while stripped to the waist due to the extreme heat from the coal-fed furnaces.

Arthur's life story is one of survival, luck, and being in the right place at the wrong time. Priest survived four ship sinkings and two major collisions, most of them occurring during World War I.

In 1908, he was aboard the RMS Asturias when it was involved in a collision. In 1911, the RMS Olympic collided with HMS Hawke. In April 1912, he survived the sinking of the Titanic after it struck an iceberg. Two other crew members, Archie Jewell and Violet Jessop, also survived the disaster.

In 1915, Arthur married Anna Hampton in Birkenhead, England. Their marriage produced three boys: Arthur John, George, and Frederick Harry. The family lived at 17 Briton, Southampton, England, for many years.

During World War I, while serving as a stoker aboard the ship SMS Greif in 1916, the vessel was involved in a naval battle and sank.

Also in 1916, Arthur was serving as a stoker aboard the HMHS Britannic when it struck a mine and sank. The Britannic was serving as a hospital ship but was suspected of carrying munitions. Fellow survivors included Archie Jewell and Violet Jessop.

In 1917, while working as a stoker aboard the SS Donegal, the ship was struck by a torpedo from UC-27, a German U-boat. Archie Jewell was killed in the sinking of the SS Donegal.

In 1917, Priest was awarded the Mercantile Marine Ribbon for his service during World War I.

Following the sinking of the SS Donegal, Priest retired from working at sea as a stoker. He claimed that no one wished to sail with him after so many disasters.

Other than his remarkable survival stories, little information is available about his personal life.

According to records, Arthur passed away on August 31, 1937, at his home in Southampton, England, from pneumonia at the age of 50. Years of breathing coal dust certainly could not have helped his lungs. His wife was at his side.

He was buried in Hollybrook Cemetery in Southampton, England, which contains more than 53,000 graves.

Because of his remarkable stories of survival at sea, Arthur John "Jack" Priest earned the nickname "The Unsinkable Stoker."

…Until Next Time!

The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

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

There are two basic services the agency provides:

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

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

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

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

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



CHRISTMAS EVE WITH STEVIE

Dotting My Teas By: Marlene Oxender

My brother Stevie, who had Down syndrome, had a knack for finding fun things to do. Going out for ice cream or heading to a ballpark were mainstays on his list of suggestions, and it was easy to agree with whatever he proposed we should do next. He walked this earth for 54 years and left us with memories that still shape the way we live.

Stevie knew all about Santa Claus – and who the real Santa was. Sometimes it was the neighbor guy who drove by our house in his pickup truck on the way to the fire hall where he'd be Santa. Sometimes the real Santa appeared at a Special Olympics holiday event. Or maybe, from under the white beard, Santa had a voice that sounded exactly like your cousin's.

Apparently, there is no reason to let the truth get in the way of the magic of the season.

On Christmas Eve in 2023, my family and I heard distant sirens that became increasingly louder as they made their way toward our house. Santa had told us he'd be making a surprise visit to see Stevie, arriving by way of a fire truck.

Because the weather was so mild, we stepped onto our porch. It was a foggy Christmas Eve, and through the mist we could see the fire trucks, aglow with colorful lights, parked in front of our house. Stevie turned to me and asked, "What's going on?"

It felt as if we were living in a children's storybook. The fog made the scene even more magical as we watched Santa and his helpers walk up the driveway. It was a time for hugs and pats on the back. It was a time to simply wish each other a Merry Christmas.

When Santa's visit was over, we watched the crew head back to their trucks, which were still lit up and waiting for them – much like a sleigh with reindeer. Before the trucks drove away, there were honks, waves, and the wail of a siren. Stevie stretched his arm above his head and signed "I love you."

We headed back indoors and watched him open the gift Santa had delivered: a dozen cookies from Cookies on Demand in Montpelier.

In the video we captured, we can see him selecting the cookie we knew he'd choose: a sugar cookie with sprinkles on top. And although the cookies were a gift to him, we noticed he was sharing with others and asking what kind they'd like.

When he was in elementary school, it became apparent he was going to grow up knowing a lot of people. He



began his school days at Sunnyside School but later attended schools in surrounding communities. In each place, he met others who would remember him for years to come.

A few years back, I was shopping with Stevie when he saw a lady he knew from days gone by. The two were obviously happy to see each other and exchanged hugs and well wishes. The holidays were upon us, so she took the opportunity to ask Stevie what he was buying her for Christmas. His smile never left his face as he replied, "Probably nothing."

His honest answer made us laugh. And laugh each time we retell it.

It seems everyone has a favorite Stevie story, and I imagine the gal who was told she was likely getting nothing is still chuckling. Every Christmas went down in history as the Christmas everyone received nothing from Stevie. Except his continued friendship.

If we were to rename the syndrome, most of us would agree it should be called "Downright Awesome Syndrome."

As Stevie grew older and changes in his memory made him rely increasingly on others for help with everyday tasks, his humor and way of approaching life helped us through those changes. Even as his world changed, he reminded us that joy could still be present.

We do not know how many more Christmas Eves we will spend with the people we love or how many more chances we will have to brighten someone else's life. We do know that life asks us to experience it all: the trials, the heartaches, the victories, the laughter, the hugs, the winks – and, in Stevie's case, the little whistle he began using to get our attention.

It would be fun to read a picture book of our own life story. We would see the friends we met along the way and the fun things that were part of our life: the rainbows and crescent moons, bicycles and motorcycles, scoops of ice cream and plenty of birthday cakes.

We'd see proof that our lives are already full. We'd see that hugs and handshakes from friends are part of our wonderful world. And we'd understand that, beyond the gift of continued friendship, there is "probably nothing" that could make our lives more wonderful.

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

(Vantage cont'ed from Page 1)

equipment in Marketing & Design and sitting inside a police cruiser in Criminal Justice to operating a sander in Carpentry and working to find a cure for a zombie outbreak in Medical Assisting, students enjoyed a variety of hands-on activities that offered a glimpse into the many opportunities available at Vantage.

Students explored all 19 Vantage Career Center programs, including Ag & Industrial Power Technology, Auto Collision Repair, Auto Technology, Carpentry, Construction Equipment Technology, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Education, Electricity, Health Technology, Machining and Engineering Technologies, Medical Assisting, Industrial Mechanics, Marketing & Design, Network Systems, Sports Exercise Therapy, Transition to Work, and Welding.

Beyond introducing eighth graders to potential career paths, the tours also provided current Vantage students with an opportunity to develop their leadership and communication skills while sharing their passion for their chosen programs.

"One of the best parts of these tours is watching our current students take pride in showing younger students what they've learned and what they're capable of doing," said Tessa Laing, Community Relations Coordinator at Vantage Career Center. "We want every student who walks through our doors to leave knowing there are so many opportunities ahead of them, and that their future is full of possibilities."

As the two-day event came to a close, students left with more than just a glimpse inside Vantage's classrooms and labs. They gained firsthand experiences, discovered new interests, and began making connections between their education and potential future careers.

Vantage Career Center looks forward to continuing to build on these experiences as students progress through high school and begin exploring the many pathways available to them.

For more information about programs and opportuni[illegible]en-

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE



Grabill's coordinates are latitude, 41° 12"and 36'. The longitude is -84.968358 West. Or the latitude is 41.210049° north. The Earth is divided horizontally into 90 sections North and South of the equator. The equator is 0° longitude and the North Pole being 90°. Also the same divisions in the Southern half.

We live at 41° North latitude, nearly midway between the equator in the North Pole. Some cities that would be nearly the same latitude and have nearly the same climate would be; New York City, Medford, Oregon, and Madrid, Spain. Also Naples, Italy. Portland Oregon would be South and have a warmer climate as would Washington DC. Boston would have a cooler climate except some areas have their climate affected by the water.

Some areas that have the same climate as Florida would be Algeria the center of Egypt Iraq and Iran and the center of China. It has always amazed me that there is so much more land mass north of the equator then South. The equator runs through nearly the midpoint of South America and Africa, which are the big land masses. The bottom half of the Earth has less land and more water.

My granddaughter just returned from a work trip in Peru,South America. Since it is our fall it was spring there, but it is only 12° south of the equator it was hot! I always wondered what it feels like to live near the equator. I probably wouldn't like it.

I have always heard that in Israel it is the only country that grows both apples and oranges. Looks like it is about the 33rd parallel, about the same climate as mid Florida.

Fun fact, Siberia would be about 65° North which would run through the heart of Alaska. Greenland would lie a bit north which is probably the largest cold land mass. Australia would be about 33° South going through the southern tip of Africa and nearly midway through South America.

I don't have a globe at this time. It would be helpful finding latitude and longitude. Now I'm just wondering what is the climate of France or Germany, perhaps even Switzerland. We'll have to address that in the future.

—James Neuhouser

(History… cont'ed from Page 3)

To grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way
To carry the sleigh
Through white and drifted snow.
Over the river and through the woods
To have a first-rate play
Hurrah! for the fun, is the pudding done?
Hurrah! for Thanksgiving Day."

I fear that in the horse-and-buggy days as well as in this day of automobile, plane, radio and television, we have often forgotten to be truly thankful. When we open our eyes this Thanksgiving morning, let us remember the reason we have this holiday.

From the Paulding Democrat, Nov. 21, 1907:

Cost of Thanksgiving Dinner

Comparison Shows at Least 40 Percent Advance in Ten Years.

Thanksgiving is a heritage from our Puritan forefathers, and those Americans who are true to their traditions always do their best, of course. But this year the American father will find himself against a proposition which differs a little from that of his progenitors who provided the feast of thankfulness for the hungry youngsters of a century or two ago.

Then the head of the household would shoulder his rifle and go out to knock over a couple of wild turkeys while his good wife was busy getting out from the cellar the vegetables and fruits to complete the feast. Nowadays father will have to hand out an unusual sum if the good wife is to feed everybody turkey with cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and other Thanksgiving fixings which have come to be necessary to the celebration of the day.

It costs much more now to feed a family than it did at Thanksgiving time 10 years ago. Here are the figures for 1907 and 1897:

	1907.	1897.
Turkeys, per pound	$ 25	$ 18
Chickens, per pound	20	15
Geese, per pound	15	11
Ducks; per pound	20	15
Cranberries, quart	12½	07
Sweet potatoes, per pound	05	05
Butter, per pound	35	28
Celery, bunch	50	30
Pumpkins, each	20	15
Apples, peck	60	50
Eggs, dozen	29	20
Oysters, quart	40	25



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HAVE A WEDDING, ENGAGEMENT OR ANNIVERSARY?

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

PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages

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

New Schedule For Smaller Villages

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

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

ance, Sherwood, Hicksville) will be closed November 26 for Thanksgiving.

- All DPLS locations will close from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on December 9 for a staff luncheon.
- All DPLS locations will be closed Dec. 24-28 for Christmas.
- Defiance Public and Sherwood Branch libraries will close at noon on December 31. (Hicksville's Johnson Memorial Library is regularly closed on Thursdays.)
- All DPLS locations will be closed on January 1.

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

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

email:
info@westbendnews.net
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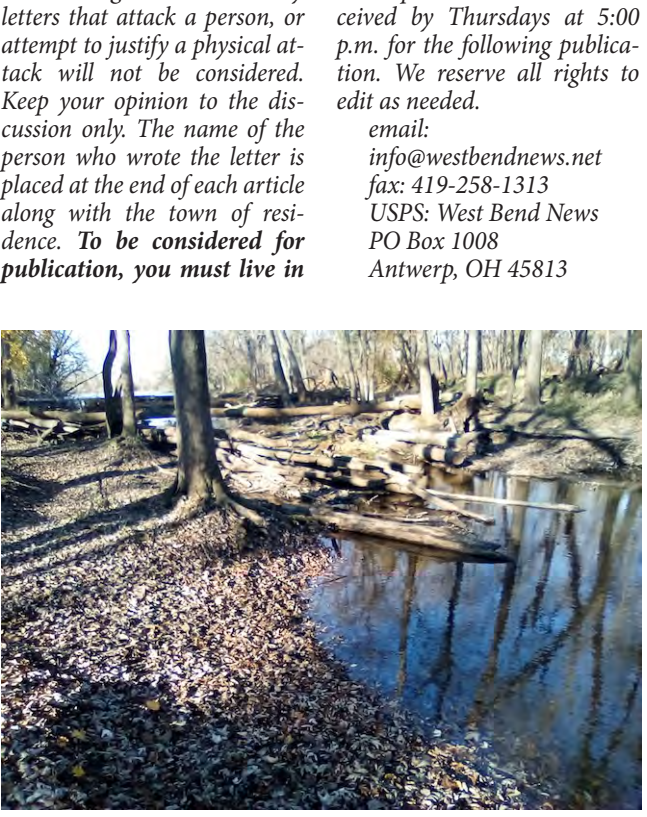

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nature Center/ Creek

The work at our nature center has started and interesting though not sure what is going on yet but definitely going ahead with the plans to revitalize it to make it more attractive for walking and being out there. Lots of the stuff going to be used is there too so be interesting to see where everything goes. One thing I'm wondering is how much will the diverting flood water help and be noticeable in a big flood. That whole area around the center to the fairgrounds is a flood plain. I know there are instruments to measure how much water is flowing past an area, don't know if that will be implemented out there or not. But taking a figure that if a million gallons an hour is flowing down the creek how much will be diverted and will it be noticeable, water is like air, it will pretty much go where it wants and can get in. But be fun seeing this stuff being installed and see how everything works out.

Then second question, the creek below the dam that is pretty much blocked from the water being able to flow as it should. Have mentioned this to people and some said it would upset the ecology but I don't see how cleaning out a creek to return it to it's natural flow would upset it. Those blockages are doing more to upset it by not letting it flow and blocking fish and other animals from traveling up or down it. It's more like a big sewer now and in hot weather smells terrible with all the trash and hardly any water in it. There are two big log jams within a quarter of a mile below the dam that have it blocked and more is piling up being them as well as dirt filling in the creek. Then the one behind the fairgrounds has become ridiculous, grown longer and higher and had the creek completely blocked with water barely being able to flow. There is no way any fish could get by it from above or below. That thing is not going to move by itself, too many big cottonwood trees have fallen across and are jammed on both banks between other trees and there are actually trees growing in the middle of this mess in the creek bed, just was out there and saw this a few days ago. You can't even see the water other than above and below it, just the small amount getting through. Clean these things out and the so called ecology will recover faster than people think with the creek flowing as it used to when we grew up fishing from uptown to the dam and back. I'm sure this will fall on deaf ears as not important but then people complain about flooding when the creek can't flow. Then maybe the work going on at the nature center to help the flooding will be more noticeable. I have sent some photos of the blockages I'm talking about, not sure if they can or will use them. But they show your creek that you should be proud of, but it's an embarrassment now to see and smell. Want to see what I'm talking about, go take a walk below the dam and think about it!

Thanks to the West Bend News for letting us bring things to the public that need addressed.

—Gregg Gorman,
Paulding Ohio

VAN WERT CIVIC THEATRE ANNOUNCES YOUTH AUDITIONS FOR "THE BATTLE OF BOAT"

History comes alive as Van Wert Civic Theatre prepares for an incredibly unique, epic regional theater event. Director Doug Grooms is holding Youth Theatre auditions for The Battle of Boat, a brilliant, cinematic musical masterpiece written by the acclaimed British duo Jenna Donnelly and Ethan Lewis Maltby.

It's 1916, and while the world is at war, a group of courageous children is determined to find their own way to help. Frustrated by being left behind, they embark on a heartwarming adventure to prove that you're never too young to make a difference. Featuring a sweeping, cinematic score and an all-youth cast, this is a timeless story of hope, bravery, and the unbreakable spirit of friendship.

Casting requirements for this grand production call exclusively for an all-youth ensemble of approximately 10 to 20 performers aged 8 to 18. There are absolutely no adult characters in the show, meaning the youth carry the entire story! Director Doug Grooms is looking for young actors and singers who can handle a sweeping, emotional, and epic vocal score. Key roles include Charlie, the determined leader; William, his resourceful friend; and Grierson, the neighborhood bully.

Auditions are scheduled for November 16 and November 17, 2026, running from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM each day at the Van Wert Civic Theatre at 118 S. Race Street in Van Wert. The audition sign up link is available at vwct.org in the "Current Season" tab. You can also listen to audio tracks and look over show details at https://www.theatricalrights.com/show/battle-of-boat/#production, or check our updates at vwct.org.

PUT YOUR FINANCES IN POSITION FOR 2027

As 2026 comes to a close, now is a good time to look for opportunities to strengthen your financial plan before the new year. A year-end review can help ensure your financial decisions remain aligned with your long-term goals, identify potential planning opportunities and help you enter 2027 with greater confidence.

Here are several planning opportunities:

Reflect on your progress. Start your review by evaluating how the past year impacted your long-term plan. Consider how any life changes may have affected your goals and update your strategies as necessary.

Consider your tax situation. Work with your financial advisor and tax professional to understand your tax situation and identify year-end opportunities that may benefit you. If you're 73 or older, be sure to take any required minimum distributions (RMDs) if necessary.

Increase contributions to your savings goals. Consider increasing contributions to your health savings account (HSA), workplace retirement plan or, if you're saving for education, a 529 plan. These accounts can help build financial security and may offer tax advantages. Even small increases today can make a meaningful difference over time.

Maximize your impact. If giving to others is one of your goals, consider charitable giving or annual gifting strategies to help support the people and causes you care about while also providing potential tax benefits. And note that tax rules have changed for charitable donations: with a standard deduction, you can deduct up to $1,000 of cash donations ($2,000 for couples filing jointly) and if you itemize, you can only deduct aggregate donations that exceed 0.5% of your adjusted gross income, up to the applicable limit. These donations must be made to a qualified charitable organization.

Monitor your long-term strategy. If you haven't done so this year, now is as good a time as any to review your portfolio for the year to make sure it is still in line with your goals, time horizon and comfort with risk. If need be, you can rebalance. You might also want to check beneficiaries on your financial accounts, investments and insurance policies, especially if your family or circumstances have changed.

Work with your professionals. Making necessary year-end moves in ways that benefit your situation can feel complicated. Your financial advisor and tax professional can help you identify opportunities and avoid pitfalls.

A few proactive steps before 2027 can help you enter the new year with greater confidence and a clearer understanding of where you stand financially. By reviewing your progress, evaluating tax and savings opportunities and confirming your long-term strategy remains on track, you can start the year focused on what matters most to you.

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

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors, cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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Hicksville, OH 43526
419-542-6260

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READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS

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

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

Cecil: 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House

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

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

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

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

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

Ney: Marathon

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

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

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

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

Scott: Scott Post Office

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

INDIANA LOCATIONS

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

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

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

Hoagland: Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market

Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain

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

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

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

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PANTHERS' PLAYOFF RUN ENDS AT LIBERTY CENTER, CAPPING IMPRESSIVE FOOTBALL SEASON



An impressive tackle by Paulding Senior Emmet Barnes and Zac Salas, taking down Tiger's Tatum Murdock! ***More pictures at engagingexposures.com***



Paulding's only touchdown by Senior Jordan Manz leaves the defense in the dust as he runs the pass into the endzone. ***More pictures at engagingexposures.com***

LIBERTY CENTER – The Paulding Panthers saw their 2026 football season come to an end in the second round of the OHSAA playoffs, falling 45-10 to the Liberty Center Tigers on Friday, November 6, at Liberty Center High School.

The Tigers established control early, jumping out to a 17-0 lead in the opening quarter before adding 21 points in the second period. Paulding found the end zone in the second quarter, but Liberty Center carried a commanding 38-7 advantage into halftime.

The Panthers added a field goal in the third quarter, matching Liberty Center's seven points in the period with three of their own. Neither team scored in the fourth quarter, leaving the final margin at 45-10.

Despite the disappointing finish, Paulding put together an impressive 2026 campaign, concluding the regular season with a 9-3 record and a 6-1 mark in Green Meadows Conference (GMC) play. The Panthers' successful season featured a productive offense, a stingy defense and several outstanding individual performances that helped propel the team into the second round of the OHSAA playoffs.

Through their first 11 games, the Panthers accumulated 3,540 yards of total offense, averaging 321.8 yards per contest. Paulding's balanced attack featured 2,230 passing yards and 1,310 rushing yards, with the team scoring 351 points, an average of 31.9 per game.

Quarterback Ridge Hunt directed the passing attack, completing 134 of 266 attempts for 2,101 yards and 21 touchdowns. Hunt completed 50.4 percent of his passes while throwing 10 interceptions. Wes Grindstaff added 92 passing yards and a touchdown, while Sawyer Hunt contributed 37 yards and another score.

The Panthers' ground game was powered by Avery Cooper, who surpassed the 1,000-yard milestone with 1,034 yards on 166 carries. Cooper averaged 6.2 yards per attempt and scored an impressive 18 rushing touchdowns.

Zach Salas contributed 148 rushing yards and three touchdowns on 20 carries, while Jalen Manz added 116 yards and a touchdown on 14 attempts.

In the receiving department, Jordan Manz turned in a remarkable season, hauling in 49 receptions for 1,008 yards and 13 touchdowns. Manz averaged 20.6 yards per reception, providing the Panthers with a dangerous deep threat throughout the season.

Grady Arend was another reliable target, recording 33 receptions for 416 yards and two touchdowns. Jalen Manz added 18 catches for 243 yards and four scores, while Nick Baughman contributed 20 receptions for 231 yards and a touchdown.

Grindstaff also made an impact in the passing game, collecting 13 receptions for 224 yards and two touchdowns.

While Paulding's offense generated plenty of excitement, the Panthers' defense was equally impressive throughout the season.

Through 11 games, Paulding surrendered just 141 points, an average of 12.8 per contest. The defense allowed 2,239 total yards, holding opponents to an average of 203.5 yards per game.

Zach Salas led the defensive effort with an outstanding 117 tackles, including 16 tackles for loss and two sacks. Salas also recorded an interception, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.

Jalen Manz followed with 105 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and three sacks, along with an interception.

Nick Baughman contributed 77 tackles and five tackles for loss, while Jordan Manz recorded 71 tackles and three tackles for loss. Both players also registered interceptions.

Javvon Stiltner was a force along the defensive front, finishing with 67 tackles, 16 tackles for loss and four sacks. Stiltner also forced two fumbles and recovered another.

Cooper contributed on both sides of the football, recording 60 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and a team-leading six sacks.

Arend added 55 tackles, nine tackles for loss and five sacks, while Emmet Barnes recorded 37 tackles and a team-high four interceptions, returning three for touchdowns.

As a unit, the Panthers recorded 716 tackles, 81 tackles for loss, 21 sacks and 13 interceptions through their first 11 games.

Paulding also received solid contributions from its special teams.

Magdiel Lopez connected on 11 of 16 extra-point attempts and converted both of his field-goal attempts, including a 47-yarder.

Jalen Manz handled the punting duties, averaging 33.8 yards on 17 punts. He also contributed in the return game, recording 142 yards on five returns, including a touchdown.

A Season to Remember

Although the Panthers' postseason journey ended against a strong Liberty Center squad, the 2026 season provided plenty of highlights for the Paulding football program.

With a 1,000-yard rusher in Cooper, a 1,000-yard receiver in Jordan Manz and a quarterback who surpassed 2,000 passing yards, Paulding demonstrated its ability to move the football both through the air and on the ground.

The defense complemented that production with consistent performances, helping the Panthers advance into the second round of the state playoffs.

While the final scoreboard at Liberty Center was not what the Panthers had hoped for, the team's accomplishments throughout the fall gave Paulding plenty of reasons to celebrate its 2026 football season.

Scoring by Quarter:
Paulding: 0 7 3 0 = 10
Liberty Center: 17 21 7 0 = 45

LIVEWIRES 4-H GROUP THANKS COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORT



The Livewires 4-H Group of Grover Hill would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the community for its generous support during the Grover Hill Halloween festivities.

The group held a fundraiser that evening, offering popcorn, cotton candy, and hot apple cider in exchange for free-will donations. The event was a great opportunity for the members to be involved in the community while raising funds to support their 4-H group.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward funding the Livewires 4-H Group for the 2026-2027 year.

The members and leaders of Livewires would like to thank everyone who stopped by, enjoyed a treat, and made a donation. Your generosity and continued support are greatly appreciated and help make opportunities and experiences possible for our 4-H members.

Thank you, Grover Hill, for supporting our local 4-H youth!

LADY WARRIORS TAKE COMMAND EARLY IN 51-39 VICTORY OVER GARRETT

WOODBURN – The Woodlan Lady Warriors continued their early-season success with a 51-39 victory over the Garrett Lady Railroaders in their second varsity home game of the 2026-27 basketball season.

Woodlan wasted little time establishing control, jumping out to a 19-7 lead in the opening quarter. The Lady Warriors continued their strong play in the second period, outscoring Garrett 11-5 to take a commanding 30-12 advantage into halftime.

Garrett came out stronger in the second half, matching Woodlan's 13 points in the third quarter. The Lady Railroaders continued to battle in the final period, outscoring the Lady Warriors 14-8, but Woodlan's early lead proved too much to overcome.

Woodlan's offense was led by Peoples, who poured in a game-high 17 points. Scheumann followed with 14 points, while Crozier added







PAULDING ELEMENTARY OCTOBER PAWSOME PANTHERS



Paulding Elementary Pawsome Panthers pictured: Bottom row (l-r): Ensley Salas, Jensen Aldred, Emma Manz, and Inigo Diaz. Middle row (l-r): Sylvee Mapes, Gemma-Skye Walters, Everly Rittenhouse, Maeva Arend, Wyatt Colley, and Aubree Mangette. Top row (l-r): D.J. Schlegel, Kaylee Powell, Meela Jones, Kyra Mead, Kenley Miller, Essie Deel, and Kylie Schlueter.

12 to give the Lady Warriors three players scoring in double figures. Hodson contributed four points, while Trygg and Sterling each chipped in two.

For Garrett, Coffman led the way with 14 points, followed by Leech with 10. Jacobs finished with six points, while Miller, Traylor and Lemen each scored three.

The Lady Warriors' impressive first-half performance, which included a 19-point opening quarter, proved to be the difference as Woodlan held off Garrett's second-half rally to secure the 12-point home victory.

Score by the Quarter:
Garrett: 7 5 13 14 = 39
Woodlan: 19 11 13 8 = 51

RENEE BOK COMPETES AT THE BIG E

By: Brooklyn Zeedyk, Fairview FF A Reporter

Fairview FFA member Renee Bok competed in the Eastern Region Dairy Handlers Contest at the Big E. During the contest, Bok demonstrated her skills in handling and presenting dairy cattle while representing the chapter. Fairview FFA congratulates Renee on her participation and dedication.



Pictured is Fairview FFA member Renee Bok and her showing partner.

FAITH MERAZ ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP INTO THE HONOR SOCIETY OF PHI KAPPA PHI

Faith Meraz of Paulding, Ohio, was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at The University of Findlay.

Meraz is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and its territories. Its mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning.

CHP HOME CARE & HOSPICE HOSTS SUCCESSFUL DINNER & AUCTION IN PAULDING



Community Health Professionals in Paulding hosted a meaningful evening at the Paulding County OSU Extension building on Thursday, November 12, 2026. The dinner was catered by Grant's Catering and was gratefully received by all guests. During dinner, guests heard from the CHP admins about how the year went, and they recognized this year's honored families — Roland "Pudge Kennedy family, Paula Gutierrez family, Thomas Rinehart family, and Don Shaffer family; as well as their "Friends of Hospice": Paulding County Hospital and Custom Assembly.

Before the auction started guests heard from guest speaker, a member of the Kennedy family, about their experience with CHP during Pudge's health journey this past year.

The fundraising live auction began with the familiar voices of Joe Barker (My 102.7FM) and Kenneth Thomas (auctioneer for Gorrell Bros.). Silent auction items were also set up for guests to do their bidding that way. From a Kalahari mini vacation to an epic grill package and everything in between, area businesses and organizations showed up big to support the work that CHP does for the Paulding County community in their time of need.

CHP recognized the following people and organizations for an exceptional evening:

Kenny Thomas, Gorrell Brothers - auctioneer; Joe Barker, My 102.7FM - Emcee; Cindy Sinning, RN Business Development; Mariah Stier, photography; Grant's Catering, dinner; Kircher's Flowers - memorial bouquets; Marisa "All Occasions", Defiance - decor/stage; West Bend Printing - event sponsor banner; Jason Sinning and Jordan Wiechart - drink donation table; Tomi Meyer, Paula Stout & families; Amber Foust, Jen Rosebrook, Angelo Tomasi, Shannon King, & Isaac Meyer; Paulding High School Girls Basketball team - set up.

This year's sponsors included: Paulding VFW Post #587, Grant's Catering, Amrize, Avangrid, Paulding County Hospital, Visiting Angels, Custom Assembly, Country Inn Enhanced Living Center, Dooley Funeral Home, Haviland Drainage Products, Paulding First Christian Church, and West Bend Printing & Publishing.









David Gravel, the 2026 World of Outlaws Series Champion. *Photo by Campbell Photography*

THE LEFT TURN

By: Ron Burt

The World of Outlaws NOS Energy Drink Sprint Car Series teams gathered in Charlotte, NC Sunday night to celebrate the 2026 season at the Championship Awards Banquet. The top drivers in the series were honored, and special awards were handed out, and the ceremony wrapped up with the crowning of David Gravel the 2026 Series Champion.

Gravel continues to prove he's among the best Sprint Car drivers racing.

This was his third consecutive championship with Big Game Motorsports and joined an elite group. Only Steve Kinser, Donny Schatz, Brad Sweet, and now Gravel can say they've claimed three straight titles through 49 seasons of World of Outlaws Sprint Car action. Gravel's third championship overall also equaled him with Sammy Swindell for the fourth most in Series history.

Gravel tallied 11 wins, 32 podiums, 48 top fives, and 66 top 10's in 75 starts. His biggest highlight of the year was at Huset's Speedway in June when he won the Huset's High Bank Nationals for a Series record $300,000 payday.

Emerson Axsom was the 2026 Series Rookie of The Year. Axsom's efforts led to him claiming Kevin Gobrecht Rookie of the Year Award presented by Five Star Bodies honors.

No driver or race team can put a car in Victory Lane without a good crew chief.

The 2026 Crew Chief of The Year was Kyle Ripper. He followed his longtime driver, Sheldon Haudenschild, to the World of Outlaw Series and it paid off for him. Joining his Crew Chief on the Podium was Haudenschild accepting the Most Popular Driver Award. The Ohio driver had long lines at every track this year waiting to take pictures and get autographs. He had 11 wins on the season. Ripper helped Haudenschild reach a new personal best with 11 wins this season. They also added a Knoxville Nationals prelim victory. Haudenschild ended the year third in points, a career high.

Wrapping up the award ceremony was Carson Macedo, winner of the Hard Charger Award, Sportsman of The Year, Ace Pruitt and Chassis Builder of The Year, Maxim Chassis.

Finishing in the Top 5 for points and their season and bonus point money #1 Davis Gravel $350,000., #2 Michael "Buddy" Kofoid $280,000., #3 Sheldon Haudenschild $227,500., #4 Carson Macedo $201,250., and Logan Schuchart $175,000.

Until next week, Keep your wheels down. Ron out! www.facebppk.com/ohiosports-blitz/

ANTWERP JH/HS 1ST 9WK HONOR ROLL 2026/27

**Denotes 4.0*

Gold Card 4.0-3.67 (with no grade less than a B-)

SENIORS:

Briley Bagley, Lucy Conley, Roman DeLong, Maclaren Ehrhart, Josie Hahn, Lexy Hicks, *Eliana Hormann, Alyssa Lawson, *Tyler Overman, *Nathan Sanders, *Gabriella Snyder, Allison Sproles, *Keira Spyker, Melita Warford

JUNIORS:

Bryceton Barker, Gage Barker, Noah Lucas, Elise Meyer, *Braxton Peters, Franco Rivera

SOPHOMORES:

Brennan Barker, *Simon Conley, Addison Friend, Alexis Halker, Gianna Laker, Allison Miller, Emerson Morrow, Annabelle Mowery, Alaina Reinhart, *Garrett Robbins

FRESHMEN:

Laylah Bermejo, Eliza Cline, Hayden Grant, Isaac Meyer, Mackenzie Myers, Emma White, Briggs Zartman

EIGHTH GRADE:

Carter Bagley, Carter Beregszazi, *Conley Bissell, *Quinne Bradbury, Aaron Delgado, *Aubree Feehan, *Braxton Fidler, Destiny Getz, Kendall Heine, Dalton Hines, *Adrian Hogans, *Maria Isabel Isidoro, Juliet Jones, Charlotte Kauser, *Jocelyn Laker, *Josephine Laker,Colt Lockhart, *Jameson Malfait, Addysonn McKay, Samuel Montgomery, *Mackenzie Muir, *Julian Rivera, Luke Saylor, Adelynne Slattman, *Serenity Smith, Brady Stairhime, *Sylvie Zartman, *Lily Zijlstra, *Cy Zuber

SEVENTH GRADE:

Brock Barker, Olivia Bennett, Preston Bradley, *Adelle Cline, *Missouri Cottrell, Elliot Henschen, Annabelle James, *Olivia Kosch, Oliver McCague, Lillian Mowery, *Lauren Overman, *Lucas Phillips, Mackenzie Reilly, *Quintin Reyes, Cora Rohrs, *Greyson Smith, Raven Swary, Madison Wiesehan, *Emmett Wurster, Ulrik Zijlstra, June Zuber

SIXTH GRADE:

*Reece Bidlack, *Hadley Bissell, Aria Feasby, Madilyn Hogans, Damian Johnson, Lenore Johnson, Bristol Kauser, *Grace Kobee, Sutton Malfait, Hudson Martenies, Owen Rhonehouse, Rylan Ruffing, *Parker Schmidt, *Jocelyn Skinner, Addison Straley, *Carter Taylor, *Anna Wiechart, Beckett Zuber

Blue Card 3.66-3.33 (with no grade less than a C+)

SENIOR:

Gavin Cook, Blake Gribler, Aiden Hook, Emily Laker, Jennifer Lawhorn

JUNIORS:

Alia Clem, Brayden Fuller, Kaira Jones, Jason McKay, Allison Rice, Clara Rohrs

SOPHOMORES:

Pearce Cottrell, Lucas Langmeyer, Brooklynn Lawson, Robert Montgomery, Evan Overman, David Renshaw, Cate Rohrs

FRESHMEN:

Parker Bermejo, Anderson Honigford, Carson Hughes, Alivia Kiracofe, Bentley Taylor, Gianna Laker, Brooklynn Lawson, Allison Miller, Robert Montgomery, Evan Overman, Garrett Robbins, Aleta Sorrell

EIGHTH GRADE:

Keigan Custer, Maddox Gladieux, Bradyn Miller, Lane Sensabaugh, Edwin White, Kennedy Zuber

SEVENTH GRADE:

Shyahna Barkley, Soren Conley, Sophia Friend, Aubree Frost, Jesstin Getz, Layton Ladd, Jameson Reeb, Rylee Slattman, Brody Smith, Ava Starr

SIXTH GRADE:

Ashlynn Dunham, Brevyn Eicher, Miracle Eutsler, Mason Ganger, Addison Griffiths, Wynter Johnson, Braxton Messman, Skyler Pierce

Honor Roll 3.32-3.0 (with no grade less than a C)

SENIORS:

Keegan Gray-Wyckoff, Weston Rhonehouse

JUNIORS:

Marleigh Garza, Lilly Halsey, Anabelle Saylor, Triston Schilt, Aubrey Skinner, Kora Zuber

SOPHOMORES:

Mallory Barker, Tyler Bradbury, Teagen Eaton, Braylan Ingol, Lorelai Mylek, Landen Rhonehouse

FRESHMEN:

Conner Fidler, Jameson Graham, Kyler Johnson, Chance Lehman, Rosalie Orozco, Jordan Steel, Kolton Stuckey

EIGHTH GRADE:

Nora Conley, Mallory Elder, Maddix Foust, Carter Landis, Jaxton Leinbach, Devin Smith

SEVENTH GRADE:

Aria DeVault, Addlyn Elliott, Bennett Graham, Ariya Hughes, Harper Morrow, Finlee Walls

SIXTH GRADE:

Zaiden Burns, Duke Dangler, Greysyn Hermiller, Roman Laker, Ensley Parisont, Blade Ruffing, Carson Sutton, Lydia White, Brayton Winslow, Wayne Zielke

FAIRVIEW FFA MEMBERS ATTEND NATIONAL CONVENTION



Fairview FFA Members at Churchill Downs.

By: Brooklyn Zeedyk, Fairview FF A Reporter

Fairview FFA members recently traveled to the 2026 National FFA Convention and enjoyed stops in Kentucky along the way, where they took part in agricultural tours, explored career opportunities, and heard from many different speakers, including national FFA officers.

The first day of the trip was spent in Lexington, Kentucky, where the members of the Fairview FFA chapter traveled to the Mill Ridge Farm, home to several race horses. Here, the members learned about the Thoroughbred industry. Later that day, the members traveled to Bluegrass Stockyards and the Y .A.R.D.S. beef education facility. Here, the members learned about the cattle industry and how cattle are bought and sold. That evening, the members enjoyed a night of chapter bonding at Malibu Jack's.

The next day, the 24 members traveled to Churchill Downs, the home of the Kentucky Derby.

Here, members learned about the famous race and the historic racetrack. Later that day, the chapter traveled to Indianapolis for more convention activities and also attended the Three Hills Rodeo.

At the convention, members heard from guest speaker Scott McKain and explored the career show with colleges and other employers. Many members found programs of interest for further education and many potential employers for future careers. Members also attended the session in which National FFA Secretary Lilly Nyland gave her retiring address.

This trip was able to allow the members of the Fairview FFA chapter to experience different aspects of agriculture, explore possible future careers, and strengthen friendships within the chapter.

PAULDING PUTNAM FIBER INTERNET NOW AVAILABLE TO VILLAGE OF PAYNE RESIDENTS



Paulding Putnam Business Development and Key Accounts Coordinator Peter Niagu and Village of Payne mayor Lora Lyons come together to celebrate the partnership between the co-op and village.

PAULDING, OH — Paulding Putnam has partnered with the Village of Payne to bring fiber internet access to Payne residents and businesses, including those who are not electric members of Paulding Putnam. Service is now available to all village residents.

Unlike many providers, Paulding Putnam offers residential internet packages designed around customers' lifestyles, whether they work from home, enjoy streaming and gaming, spend time outdoors, or want additional parental controls and Wi-Fi management tools. All residential plans include straightforward pricing with no contracts, data caps, or hidden fees. Business internet packages are also available for farms, small businesses, and commercial operations requiring advanced connectivity and multi-gig speeds.

As part of a holiday promotion, new customers who sign up for service before January 1, 2027, will receive 3 months of free internet service regardless of the package they choose.

Residents can learn more about packages, check availability, and sign up at www.PPEC.coop/internet or by contacting member services at 800-686-2357.

Service availability & construction updates

Paulding Putnam continues to expand its fiber network to bring service to areas that historically had limited access to high-speed internet. Service is currently available in portions of Paulding, Latty, Haviland, Scott, Grover Hill, Roselm, Ottoville, Fort Jennings, Van Wert, and Kalida. Newly released areas include Convoy and the Village of Payne and surrounding area.

Construction is currently underway in the Columbus Grove area, which is available now for pre-sale. Service is estimated to be live there in the next 6 weeks, but members are encouraged to sign up now to begin the staking process. Please call 800-686-2357 for details or visit www.PPEC.coop/internet.

The Left Turn
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OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY SUPER KIDS LEARN ABOUT 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 Soil 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. Thanks Miss Anna!

HISTORIAN DAVE WESTRICK TO BRING SIMON GIRTY TO LIFE AT GENEALOGICAL MEETING

The Defiance County Genealogical Society will host author and historian Dave Westrick for a special historical portrayal of the infamous local frontiersman Simon Girty at its upcoming chapter meeting.

The meeting will take place on November 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at St. John United Church of Christ, located at 950 Webster St. in Defiance.

Dave Westrick, a Perrysburg resident, is the author of "The Battle of Fallen Timbers, A Change of Worlds." A signed copy of this book will be given away at the program. His deep appreciation for Ohio history began while



Photo courtesy of the Defiance Public Library.

growing up on a farm in Northwest Ohio. After graduating from Ohio University with a degree in journalism and pursuing a successful career in journalism and communication, he shifted his focus toward historical research, specializing in the early frontier era.

Westrick has written and lectured extensively on both the Battle of Fallen Timbers and the controversial life of Simon Girty. He remains deeply involved in regional preservation, serving on the boards of several local history groups, including the Maumee Valley Historical Society, and is a former president of the Fallen Timbers Battlefield Preservation Committee. He resides in Perrysburg with his wife, Nanci.

The event is open to the public. Anyone interested in local history, frontier lore, or regional genealogy is encouraged to attend.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

The Hicksville Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Nov 30th, 2026, at 5:30pm at City Hall in Council Chambers.

The application submitted by Kaitlyn Warren for a Variance for Ordinance 505.13 Keeping Animals Near Dwellings. Kaitlyn is requesting to remove the 100' from occupied dwelling.

—Zoning Official
Village of Hicksville
Brian Demland

GROVER HILL PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION: Lienholders and/or owners of the properties located at **307 E Wayne St and 200 E Walnut St. in the Village of Grover Hill**, State of Ohio. This is to inform you that the above mentioned properties appear to be in violation with Ordinances 95.06, 93.41, 76-934, 1.01-13-05 and 8-4-14. Ordinances that regulate for junk motor vehicles, litter, and noxious weeds, limiting number of dogs, Village of Grover Hill, State of Ohio; You are hereby directed to remove the violations of said properties, within fifteen (15) days of the last publication of this notice. Failure to comply will result in criminal prosecution. Ordinance 93.43 gives the legislative authority to authorize necessary cleanup and removal at the owners expense.

LEGAL NOTICE

CI 26 151

Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC
-VS-
ROBERT GRUBB, et al.

Robert Grubb, whose last place of residence is known as 303 Klingler Road, Paulding, OH 45879, but whose present place of residence is unknown and Unknown Spouse, if any, of Robert Grubb, whose present place of residence is unknown, will take notice that on August 11, 2026, Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC filed its Complaint in Case No. CI 26 151 in the Court of Common Pleas of Paulding County, 115 N. Williams Street, Suite 201, Paulding, OH 45879, seeking foreclosure and alleging that the Defendants Robert Grubb and Unknown Spouse, if any, of Robert Grubb have or claim to have an interest in the real estate described below:

Permanent Parcel #: 23-50S-022-00

Property Address: 303 Klingler Road, Paulding, OH 45879

The Defendant(s) named above are required to answer on or before the **30th day of November, 2026.**

PAULDING COUNTY
SARAH JO HARPEL
CLERK OF COURTS
2026 OCT 13 PM 12:17

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
BY: LOGS Legal Group LLP
Kirsten R. Armstrong
4805 Montgomery Road, Suite 320
Norwood, OH 45212
(513) 396-8100

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirsten R. Armstrong
Signed with Stately

LOGS Legal Group LLP
Tamara Gurchik (0090798)
Anthony Santiago (0096221)
Kirsten R. Armstrong (0091424)
4805 Montgomery Road, Suite 320
Norwood, OH 45212
Phone: (513) 396-8100
Fax: (847) 627-8805
Email: logsoik@logs.com
Counsel for Plaintiff

charges of driving under a financial responsibility suspension. Drew was fined $200 and ordered to pay $97 in court costs for each charge, totaling $400 in fines and $194 in court costs.

Paul W. Wietholter, Lima, pleaded guilty to a vehicle registration violation. Wietholter was fined $70 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Selina L. Brewer, Auburn, Indiana, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. Brewer was fined $55 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

PAULDING COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Miller announced that the Paulding County Grand Jury indicted five (5) persons on Thursday, November 12, 2026:

Alfred B. Conner; 02/21/1954; Paulding, OH; Possession of Cocaine (F5), Aggravated Possession of Drugs (F5), Possession of LSD (F4), Using Weapons While Intoxicated (M1).

Tomas Alan George; 12/21/1983; Leipsic, OH; Pandering Obscenity Involving a Minor or Impaired Person (F4), Illegal Use of Minor or Impaired Person in Nudity-Oriented Material or Performance (F2).

Javin Santos Saldana; 08/23/2004; Defiance, OH; Failure to Comply with an Order or Signal of a Police Officer (F3).

John Ray Fulk; 09/24/1958; Paulding, OH; Failure to Provide Notice of Change of Address (F3).

Cody A. Beber; 08/13/1993; Payne, OH; Non-support of Dependents (F5).

All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

NOVEMBER DEMOCRATS' MEETING

The Paulding County Democrats held their meeting on Tuesday, the 10th of November at the Paulding Eagles at 7:00 p.m. As usual the meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Unites States followed by the roll call of officers, the secretary's report from Sheri Baker and the financial report from Bill Thomas.

The old business discussed included a heartfelt thank you to all the members who helped get the float ready for the Defiance Halloween Parade. Our county was invited to participate by the Defiance County Democrats. Among the jobs successfully complete were the building and painting of the float, pulling the float in the parade, decorating, people handing out the candy and purchasing the treats. All agreed that the efforts were worth the work.

Canvasing the different townships was another item of discussion. All thought that it was successful in helping win more votes and reminding people to vote.

Paulding County was recognized as the highest county in Ohio for voter turn out.

Old business took up most of the meeting time as the members are planning a fundraiser chicken wing dinner on Saturday, March 6, 2027. It will be held at the Paulding Eagles. A committee was formed by several volunteers to plan some extra activities. Possibilities were a bake sale, 50/50 raffle and pull tabs.

It was decided to cancel the December meeting in honor of the holidays. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 12th, 2027 at the Paulding Eagles. It will begin at 7:00 p.m.

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

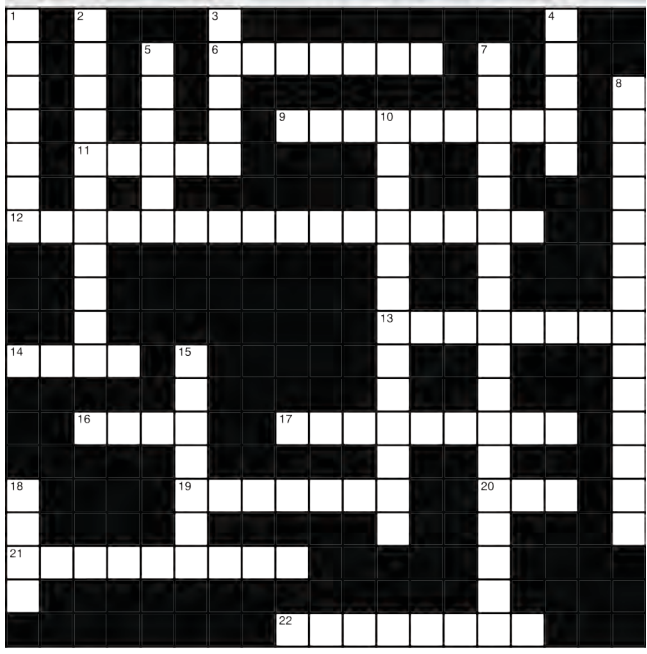
Michael D. Johnson, Defiance, pleaded guilty to failure to yield at an intersection. Johnson was fined $55 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Christa Lewis, Paulding, had a junk ordinance violation dismissed at the state's request. Lewis was ordered to pay $105 in court costs.

Justin M. Kipker, Payne, pleaded no contest and was found guilty of failure to confine a dog and disorderly conduct. Kipker was fined $25 for failure to confine a dog and $50 for disorderly conduct, for a total of $75 in fines. He was also ordered to pay $97 in court costs and maintain good behavior.

David P. Drew, Cloverdale, pleaded no contest and was found guilty of two separate

West Bend News
Crossword Puzzle
HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING IN USA



Across

6. Shellfish abundant along the New England coast that may have been eaten by the Pilgrims and Wampanoag.
9. Length of time the 1621 harvest celebration reportedly lasted.
11. Protein-rich crop grown by Native Americans alongside corn and squash, possibly eaten at the gathering.
12. Magazine editor who campaigned for decades to establish Thanksgiving as a permanent national holiday.
13. Birds hunted by Plymouth colonists for the harvest celebration, possibly including ducks, geese, and turkeys.
14. Fish commonly caught in New England waters that could have been served during the harvest celebration.
16. Crop that Native Americans taught English colonists to cultivate and that became essential to their survival.
17. Title commonly used for Ousamequin, the Wampanoag leader who attended the 1621 harvest celebration.
19. Patuxet Native American, also known as Tisquantum, who helped the Plymouth colonists learn local agricultural practices.
20. Long, snake-like fish that Native Americans taught the English colonists how to catch.
21. Edible nuts gathered from New England forests that may have been included in autumn meals.
22. Massachusetts settlement where the famous 1621 harvest celebration took place.

Down

1. Native tree nuts that could have been gathered and eaten during the fall harvest season.
2. Tart red berries native to New England that were available to the Wampanoag, although cranberry sauce was not part of the documented menu.
3. Coastal shellfish commonly gathered by Native Americans and possibly included in the first Thanksgiving meal.
4. Large water bird that may have been among the fowl hunted by the Plymouth colonists for their celebration.
5. Vegetable cultivated by Native Americans that likely appeared in some form at early colonial harvest meals.
7. President who moved Thanksgiving one week earlier in 1939 in hopes of extending the Christmas shopping season.
8. President who issued an 1863 proclamation establishing a recurring national Thanksgiving observance during the Civil War.
10. Plymouth colonist whose written account provides one of the few surviving descriptions of the 1621 harvest celebration.
15. Meat from deer that Wampanoag hunters contributed to the 1621 harvest gathering.
18. Waterfowl commonly found in New England that historians believe may have been served at the 1621 harvest feast.

solution on page 11

THIS PUZZLE BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL
Paulding County Hospital • 1035 West Wayne St. • Paulding, OH 45879
Antwerp Regional Health Ctr • 608 Erie Street • Antwerp, OH, 45813
Oakwood Medical Center • 109 N. First Street • Oakwood, OH 45873
Payne Medical Center • 301 South Main Street • Payne, OH 45880

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Paulding Co. Land Bank is seeking a buyer interested in developing the lots located at 355 & 356 N Sherman Street, Scott, OH 45886 parcel numbers 07-01S-005-00 & 07-01S-004-00. These lots are being sold together and will be transferred to one purchaser.

The Land Bank requires an application process for submitting development proposals and pricing for the lot. Your proposal must include financing details and a development plan. Terms and conditions related to the property sale are outlined in the application packet, available at www.mvpo.org/landbank. Physical copies can be obtained from the Paulding County Treasurer's office or the Maumee Valley Planning Organization Office. You can gain additional information about the property by visiting the Paulding County Auditor's website.

Proposals must reach Estee Blair, Senior Planner at Maumee Valley Planning Organization, located at 1300 E Second Street, Suite 200, Defiance, OH 43512 no later than 4:30 PM on Monday, December 7th, 2026. Emailed proposals can also be sent to eblair@mvpo.org. Proposals must be submitted on the application format provided at www.mvpo.org/landbank & be labeled "Attention: Proposal – 355/356 Sherman". Proposals submitted after this date and time will be returned.

Proposals will be reviewed on December 9th, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. at the Land Bank meeting, located at 451 McDonald Pike, Paulding, OH 45879.

DEFIANCE COUNTY VFW DONATES $1,000 TO CLOTHES FOR KIDS



Congratulations to Clothes For Kids, an initiative under the umbrella of the Defiance Area Foundation, for receiving a $1,000 grant from Defiance County VFW 3360. This gift will be used to purchase clothing for the students participating at our local schools.

Pictured with the grant check are (l-r) Leonard Long - VFW Judge Advocate and Katie Groff - Clothes for Kids Co-Chair.

DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE AWARDS $5,000 GRANT TO OPERATION CLEAN DUDS



Congratulations to Operation Clean Duds for receiving a $5,000 grant from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. This grant will help support laundry needs of local area residents.

The Moose Lodge holds a donor advised fund under the umbrella of the Defiance Area Foundation. To create a donor advised fund with the Foundation please visit

https://defianceareafoundation.org/funds

Pictured with the grant are (l-r) Lynn Speiser - Moose Lodge VP, Jasmine Conley - Operation Clean Duds Founder and Rick Speiser - Moose Lodge Trustee.

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 2013 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.



Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Thomas J. Arnott

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.



Radio Dispatcher Melissa D. Vermillion

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.

DEFIANCE POST ANNOUNCES TROOPER OF THE YEAR



Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Chase D Black

Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Chase D. Black has been selected as the 2026 Trooper of the Year at the Defiance Post.

The selection of Trooper Black, 32, is in recognition of outstanding service during 2026 at the Defiance Post. Fellow officers stationed at the Defiance Post, chose Trooper Black based on leadership abilities, professional ethics, courteous treatment of others, enthusiastic work attitude, and cooperation with supervisors, peers, and the public.

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

Trooper Black joined the Highway Patrol in 2016 and was assigned to the Van Wert Post. While serving at the Van Wert Post, Trooper Black was selected as the Post Trooper of the Year in 2018. Trooper Black transferred to the Defiance Post in 2022. Originally from Antwerp, Trooper Black graduated from Antwerp High School. Trooper Black has been awarded the Traffic Safety Award Ribbon, Field Training Officer Ribbon, Fitness Ribbon, Safe Driving Ribbon and twice awarded the Criminal Patrol Ribbon. This is the second year in a row that Trooper Black has received Post Trooper of the Year honors for the Defiance Post.

Trooper Black and his wife, Mikinzie, live in Defiance with their son.

WEST BEND BOOKSTORE CONTINUES TO GROW WITH NEW BOOKS FROM LOCAL AUTHORS

There is always something new to discover at West Bend Printing & Publishing's online bookstore! With new titles being added regularly, the growing collection of books by local and regional authors offers readers an opportunity to explore fascinating stories, historical adventures, inspirational poetry and personal experiences—all while supporting writers from their own communities.

Located online at bookstore.westbendprinting.com, the bookstore continues to expand as more local authors turn to West Bend Printing & Publishing to bring their manuscripts to life. Readers can browse available titles, learn about the authors and purchase books from the comfort of their homes.

One of the newest additions is Redistribution of Happiness: Poems of Faith, Family, and Hope by Cecil-area author Victor Bennett. This heartfelt collection of poetry explores life's blessings, challenges and cherished memories through the eyes of a man whose faith and family have shaped his journey. Bennett began writing poetry at age 73 following the loss of his first wife, Janet, in 2016. What began as a way to cope with grief developed into an inspiring collection celebrating friendship, love, family, faith and the beauty of everyday life. His poems offer encouragement, comfort and a reminder that happiness is often found in the simplest moments.

Another exciting addition is just around the corner! Duane Bailey, whose first book, The Rings of Saturn, proved popular with local readers, is returning with Beyond the Rings of Saturn. Drawing from more than three decades as an Ohio wildlife officer, Bailey shares another entertaining collection of true stories involving unusual investigations, memorable encounters and the often-humorous situations he experienced while serving northwest Ohio. The new book is currently available for preorder, with copies expected in mid-November. Both of Bailey's books can be found in the online bookstore.

Readers who enjoy historical fiction will also find plenty to explore. Two novels by Antwerp author George Forrest are available, including Top of the Mountain, a Western adventure, and Lee's Expectation, a legal drama set against the backdrop of the 1980s. Forrest, a former attorney and judge, brings his experiences and storytelling abilities to these engaging works of fiction.

West Bend is also preparing two additional books from the writings of the late Stan Jordan, a World War II veteran, historian and longtime local author. His serialized stories are being finalized for publication as The Lobo Tank Busters and El Paso Sam Rivers: Indian Agent. The first follows the daring pilots of a World War II fighter unit, while the second takes readers into the American West with adventures along the Oregon Trail. Both works are being prepared for release in book form, preserving Jordan's storytelling for future generations.

Jordan's original 2014 publication, Billy Metzger Journal, is also available through the bookstore, giving readers an opportunity to discover another of his historical adventures.

As the selection continues to grow, West Bend Printing & Publishing is becoming a home for local authors seeking professional book publication and an outlet for selling their work. From manuscript preparation and editing to cover design, printing, binding and online sales, West Bend offers authors a way to turn their writing into professionally published books.

Most titles are available in paperback and digital eBook formats, allowing readers to choose how they prefer to enjoy their books. Printed copies can also be purchased at West Bend Printing's offices in Antwerp and Defiance.

Visit bookstore.westbendprinting.com or scan the accompanying QR code to explore the growing collection.

DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE AWARDS $1,000 GRANT TO FOUR FLAGS OF FREEDOM INITIATIVE



Congratulations to Defiance County Homegrown Workforce & Business Development Council for receiving a $1,000 grant from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. This grant will be used for the Four Flags of Freedom initiative. For more information about the four large flags that fly above US 24, visit www.fourflagsoffreedom.com.

Picture with the check are (l-r) Lynn Speiser, Moose Lodge VP; Cara Boehm, Director of Business Development and Marketing at Defiance County Economic Development; and Rick Speiser, Moose Lodge Trustee.

AUCTION LOCATION: Harlan Christian Community Center, 12616 Spencerville Rd, Harlan, IN 46743 **PROPERTY LOCATION:** 23320 SR 37, Harlan, IN 46743

NORTHEAST ALLEN COUNTY **LAND AUCTION**

Saturday, December 12 at 10:30am



44± Acres Offered in 5 Tracts

TR 1 - 40X65 POLE BARN ON 1± AC: Tract is its own tax parcel currently. Barn is gravel floor inside - great storage barn for anyone in the area!! Could be combined w/Tract 2 for additional road frontage & storage barn for Tract 2. **TR 2 - 11± AC, MOSTLY TILLABLE LAND:** Tract has 20' of road frontage on the south side of the Tract 1 drive & there is approx. 30' of road frontage on the north side of the adjacent property. Tract has some rolling contour & lends itself to a gorgeous potential building site w/higher elevation views. Soils are a combination of Haskins loam, Belmore loam, Oshtemo sandy loam & Blount loam. **TR 3 - 2.5± AC, MOSTLY TILLABLE w/CREEK BOTTOM:** Tract has over 200' of road frontage. Low parcel w/a potential for a building site w/pond. Southwest boundary is the Jackson ditch. Soils are all Shoals silty clay loam. **TR 4 - 9± AC SWING TRACT:** Tract can only be bid on by an adjacent landowner or in combination w/Tract 4. Contour is mostly level. Soils are primarily Belmore loam. **TR 5 - 20.5± AC:** Tract is mostly all tillable w/ access via an easement off the existing drive. Contours also are rolling up to a crest in the center of this tract. Soils are mostly Blount loam towards the south w/ Belmore loam & Fox loam towards the road.

PREVIEW - MEET A SCHRADER REPRESENTATIVE AT THE BARN ON TRACT 1: Wed, November 25 • 3-5pm. Call Auction Manager w/Any Questions (260.410.1996)

SELLER: Ron & Lucy Smith **AUCTION MANAGER:** Jerry Ehle • 260.410.1996

#RB14044208, #AU19300123, #LC20700176, #AC63001504

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ANOTHER GORRELL BROS

AUCTION

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

14684 State Route 111 • Defiance, OH 43512

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2026 | 5:30PM

AUCTION LOCATION:
AUCTION HELD LIVE ON SITE

OPEN HOUSE / INSPECTION: Auction day from 5:00 to 5:30 P.M. Meet a Gorrell Bros. representative at the property.

3 BEDROOMS • 1½ BATHS • 1-CAR ATTACHED GARAGE
Located just minutes outside Defiance, this home sits on 0.59± acre directly across from the Auglaize River. Enjoy year-round river views and plenty of potential with a little TLC.

PARCEL NUMBER: B11-0008-B-034-00

SELLER: Estate of James L. Kleinhenn
Defiance County Probate Court Case No. E00021441

ATTORNEY FOR THE SELLER: Stephen F. Hubbard, Esq., Hubbard Law Firm *(Sale is subject to court approval)*

FOR COMPLETE AUCTION TERMS AND DETAILS: Visit our website gorrellbrothers.com.

GORRELL BROS. AUCTIONEERS AND REAL ESTATE LLC: Zachary B. Gorrell, Broker/Owner & Sale Manager; Larry D. Gorrell, Associate Broker; Kenneth D. Thomas • Chris Aufrance, Auctioneers

Gorrell Bros. Auctioneers LLC 112½ N Water St Paulding, Ohio 45879

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Call Today to Reserve Your Auction Date!

Check back often, as new books and authors are being added regularly!

Whether you enjoy local history, inspirational writing, true stories or a good old-fashioned adventure, there is something waiting to be discovered—and your next favorite book might just have been written by someone from your own community.

DERROW CHEVROLET DONATES $5,000 TO CLOTHES FOR KIDS PROGRAM



Pictured (L to R): Billy Nossaman, Derrow Chevrolet, presents a $5,000 donation to Mandi Kissner, Clothes for Kids Co-Chair.

Derrow Chevrolet recently made a generous $5,000 donation to Clothes for Kids, an initiative of the Defiance Area Foundation that provides new clothing to children in need throughout Defiance County.

Thanks to the support of local businesses, donors, and volunteers, Clothes for Kids served more than 350 children this year, helping students receive new clothing and a boost of confidence.

The Defiance Area Foundation and Clothes for Kids extend their sincere appreciation to Billy Nossaman and Derrow Chevrolet for their commitment to supporting local children and families. Contributions like this help ensure that Clothes for Kids can continue making a meaningful difference in the community.

PINPOINT FIBER TO ACQUIRE METALINK, EXPANDING ITS RURAL BROADBAND PLATFORM INTO NORTHWEST OHIO, NORTHEAST INDIANA, AND SOUTHERN MICHIGAN

Pinpoint Holdings, Inc. ("Pinpoint"), the Nebraska-based parent company of Pinpoint Fiber, today announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Defiance Holdings, LLC, operating as MetaLINK Technologies, Inc. ("MetaLINK"), a rural broadband provider serving Northwest Ohio, Northeast Indiana, and Southern Michigan, from Arthur Mutual Telephone Company and Ayersville Telephone Company.

The acquisition marks Pinpoint's most recent expansion beyond Nebraska and brings together two companies built on the same premise: rural communities deserve the same high-speed, reliable connectivity available in major metros. MetaLINK serves approximately 12,500 residential and business subscribers through a combination of fiber-to-the-premise and advanced fixed wireless service with approximately 295,000 covered passings. Following the close, MetaLINK will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of Pinpoint Fiber under the brand "MetaLINK — A Pinpoint company."

Over the past six years, Pinpoint Fiber has grown its network from roughly 1,500 to approximately 22,000 fiber passings across rural Nebraska and today serves more than 7,200 fiber internet customers. Pinpoint designs and builds the majority of its networks with its own in-house construction teams, but also uses subcontractors when timelines are limited, a model it intends to bring to MetaLINK's footprint to extend fiber to more homes and businesses across the region, while continuing to deliver fixed wireless service where it is the best near-term option.

"MetaLINK has built a strong foundation and a loyal customer base across its footprint, and its team is the reason why," said Tom Shoemaker, President & CEO of Pinpoint Holdings. "We've spent the last six years proving what a focused, rural-first fiber builder can do in Nebraska.

Combining that construction capability with MetaLINK's local team and market knowledge gives us the platform to bring fiber to far more of these communities, faster. Our message to MetaLINK customers and employees is simple: the local people you know aren't going anywhere, and we're adding resources to take this business to the next level."

"As a local fiber optic communications company, we're pleased to transition MetaLINK to Pinpoint, who also has a long history of serving communities. I'd like to thank all the MetaLINK employees that contributed so much to the company's success. I'm confident that Pinpoint will continue MetaLINK's commitment to excellent and reliable service going forward," said Dick Thomas, President of Arthur Mutual Telephone Company.

"As we searched for the right long-term owner for MetaLINK, Pinpoint stood out for its track record of expanding fiber connectivity in rural communities and its commitment to continuity for our customers and employees," said Dan Limber, President of The Ayersville Telephone Company. "Those priorities were central to our decision and give us confidence in MetaLINK's future."

Phone"Access to Pinpoint's construction capabilities and capital resources will allow us to expand our fiber network at a scale we have not previously been able to achieve," said Phil Maag, current Chief Executive Officer of MetaLINK. "We're excited about what this means for our customers and the opportunity to bring fiber connectivity to more communities throughout our region."

MetaLINK's local leadership and staff will continue to serve customers from the region. Customers will see promotions to higher speed tier options coming soon to their service offerings. Billing and customer support contacts will remain the same and customers will be notified in advance of any future changes.

The transaction is expected to close in the next 60-90 days, subject to customary regulatory approvals and closing conditions. Fraser Stryker PC LLO is serving as legal counsel to Pinpoint, Stefanov Capital represented Pinpoint in the acquisition along with Live Oak Bank providing acquisition financing. Davidson Advisory Services LLC and Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP are serving as regulatory counsel for Pinpoint. Bailey Cavalieri LLC is serving as legal counsel and Lerman Senter as regulatory counsel to the sellers, while JSI represented MetaLINK on behalf of the sellers in the acquisition.

About Pinpoint

Pinpoint Holdings, Inc. is the parent company of Pinpoint Fiber and Cambridge Telephone Company, a Nebraska-based provider of fiber-to-the-home broadband serving rural communities. Pinpoint designs, builds, and operates its own fiber networks with in-house construction crews and local customer support, and has grown its footprint to approximately 22,000 fiber passings and more than 7,000 fiber internet customers. For more information, please visit www.pnpt.com.

About MetaLINK

MetaLINK provides high-speed internet service to residential and business customers across Northwest Ohio, Northeast Indiana, and Southern Michigan through fiber-to-the-premise and advanced fixed wireless networks. MetaLINK's headquarters is in Defiance, Ohio. For more information, please visit www.metalink.net.

OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL INVESTIGATES TWO VEHICLE SERIOUS INJURY CRASH IN FULTON COUNTY

The Toledo Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a serious injury crash that occurred on November 6, 2026, at approximately 11:04 p.m. The crash occurred on US 20 near milepost 11 in Chesterfield Township, Fulton County.

Joy E. Herman, age 41, of Bryan, Ohio, was driving a 2014 Buick Enclave eastbound on US 20. Jesus Castillo, age 65, of Sterling, Illinois, was driving a 2018 Freightliner westbound on US 20. Ms. Herman traveled left of center and was struck head on by Mr. Castillo.

Ms. Herman was transported by Mercy Health Life Flight to Mercy Health St. Vincent Medical Center with serious injuries. Mr. Castillo was transported by ground ambulance to Fulton County Health Center with minor injuries.

US 20 was closed for approximately four hours but has since been reopened. The traffic crash remains under investigation.

The Patrol was assisted on scene by the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, Fulton County EMS, Morenci Fire Department, Mercy Life Flight and KK Collision.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol reminds motorists to wear their safety belts and not drive distracted.

Classified Ads

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Classifieds MUST be paid up front!!

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

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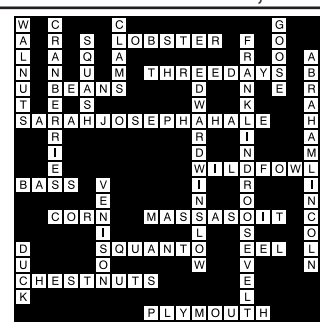
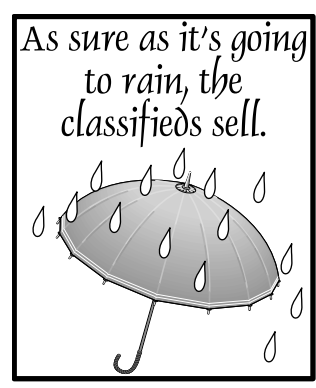
THE HEALING HEARTH by Angel: Handcrafted herbal remedies, salves, body care & dried herbs. Find us on Facebook or Call/Text 419-258-0656.



Crossword solution from page 9



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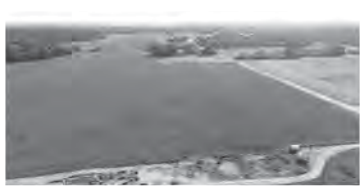
Property For Sale







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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PAULDING PUTNAM OFFERS THREE MONTHS OF FREE FIBER INTERNET SERVICE THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2027

PAULDING, OH — Looking for a little extra savings this holiday season? Paulding Putnam is offering new fiber internet customers three months of free service when they sign up for any residential or business fiber internet package between now and January 1, 2027.

The offer is available to new residential and business/commercial subscribers, including those who are not currently electric members of Paulding Putnam. Customers must agree to 12 months of continuous service to qualify for the offer, with the first three free months counting toward the 12-month commitment. Customers can also take advantage of the cooperative's Refer-A-Friend program for an additional $50 off when they refer someone who signs up for fiber internet.

Residential packages include free installation, straightforward pricing, and no data caps or hidden fees. Additional perks include features like parental controls, Wi-Fi management tools, and built-in cybersecurity.

Business packages are available for farms, small businesses, and commercial operations that need reliable connectivity and multi-gig speeds.

Service availability & construction updates

Paulding Putnam continues to expand its fiber network to bring service to rural communities and areas that historically had limited access to high-speed internet. Service is currently available in portions of Paulding, Latty, Haviland, Scott, Grover Hill, Roselm, Ottoville, Fort Jennings, Van Wert, and Kalida. Newly released areas include Convoy and the Village of Payne and surrounding area.

Construction is currently underway in the Columbus Grove area, which is available now for pre-sale. Service is estimated to be live there in the next 6 weeks, but members are encouraged to sign up now to begin the staking process.

Because service availability can vary by address, an interactive map is available at www.PPEC.coop/internet. Visitors can enter their address to see if fiber internet is currently available at their home or business. If service is not currently available, visitors can submit their interest to be notified of future updates.

Learn about packages, check availability, and sign up at www.PPEC.coop/internet or by contacting member services at 800-686-2357 or member_services@ppec.coop.



THE HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP) CAN HELP!

HEAP is a federally funded program to help income-eligible households with winter heating costs. Households at or below 175% of the federal income level (see chart) may receive a credit once per winter heating season towards their primary heating source—electric, natural gas, or bulk fuel.

Three ways to apply until May 31, 2027:

- Online at www.energyhelp.ohio.gov
- Appointment with your local Energy Assistance Provider/Community Action Agency
- Mail in an Energy Assistance application* from www.energyhelp.ohio.gov

** Applications may take up to 12 weeks to process." HEAP benefits start being applied in January. Always sign, date, and provide all required documents to avoid delay.*

2026-2027 175% Income Guidelines

Size of household*	12-Month Limit 175%	30-Day Limit 175%
1	$27,930	$2,295.62
2	$37,870	$3,112.60
3	$47,810	$3,929.59
4	$57,750	$4,746.58
5	$67,690	$5,563.56
6	$77,630	$6,380.55
7	$87,570	$7,197.53

Contact your local Energy Assistance Provider/ Community Action Agency for more details

For more utility assistance information visit: www.occ.ohio.gov/utilityassistance

Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
"Your Residential Utility Consumer Advocate"
www.occ.ohio.gov

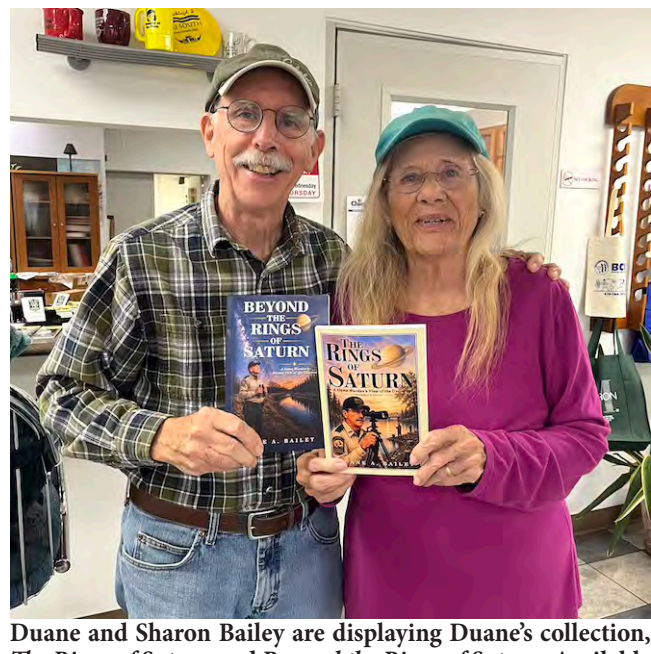
P-ASSIST-072326

PAULDING COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION TO GATHER FOR HOLIDAY BRUNCH

The Paulding County Retired Teachers Association will meet for a holiday brunch on Tuesday, December 1 at 10:00 at the Paulding Pancake House. There will be no business meeting, but just a time to get together with friends.

All retired administrators, teachers, aides, secretaries, building and grounds keepers, food service employees, and transportation employees from any county school are invited to attend.

DUANE BAILEY RETURNS WITH SECOND BOOK OF HUMOROUS WILDLIFE OFFICER STORIES



Duane and Sharon Bailey are displaying Duane's collection, *The Rings of Saturn* and *Beyond the Rings of Saturn*. Available from the West Bend Bookstore now!

After more than three decades of protecting Ohio's wildlife and enforcing hunting and fishing regulations, retired wildlife officer Duane Bailey discovered that some of the most memorable moments of his career weren't necessarily about wildlife. They were about the people he encountered along the way.

Now, Bailey is sharing more of those unforgettable experiences in his second book, *Beyond the Rings of Saturn*, published by West Bend Printing & Publishing, Inc. The new collection follows his first book, *The Rings of Saturn*, and takes readers on another entertaining journey through the unusual, humorous, and sometimes downright unbelievable situations he experienced during his career, and some readers might even be included!

Bailey spent more than 30 years with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, working throughout the fields, woods, wetlands, rivers, and back roads of northwest Ohio. While his responsibilities involved serious law enforcement work, the people he encountered often provided moments of unexpected comedy.

In *Beyond the Rings of Saturn*, Bailey recounts encounters with hunters, fishermen, and other colorful characters whose decisions, explanations, and actions sometimes left him shaking his head. From unusual investigations to situations that took surprising turns, the stories reveal the lighter side of a profession that required patience, determination, and a healthy sense of humor.

But Bailey's writing offers more than laughs. His firsthand accounts provide readers with a glimpse into the responsibilities of a wildlife officer and the challenges of protecting natural resources while dealing with people from every walk of life.

His conversational storytelling style makes readers feel as though they're sitting across the table from him, listening to another remarkable story from his years wearing the badge.

Bailey, now retired, continues to enjoy the outdoors with his wife, Sharon. Together, they have remained connected to the northwest Ohio communities where so many of his stories originated.

Readers will have an opportunity to meet Bailey at the upcoming Authors Night at the Paulding County History Museum on Tuesday, November 17. He will be among the authors participating in the event, offering visitors an opportunity to learn more about his books and the experiences behind them.

Both *The Rings of Saturn* and *Beyond the Rings of Saturn* are available through West Bend Printing & Publishing. Online preorders for the new book are currently being accepted through the company's bookstore at bookstore.westbendprinting.com, with printed copies expected to be available by the end of the week.

Customers may also purchase the books at West Bend Printing's Antwerp office, located at 101 N. Main Street, or its Defiance office at 1815 Baltimore Street.

Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast, a fan of true stories, or simply someone who enjoys a good laugh, Bailey's latest collection proves that sometimes truth really is stranger—and funnier—than fiction.



WINTER WARMING CENTERS ALLEN COUNTY

A Message from The Rescue Mission:

Winter is approaching, and every year area organizations operate as warming centers. In the past, some of those organizations in Allen County have included The Rescue Mission, The Salvation Army, Inasmuch Ministry, and the downtown branch of the Allen County Public Library.

Churches in neighboring counties have also opened their doors to provide warmth and shelter. We are reaching out to see if churches in Allen County would be interested in doing the same.

Participating churches would have the flexibility to establish their own daytime hours based on available staffing. Warming centers would be needed between December 1 and March 31 on days when temperatures fall below 32 degrees.

If your church is interested, would like to learn more, or has questions, please contact Steve Mekaru, Outreach Client Advocate for The Rescue Mission, at smekaru@fwrm.org.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to working together to help keep individuals experiencing homelessness in Allen County warm and safe this winter.