

## WEST SIGNS LETTER OF INTENT FOR BELMONT UNIVERSITY



Pictured seated center is Leah West with Grandparents Joyce and Keith West as she signs her national letter of intent and NCAA contract to further her education and play Division 1 women's basketball at Belmont University in Nashville Tenn. Standing is Coach Jason Simpson, Kristi West, Aaron West and Coach Katrina Peters



### NOTE FROM FLAT ROCK CREEK FALL FESTIVAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of

Flat Rock Creek Fall Festival Inc. is sending out this notification to let you know that we will be ceasing operation, and there will not be a 2025 Fall Festival.

It has become too difficult for us and participating not for profits to find volunteers.

We feel the festival has run its course and will now become part of the Northwest Ohio history that it has celebrated for over 30 years. We would like to thank all those that have helped to make the

festival possible over the past five years that we have been organizing it and give a nod to all those who made it possible previously.

We will be returning any deposits made for the 2025 festival.

All excess funds will be donated to local nonprofits that have participated in the festival.

We appreciate the support we have received in the past, and hope that all of that support will be forwarded to other community events.

We bid a fond Farewell to you all!

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of The Flat Rock Creek Fall Festival Inc.

### ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES LIBRARY'S MASTER PLAN FUNDING

The Allen County Council has officially approved the Phase 1 tax bond for the Allen County Public Library's (ACPL) Facilities Master Plan, paving the way for significant enhancements to library facilities and infrastructure throughout the county.

During the November 13 council meeting, members voted 5-2 in favor of the bond, which will fund critical improvements designed to meet the growing needs of the community. This initial phase focuses on renovations, accessibility upgrades, and technology enhancements across seven ACPL locations.

"The approval of this bond is an important step towards ensuring the library remains vibrant for generations to come," said ACPL Executive Director Susan P. Baier. "Our public libraries are essential

## OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY HONOR VETERANS



The Oakwood Elementary students put on a wonderful program for many veterans on Monday, November 11th. The program was under the direction of Sid Rindler, the music

teacher. Her dad Scott and her grandfather Ron were both in attendance at the program and both are veterans of the US Army. Shown with Miss Rindler are Scott and Ron.

resources for education, community engagement, economic development, and access to information. The County Council has voted to protect the taxpayers' investment and bring this project to reality. We could not do it without them, and they have stepped up in the most impactful way!"

The Facilities Master Plan aims to modernize library facilities, enhance user experiences, and expand community programming. Key features of the plan includes projects at the following locations:

- Aboite (built in 1990) and Shawnee (built in 1973, renovated in 2004): sale of the existing property and con-

(Continued on Page 3)

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PCH 2024 Mammogram	12
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PUZZLE - CW Union Bank	9
Ron Burt Left Turn	8
Sauder Feeds	8
Schmucker Construction	1
Schrader Ehle Sales & Svc	10
United Edge KEIL Auction	10
Woodburn HW police officer	11

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

## Community Calendar

MON & WED

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

### November 19

- Trivia Night @ Oasis Bar & Grill, (Antwerp Chamber event), 6p
- WBESC board meeting @ ESC Conf Rm, Paulding, 5:30pm

### November 23

- Shop Antwerp First - see pgs 6-7 for details
- Shop the Village, downtown Paulding
- Coffee & Cocktails @ Van Wert VFW, 4pm

### November 24

- Ham and Turkey Dinner 2 St. Louis Besancon Catholic Church, 11a-3p
- Community Thanksgiving Service @ Antwerp 1st Presbyterian Church, 6pm

### November 26

- JPHS General Meeting @ museum, 6:30pm

### November 28

- Happy Thanksgiving!

### December 2

- Christmas Lighting @ Greenway Park (by Town Hall) in Antwerp, 6p
- Merry & Bright Parade @ Paulding, 6pm

### December 7

- Christmas Open House @ Oakwood Elementary, 10a-4p
- Holiday Craft Bazaar @ NH UMC, 8a-2p



Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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**OBITUARIES**

ANTWERP, OH:

**Bruce D. Dunbar**, 71, of Antwerp, Ohio passed away Friday, November 8, 2024 at Parkview Regional Medical Center, Fort Wayne. Arr by Dooley Funeral Home, 202 W River St, Antwerp, OH 45813.



PAYNE, OH:

**Michael M. Brigner**, 64, of Payne, passed away Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at Paulding County Hospital.

Mike was born on September 16, 1960 in Celina, Ohio, a son of Dorothy (Wolfe) Helms & Mac Brigner.

Mike was the co-owner of Brigner Trucking and a dedicated family man, married to his high school sweetheart, Deb, on April 6, 1979. They shared many joyful years together, raising a family and creating lasting memories. Mike was also deeply involved in his community, serving as the former mayor of Payne and being an active member of both the Friends of the Payne Legion and the Payne American Legion. He enjoyed family vacations to Myrtle Beach and Las Vegas, and was a passionate fan of Ohio State, the Cleveland Browns, and the Cincinnati Reds. Whether playing golf with family and friends or sharing a laugh with those around him, Mike's quick wit and sense of humor brought joy to many. Above all, he will be remembered for his love and devotion as a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend.

He will be sadly missed by his wife, Debra (Thompson); children, Lindsay (Zachary) Moore & Whitney Brigner; parents; Dorothy (Rick) Helms & Mac (Debbie) Brigner; siblings, Chris (Tammy) Brigner, Jodi (Dale) Stoller, & Wes (Michelle) Brigner; step-siblings, Becky (Rodger) Fitzpatrick, Susan (Paul) Andorfer, & Judy (Scott) Walter; grandchildren, Preston, Brenna, & Rylin Moore; & great grandchildren, Tatum & Clara Moore.

Viewing will be Sunday, November 17th from 2-7 PM at Dooley Funeral Home, Payne.

Service will be Monday, November 18th at 10:30 AM with viewing one hour prior at Woodburn Missionary Church, 5108 Bull Rapids Rd, Woodburn, IN 46797.

He will be laid to rest in Lehman Cemetery, Payne. Memorials are to the Payne American Legion or the Payne Fire Association.

Fond memories may be shared at dooleyfuneralhome.com.

*Have something to sell? Have a service to offer others in the community? Call or email your classified ad today!*  
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**HUBER OPERA HOUSE RECEIVE GRANT FROM DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE**



Congratulations to the The Huber Opera House and Civic Center on the \$2,000 grant received from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. This grant will be used for the Huber Opera House's upcoming Wine & Beer Tasting event. Proceeds from this event will be used for major projects

such as a new marquee, updated stage lighting and replacing the stage floor. Pictured with the grant check are (L to R) Peggy Sisco - Defiance Moose Lodge Chaplain and Chris Feichter - Director of Operations at the Huber Opera House in Hicksville, Ohio.

**DEFIANCE HS ACADEMIC BOOSTERS RECEIVE GRANT FROM DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE**



Congratulations to Defiance High School Academic Boosters on their recent \$1,000 received from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. This grant will be used by the Boosters to continue supporting Defiance High School stu-

dents during the 2024/2025 school year. Pictured with the donation are (L to R) Alicia Rohdy - Defiance High School Academic Boosters Secretary and Valerie Gerdeman - Social Quarters Manager at the Moose Lodge.

**ANNUAL HAM & TURKEY DINNER @ ST. LOUIS BESANCON**

The famous annual Ham and Turkey Dinner returns to the St. Louis Besancon Catholic Church parish hall on Sunday, November 24, 2024. Dinner of ham, turkey dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, coleslaw, cranberry salad, roll and dessert will be served from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. Drive thru will run until just 1:00 pm. The day will feature a Country Store, raffles and silent auction. Please spread the word! All are welcome!

**OHIO STATE EMPOWERS VETERAN STUDENTS IN THEIR ACADEMIC JOURNEY**

For many student veterans, transitioning from military life to college can be a daunting experience. But at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), a supportive team is available to help them succeed.

Ben Carignan, CFAES academic counselor and a U.S. Air Force veteran, understands the unique challenges veteran students face.

Carignan, who served in the early 90s, reflects on his transition from the military to college as a first-generation student.

"The stressors and anxi-

eties of today's student veterans are fairly similar to those I experienced," he said. "For many, the time since an algebra or science exam may be four to six years removed. It took a semester or two to adjust to a new way of learning after spending a few years in a different, stressful environment within the military."

The college's commitment to supporting military and veteran students continues to be a vital part of their journey. A variety of services are available to help veterans transition. One of the most beneficial aspects of the college, Carignan notes, is the sense of community that is fostered throughout it and the university at large.

In addition to the strong community spirit, CFAES provides multiple services specifically designed to support veterans. Ohio State's Major Lawrence Miller Military Community program plays a key role in these efforts. One of the first of its kind at the university, the program is a dedicated resource for military and veteran students, helping them navigate the academic and professional challenges of higher education.

"We have a tremendous team here in CFAES to help student veterans succeed in and out of the classroom," Carignan said. "The MCA Program is one of the many resources offered to ensure student veterans feel wel-

**Scripture of the Week**

"Trouble and distress have come upon me, but your commands give me delight."

— Psalm 119:143

**A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM PSALM 91**



Father, I praise You that I dwell in the secret place of the Most High and that I shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty (whose power no foe can withstand).

I will say of You, Lord, "the Lord is my refuge and my fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I confidently trust!" For then You will cover me with Your feathers, and under Your wings shall I trust and find refuge. Your truth and Your faithfulness are a shield and a buckler to me.

I shall not be afraid of the terror of the night, not of the

arrow (the evil plots and slanders of the wicked) that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the destruction and sudden death that surprise and lay waste at noonday.

A thousand may fall at my side, and ten thousand at my right hand, but it shall not come nigh my dwelling. For You will give Your angels special charge over me, to accompany, defend and preserve me in all my ways of obedience and service to You. Your angels shall bear me up on their hands, lest I dash my foot against a stone. I shall tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the serpent shall I trample underfoot.

Because I have set my love upon You, therefore I will have a personal knowledge of Your mercy, love and kindness. I trust and rely on You, knowing You will never forsake me, no, never. I shall call upon You, and You will answer me. You will be with me in trouble. You will deliver me and honor me. With long life will You satisfy me and show me Your salvation.

(Psalm 91 - taken from the Amplified Bible)

Peace & Love,  
—Pastor Dwayne

comed and supported."

The program connects students with faculty and staff who are veterans themselves, allowing them to find mentors who understand their unique experiences. CFAES also has an embedded mental health counselor who works specifically with military-affiliated students, helping them manage the transition from military to civilian life.

"There is no doubt we succeed most when we are surrounded with a team of people who can provide the guidance, wisdom, and knowledge to keep moving the mission forward, personally, academically, and professionally," Carignan said.

Beyond counseling and mentorship, CFAES offers academic resources tailored to veterans. These include academic advising services through CFAES Academic Programs, where Carignan works closely with student veterans to develop personalized academic plans. Office faculty and staff help veterans adjust to the academic rigors of college life and help with course selection, major exploration, and academic success strategies.

For veterans interested in building their professional networks, CFAES also hosts career development programs that connect students with potential employers in the agricultural, food, and

environmental sciences fields. Carignan emphasizes that the skills veterans bring from the military — such as leadership, discipline, and problem-solving — are highly transferable to the workplace and are valued by employers in these sectors.

CFAES also organizes events that allow military students to connect outside the classroom. A recent skating event at the Ohio State Ice Rink gave veterans and military students the chance to gather with fellow service members.

Beyond the personal connections, Carignan believes these events also help veterans see the transferable skills they bring from the military to their academic journey.

"Some of my favorite conversations with fellow student veterans involve discussing how skills from our military experience can transfer to the classroom," he said. "The discipline and teamwork we learned in the military are skills that can lead to academic success."

Carignan is committed to providing the same kind of support that helped him succeed.

"When I set out on my new mission in learning and getting my degree, I wasn't quite sure what that would look like," he said. "Now, I'm proud to help other student veterans in their missions toward academic success."

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# DEFIANCE FIRE & RESCUE RECEIVES GRANT FROM DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE



Congratulations to the Defiance Fire and Rescue Division on the recent \$1,000 grant received from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. This grant will be used to help cover the cost of the new Glide Scope. A Glide Scope is a video laryngoscopy device

used in airway management to improve the success rate of endotracheal intubations.

To help cover the additional cost of this device, consider donating at 702 W Third Street, Defiance, OH 43512.

Pictured with the grant check are Rick Speiser - Defi-

ance Moose Lodge Trustee and the Defiance Fire and Rescue Squad - Chief Shawn Wittkop, Ast. Chief Tim Bowling, Lt. Brandon Case, FF Chris Harrow, FF Roy Perez, FF Tyler Flory, FF Kyle Howard, FF James Weaver, and FF Tyler Coffman.

The John Paulding Post VFW is conducting its Sixth Annual Feather Party Wednesday evening, Nov. 23, at the Paulding Armory. Fifteen live turkeys and 80 live chickens, ducks and geese will be given away during the evening entertainment. Forty-nine local merchants are cooperating in the annual turkey event.

Paulding-Putnam Electric Co-op's new \$100,000 building is nearing completion, according to manager Herb Monroe.

County Agricultural Agent W.C. Barrett will be the principal speaker on the "Little Red Barn Program" to be heard on WOWO and WOWO-FM radio stations Saturday morning.

Showing this week at the beautiful Paulding Theatre: Paramount's Western epic "El Paso" plus "Jungle Jim" with Johnny Weissmuller; "The Great Dan Patch" and "Prairie Pirates" with a Disney cartoon and news; and gala holiday show "Easy Living" starring Victor Mature and Lucille Ball.

### 125 Years Ago

*From the Paulding County Republican of Nov. 16, 1899:*

Corn, corn, nothing but corn. The farmers are really happy over the immense crop.

In Broughton, the cribs just finished by DeLaet & White will store nearly 50 carloads of grain when full.

*From the Payne Reflector of Nov. 16, 1899:*

David Jennings, an old pioneer of Paulding County, died at his home, the City Hotel in Payne, last Saturday. He had always been an active businessman, having conducted a livery stable and hotel at his own property on the corner of Laura and Bailey streets for a number of years.

At the beginning of this month the Home Telephone Company reduced its tolls to 10 cents a talk anywhere in the county. You will find their Payne office at the Bank Drug Store.

The slot machines are receiving the attention of the officers in many places over the state. They are among the most persistent robbers of the country and should be suppressed everywhere.

Bell Telephone at the Welcome Drug Store. Clear and plain. Only 15 cents to talk to Paulding and 10 cents to other places in the county.

The scenery for Gaut's Opera House is about finished. It will be the finest in the county as it is all done in

long process include grinding sausage, rendering lard, shredding corn, husking corn and making soap.

The Paulding Kiwanis Club deserves a "thank you" for opening up the Community Center election night. Facilities were excellent for spectators, workers and news personnel.

A retirement party in honor of Sheriff John L. Keeler will be given by the Paulding County Sheriff Reserves at the Antwerp American Legion Hall. All friends, relatives and the public are invited to come and celebrate this special event.

### 75 Years Ago

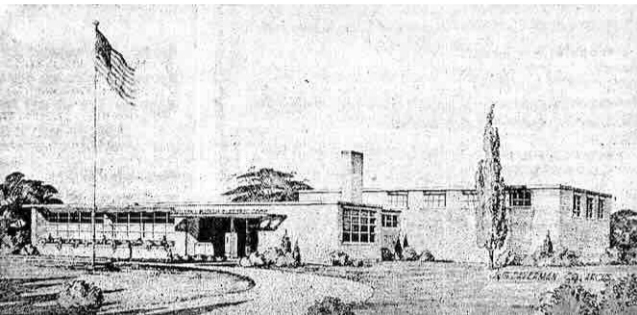
*From the Oakwood News of Nov. 17, 1949:*

The face of Ohio will be greatly changed within the next decade as the proposed super highway turnpikes are constructed. Already, Ohio's newly appointed Turnpike Commission has chosen the tentative route for the first of these great roads across the northern part of the state. Four alternate routes for future consideration have been outlined. Ohioans may expect to be using the first turnpike super highway by the end of 1953.

The annual County Wide 4-H Achievement Program will be held in the Payne School auditorium this evening. All awards not paid at the fair will be even at this time. Every member who has completed his or her project will be even a certificate and all first, fourth and eighth year members will be given pins.

*From the Paulding Progress of Nov. 17, 1949:*

## YEARS AGO IN PAULDING COUNTY



November 1949: An architect's drawing of the new Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative's new building under construction north of Paulding. The Circle K gas station now occupies this site.



The old Five Span Bridge east of Junction as it appeared in 1957. The bridge opened in 1875 and was demolished in summer 1983. The new bridge was completed in December 1984.

### By: PAULDING COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

*40 Years Ago*  
*From the Paulding Progress of Nov. 14, 1984:*

Most of the work on replacing Five Span Bridge near Junction is complete. ODOT expects to open the bridge possibly the day before or after Thanksgiving.

Stokely's Finest Foods, Oconomowoc Canning Company, announced the

appointment of Alan Griffiths as plant manager of the company's tomato processing operation at Paulding.

The Paulding County Visiting Nurse Association announces a new service: hospice care.

John Paulding Historical Museum will demonstrate the step-by-step processing of a hog at its Old Fashioned Butchering Day on Nov. 17. Activities during the day-

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.

(Continued from Page 1)

struction of a new branch nearby

- Dupont (built in 1990) and Georgetown (built in 2004): heavy renovation on the existing location

- Hessen Cassel (built in 1972, renovated in 2004): heavy renovation or property sale and build a new library nearby

- New Haven (built in 2003): medium renovation

- Main (built in 2007): select interior renovations funded by a portion of bond financing and roof/solar/chiller project funded by ACPL reserves (currently underway and qualifies for federal incentives for green energy).

The decision came following a presentation from Baier, ACPL Chief Financial Officer David Sedestrom, ACPL Board of Trustees, ACPL Ben Eisbart, Capital Projects Committee Chair Marty Seifert, and Baker Tilly Director Jason Tanselle that highlighted the research, community feedback, and years of planning that contributed to the proposal. It also shared the results of a 2024 independent American Pulse poll that showed 86.9% of taxpayers said they would support a tax increase if it meant an investment in the library they love.

Furthermore, the Library collected nearly 6000 signatures of support from the community in the weeks leading up to the Council meeting. ACPL leadership, including its Board of Trustees, worked with council leaders to ensure the proposal was presented at the right time. The Phase 1 proposal includes a tax bond of 37 million dollars combined with more than 20 million dollars from the ACPL's reserve funds. The estimated tax impact is \$0.0165 per \$100 of assessed home

oil and hand painted. Explore more local history by visiting the Paulding County History Museum from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues-

value. As an example, a homeowner with an assessed value of \$150,000 could anticipate an increase of \$10.94 annually. The bonds will also be subject to the existing tax caps.

"We are always mindful of the impact on taxpayers and careful that each dollar they invest is maximized for their benefit," said ACPL Board of Trustees President Ben Eisbart. "The poll, surveys, and community conversations reinforce that Allen County believes

we are responsible stewards of their tax dollars, and we are so pleased that Council has approved the bond so we can continue to protect the community's investment in the ACPL."

The plan now moves to Fort Wayne City Council for approval of the bond expenditures. Upon that approval, the ACPL is eager to begin working with contractors and putting projects into action.

The ACPL encourages residents to stay engaged with the ongoing development of the Facilities Master Plan. Updates will be provided through the library's website at www.youracpl.org and social media channels.

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days or by appointment. For special events and announcements, see our Facebook page at facebook.com/jphsmuseum.

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

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

## 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.**  
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**PIECEMAKERS QUILT GROUP AWARD QUILT**



Pictured above is the Piecemakers Quilt Group's quilt winner, Mike Ingram, with his quilt.

Recently, Hicksville Schools held their annual Veterans' Day program. As part of a wonderful event honoring all who have served, the Piecemakers Quilt Group of Hicksville awarded a quilt to one of the attendees. The name drawn to receive the quilt was Mike Ingram, recently retired from the US Marine Corps.

**SIBERIAN SOLSTICE BAND TOUR 2024**



Siberian Solstice a Trans Siberian Orchestra Tribute band, is beginning its 18th season on the road this year. Made up of 10 members on stage from the tri-star area, this band has remained a holiday tradition for families and individuals that have attended their concerts. According to founding member and band manager David Coonrod of Defiance Ohio, the band started as a church praise band after a parishioner suggested they learn a few (TSO) Trans Siberian Orchestra songs for Christmas. They tried it, and their first official event started in 2006. "We have kept it open and free to the public (for most venues)," he added. "It's a way for people who can't afford to see the big TSO show. We wanted a Christmas show

they can take the whole family to and not break the bank." The band is scheduled every weekend from now until December 22. Every year we have added more songs, expanded the light show to include lasers, and new sound equipment and live TV cameras along with multiple video projection screens," said Garnett McGladdery, lead singer, electric musical director and creative guitar player. **Siberian Solstice will be in concert in Hicksville at the Huber Opera House on Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** For more information and a complete list of their tour dates and locations, including sample videos of their performances visit: [www.siberiansolstice.com](http://www.siberiansolstice.com)

**NEW ZONING RULES APPROVED AT ANTWERP VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 13**

Antwerp Village Council Discusses Infrastructure, Emergency Ordinances, and Future Planning The Antwerp Village Council convened on November 13, 2024 to discuss a range of issues, from emer-

gency resolutions for local infrastructure projects to zoning matters and ordinance amendments. Council members and community representatives exchanged detailed updates, plans, and concerns during the meeting. The meeting opened with the approval of minutes from the previous session and a review of the October finance report. Council members

unanimously agreed to the reports, setting the tone for a cooperative discussion on pressing agenda items.

Council addressed Resolution 2024-23, an emergency resolution authorizing an expenditure exceeding \$75,000 for engineering services related to the Canal-Wentworth Water Line and storm improvement project. The urgency of the resolution stems from a need to adhere to Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) deadlines and a strategic adjustment to extend stormwater management to Erie Street. Council members also clarified that additional costs associated with the project would include fees to review the engineering plans to bore beneath the railroad. The resolution was adopted with full council approval.

Reconsidering Marijuana Dispensary Zoning Regulations:

Council then moved to an emergency reading of Ordinance 2024-17, which proposes rescinding Ordinance 2024-06. This previous ordinance placed restrictions on the location of medical and recreational marijuana dispensaries within certain zoning districts, including Antwerp's downtown. A technical issue—the ordinance failed to pass by the necessary three-fourths majority—required the council to revisit the matter. After discussion, the council suspended the rules and voted to rescind the ordinance.

Amending Zoning and Building Ordinances:

The council also conducted emergency readings for Ordinances 2024-18 and 2024-19, which amend prior zoning and building codes per recommendations from the Village Planning and Zoning Commission. After a recent public hearing, minor corrections, such as typographical errors, were noted. Both ordinances were passed after a suspension of the rules.

Personnel Manual and Zoning Fee Amendments

In addition to emergency resolutions, the council reviewed Resolution 2024-21—a personnel manual update for the village—and Ordinance 2024-11, an amendment to the fee schedule for zoning permits and related services. Both items were reviewed as part of the council's focus on administrative updates.

Duplex and Triplex Regulation

Council also held a second reading of Ordinance 2024-12, which would prohibit converting single-family homes into duplexes, triplexes, or larger multi-family units. The proposed restrictions prompted a discus-

**FIRST FINANCIAL ANNOUNCES \$5,000 GRANT TO PAULDING ORGANIZATION**



First Financial Bank (Nasdaq: FFBC) and the First Financial Foundation have awarded a \$5,000 grant to the United Way of Paulding County, building on a commitment to make a positive impact through donations that enhance and develop local communities.

"Serving communities is part of our culture, and we see these donations through our local partner organizations as investments in people and neighborhoods to create positive outcomes that will benefit us all," said Roddell McCullough, chief corporate responsibility officer for First Financial Bank.

Throughout its four-state footprint of Ohio, Kentucky,

Indiana and Illinois, First Financial awarded a total of \$510,000, matching last year's result as the largest grant campaign to date. The awards, made to 73 different organizations, are focused on promoting neighborhood development and education, and culture and the arts, with a particular focus on low-income communities.

First Financial broadened the impact of the campaign by adding funding from CREA, a low-income housing tax credit organization.

First Financial's commitment to the communities it serves extends beyond the annual grant campaign. Earlier this year, First Financial an-

nounced a new Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) for 2024-2028, committing to \$2.4 billion in lending and investments to low- and moderate-income clients and census tracts. The new CBA includes a goal of \$18 million in philanthropy. The First Financial Foundation gave a total of more than \$2.4 million in donations in 2023. First Financial's giving is focused on helping groups that create and preserve affordable housing and workforce development, plus those that provide housing counseling and promote financial and economic inclusion. Last year, First Financial team members also gave more than 14,000 volunteer hours to local organizations.

Antwerp's water infrastructure, costs, and necessary inspections. Council members voted to refer the ordinance to the Planning and Zoning Commission for further review.

Water Rate Increases and Regular Meeting Schedules

Council reviewed second readings of ordinances related to water rate adjustments (Ordinance 2024-13) and the 2025 council meeting schedule (Ordinance 2024-14). These ordinances are part of ongoing efforts to streamline operations and ensure fiscal sustainability for

Antwerp's water infrastructure.

Executive Session and Sale of Village Property

Before adjourning, the council entered an executive session to discuss the sale of village-owned property. The details of this discussion remain confidential.

Moving Forward: A Focus on Transparency and Community Input

Throughout the meeting, council members highlighted the importance of public engagement and transparency. The council emphasized their commitment to improving

infrastructure, refining zoning regulations, and providing accessible digital records for public reference. Efforts to digitize council records are ongoing, with 21 volumes prepared for digital conversion, aiming for cost-effective, searchable storage solutions.

Antwerp Village Council will continue to address these issues at the next monthly meeting, scheduled for December 11 at 5:30pm, where members expect to revisit these topics and advance their goal of responsive governance.

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

I attended the Veteran's Day Program at Antwerp School as a guest with my husband who is an Army Veteran. The program was an example of excellence: well considered and very meaningful. It was wonderful to see so many veterans in attendance and the interaction with the students. We had been hearing about the tasty school lunches this year and we were not disap-

pointed. Thank you to all that organized and participated. It was a great morning.

—Kathy Nern  
 Antwerp, OH

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Let's Save America**

At different times over the past 23 years that I've been writing I've said that I believe God chose America to be man's last best chance of survival. I feel that we have greatly let God down. If you blind liberal knew our nation's history and strength built on faith you would probably feel more like me and that's "you must have total faith in God to receive the best life offers."

One prime reason you spiritually blind Democrats don't see and learn the necessary things of life is because some of your anti-God brothers changed our whole education system in order to grow a nation of dummies. They want dummies who will depend on them. Intelligent people frighten them.

For you that don't know, in our beginning, France wanted to own us as did Spain and England. Each of those had only greed in mind. The only thing they wanted was power and the income they could get from this new land.

But you see, we had something they didn't have. We had God and a desire to be free from their anti-God, domineering, tyrannical, socialistic government ways. Those three only had greed and Satan. We had a rag-tag army and eventually a navy and God. Boy, that's something your Democrat leaders

hate hearing. Study that old picture of George Washington kneeling in the snow on the battlefield. He was asking for God's strength and blessing for his troops and the new land. With God's strength his rag-tag military went on to defeat the world's greatest military.

If our founders and early settlers didn't have strength and strong faith in God, how were they able to create this nation with government and laws that have been the world's leader for 250 years? Why do so many buildings and memorials in Washington DC pay tribute to God? They knew where our strength comes from even if you don't. You don't know because your anti-God Democrat leaders have been trying to destroy God in America for the last seventy five years.

Many of you claim to believe in God and even attend church. What I, and many other conservative Christians, wish to know is how can you turn your back to God and vote for those doing Satan's sick work? The following list belongs to Satan and the Democrat party: Swearing, sex without marriage, abortion, murder, transgenderism, gay marriage, jailing people for not falling for your low anti-God ways, open borders, drugs and so much more.

Do you realize your highest ranking Democrat Senator said our Supreme Court was there for them only? Do you also realize that kind of speech can only come from an evil mind?

This may be hard for you Democrats but I feel America will be better off if you think this out and then thank God your party didn't win the election. First off, Harris didn't even come close to being qualified. Had Harris won the election, we would right now be on our way to experiencing America's death.

I have paid attention to politics since the 1950's and believe that your today's party leaders are the worst in my time and by far the most dangerous for America and the world. Christian America is what holds our world together. It can't last without God. Don't take that lightly as it may cost you your eternal life.

America is at war but not a shooting war. This is between good and evil or God and Satan. Read the Bible, attend church, find someone

who can help explain what was deliberately kept from you.

Any nation going against God's word is on a fast track to total destruction. I believe God wants our best, not our worst. With Republicans gaining control of government I believe God has given mankind a reprieve. You had best pray that it is lasting because I believe that if and when America falls, the world will fall with us.

Bless you on you road to saving this world.

—Richard Mastin  
 Hicksville, OH

**PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS**

**Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report**

**Jennifer L. Harrell**, Kendallville, IN; Domestic violence; Case dismissed per state, with prejudice; Costs waived

**Al Franklin**, Oxford, OH; Seat belt/drive; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

**Riley J. Bidlack**, Cecil, OH; Confine of dog; Pled no contest, found guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs today; Maintain general good behavior

**Noah J. Carpenter**, Paulding, OH; Reckless operation; Guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs

**Seth J. King**, Fort Wayne, IN; Driving/texting; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

**Maggie E. Groh**, Grover Hill, OH; Driving/texting; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

**Junior E. Munoz-Ortiz**, Fort Wayne, IN; Failure to control; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

**Ilse L. Zijlstra**, Antwerp, OH; Failure to control; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

**Paramjit Singh**, Guelph, ON; Unsafe vehicle; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

**Gabe I. Sinn**, Haviland, OH; Driving/texting, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant; Seat belt/drive, Guilty, Case was waived by defendant

**Gulala N. Ahmed**, Dearborn, MI; Failure to control; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

**WHICH IRA IS RIGHT FOR YOU?**

The individual retirement account (IRA) is celebrating its golden anniversary. Created in 1974, this savings vehicle has helped millions of people build resources for retirement. And in 1997, the Roth IRA was introduced. But which IRA is right for you?

Let's look at the basic differences between the two IRAs. With a traditional IRA, you generally invest pretax dollars, so the more you put in, the lower your taxable income. Your earnings grow tax deferred, meaning you pay no taxes on them until you start taking withdrawals. (If you take withdrawals before you reach 59½, you'll be subject to ordinary income tax and a 10% IRA penalty.)

When you invest in a Roth IRA, your contributions aren't deductible, but they can be withdrawn at any time, tax- and penalty-free. And you can typically withdraw your earnings on these contributions tax free once you're 59½ and you've had your account at least five years. (If you don't meet these conditions, withdrawals of earnings are subject to income taxes and the 10% penalty.)

So, are you better off by taking the immediate tax break offered by a traditional IRA or the long-term benefits of tax-free withdrawals available with a Roth IRA?

If you think you'll be in a higher tax bracket when you retire, you might want to consider a Roth IRA, especially if you have a long time until retirement. This will give you more opportunities to put away funds that can be withdrawn tax free. Conversely, if you think you might be in a lower tax bracket upon retirement, you might lean toward a traditional IRA, as you'd get the tax benefits now, when you're in a higher bracket, and can eventually make your taxable withdrawals when you're in a lower one.

Here's something else to keep in mind: Once you turn 73 (or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later), you must start

taking taxable withdrawals — technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — from your traditional IRA. But if you have a Roth IRA, you won't face RMDs and can essentially keep the money in your account indefinitely. If you don't need all the funds in your Roth IRA for your retirement, you can pass them on to your heirs.

Ultimately, though, your income may determine which IRA is right for you. You can earn any amount and contribute to a traditional IRA, though if you exceed certain income limits, your contributions may no longer be tax deductible. If you and your spouse don't have a 401(k) or other retirement plan through your employers, you can make a full, deductible contribution to a traditional IRA regardless of your income.

But you may not be able to contribute to a Roth IRA, or at least not make the full maximum annual contributions, if your income is above certain levels. Your tax advisor can explain these levels, which often increase from year to year. (In 2024, the most you can contribute to either IRA, depending on your income, is \$7,000 per year, or \$8,000 if you're 50 or older.)

Under some circumstances, you can convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, though you'll need to pay taxes on the conversion. In any case, think carefully about your options and make the choices that are appropriate for your needs.

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

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**READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS**

**OHIO LOCATIONS**

**Antwerp:** Antwerp Pharmacy, H20, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Family Dollar, Pop-N-Brew, Pit-Stop, Antwerp Manor, Library, Genesis House, G-Mart, Village Hardware, Small Town Bliss

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

**Cecil:** 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House

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

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

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

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

**Hicksville:** Sailors, Vancrest, Shell Station, Citgo, Marathon, Dollar General, Subway, Senior Center, Village offices, Johnson Memorial Library, Red Angel Pizza, McDonalds,

**Ney:** Marathon

**Oakwood:** Oakwood Market, The Oakleaf, Dollar General, Cooper Library, Landing Strip

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

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

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

**Scott:** Scott Post Office

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

**INDIANA LOCATIONS**

**Fort Wayne:** Hahn Systems, Walmart, Walgreens, Goodwill (Maysville Rd.), Golden Years Nursing Home, Golden Years Assisted Living

**Grabill:** Save-A-Lot, Grabill Hardware, Grabill Country Sales

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

**Hoagland:** Mel's Town Market, Hoagland Pizza Pub

**Milan Center:** Milan Center Feed & Grain

**Monroeville:** Mel's Deli, Phillips 66, Village of Heritage Assisted Living, Dollar General

**New Haven:** ACPL Library, McDonalds, Ken's Meat Market, Paterson Hardware, Crumback Chevrolet, CVS, Clips, NH Bakery, Chamber of Commerce (Old City Hall), Richard's

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

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# THE LEFT TURN



No 95 Dave Sullick Jr. gets 3rd. *Jim Feeney Photo*



Jon McKennedy gets the win over Josh Sokolic. *Jim Feeney Photo*



Jon McKennedy wins North/South Supermodified Shootout. *Jim Feeney Photo*

By: Ron Burt

Last weekend was the North vs South Shootout at Garaway Speedway for the big block ISMA/MSS Supermodifieds. The drivers, crews and fans took the drive to Sophia, North Carolina. Caraway Speedway is a .455 mile asphalt short track located near Asheboro that runs weekly races and several series. They also run several Whelen Southern Modified Series events for asphalt UMP type mods. Last week the big boys came to play and made sure it was an action packed weekend for everyone attending.

the non-sanctioned event running under ISMA-MSS rules, passed Dave Shullick Jr. for the lead on lap 13 and never looked back. Shullick, who started on the pole in No. 95, would hold P2 until Sokolic overtook him for the runner-up position during the second half of the race. Shullick would complete the podium in P3.

Former NASCAR Truck Series champion Johnny Benson Jr. had his best run of the ISMA-MSS season to finish P4. Oswego's Dave Danzer rounded out the top five.

The win was McKennedy's second of the year in ISMA-MSS racing, following up his score in August at Claremont Motorsports Park. The win will go down as an ISMA-MSS non-points victory and the 19th of McKennedy's career in the series, which is eighth on the all-time list.

McKennedy's win caps an incredible late season stretch for Nicotra Racing. Since July, Nicotra drivers Otto Sitterly and McKennedy

have won the Sandusky Hy-Miler, Oswego's Mr. Supermodified feature, the Oswego International Classic pole award, the Star Classic, both features at the Evans Mills John Burr Classic, the ISMA-MSS championship, and now the North-South Shootout.

If you enjoy the big block Supermodifieds, Sandusky Speedway just announced the 48th Annual Hy-Miler will be July 23rd-26th 2025. They will be releasing more details soon.

The Outlaw 350 Supermodified Sprint Series just released their 2025 schedule last week. Missing from the 12 race schedule is Plymouth Motor Speedway west of Fort Wayne. Tracks already set in stone include Sandusky, Lorain, Midvale and Shady Bowl Speedway in De Graff, Ohio. With the high banking at Shady Bowl these crate motor lightening bolts will fly around that oval.

The Outlaw 350 Supermodified Series has done something I've never seen but it would be something other series should look at. November 15th was the deadline for a 48-hour comment period for the proposed set of rules. This period was intended to allow the competitors and potential competitors an opportunity to provide feedback, raise concerns, and suggest improvements. The directors of competition in the series value all input; however, each suggestion will be carefully considered, but final decisions will be made based on a variety of factors, including overall impact, feasibility, and alignment with series objectives in mind. This is a great idea.

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

Find us at Ohio Sports Blitz on Facebook.

## PAULDING COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Joseph R. Burkard announced that the Paulding County Grand Jury Indicted (8) persons on Thursday, November 14, 2024

**Coty S. Franklin** (10/6/1987), Payne, OH; Gross sexual imposition, F4; Sexual battery, F3; Rape, F1

**Augustine Allen Barajas** (9/25/1988), Oakwood, OH; Receiving stolen property, F4; Receiving stolen property, F5

**Brittney Danielle Barajas** (10/17/1995), Oakwood, OH; Receiving stolen property, F4; Receiving stolen property, F5

**Christopher Paul Crapsey** (9/11/1967), Toledo, OH; Grand theft, F4; Breaking and entering, F5; Engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, F2

**Joseph Leroy Crapsey III** (10/1/1960), Toledo, OH; Grand theft, F4; Specification for forfeiture of vehicle; Breaking and entering, F5; Engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, F2

**Allysa Anne Stoller** (5/9/197), Paulding, OH; Endangering children, F3

**Austin Christopher Core** (1/5/1994), Defiance, OH; Tampering with evidence, F3; Improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle, F5; Aggravated menacing, M1; Aggravated menacing, M1

**James Edward Burkett** (11/9/1967), Oakwood, OH; Strangulation, F4; Domestic violence, M1

# PAULDING ELEMENTARY OCTOBER MINDSET MARVELS



Paulding Elementary announce their Mindset Marvels for October 2024. Pictured above are: Front row: Lacey Renollet, CeCelia Manz, Aubree Mangette, Elizabeth Lechuga, Novalyn Grubb. Middle row: Clayton Schoepflin, Aubrey Manz, Audrina Vance, Maddock Wolfe, Hudson Stork, Gwen LaBoe. Back row: Graeson Heller, Phoenix Whiting, Lexis Smith, Rayne McCoskey, Miracle Eutsler, Alyssa Thomas



## ANTWERP POLICE REPORTS

October 29, a domestic dispute was reported at Leinard MHP. Officer responded and one party had already left. A report was prepared, but nothing physical had occurred.

October 29, an officer saw a side by side driving down the road in the village. It was stopped and explained they were not allowed to drive on the road. The driver was issued a warning.

October 30, a resident of 511 N. Main St complained about music coming from the neighbor above him. A report was prepared and the individual was told to contact the landlord.

October 31, police department received a request for an officer to stand by while one party removed property from a resident on Canal St. Officer did as requested.

November 2, a vehicle was stopped on Canal St for having expired license plates, the driver was also cited for driving under suspension.

November 4, a domestic dispute was reported at a residence in the village. Officer responded, report prepared and sent to prosecutor.

November 4, a resident of Woodland Dr. reported a man going door to door selling roof repair. Officer responded, but unable to locate the individual.

November 4, an officer observed a vehicle approaching another vehicle at the stop sign on Erie and Canal. The vehicle passed on left side at sign. Officer stopped the driver and issued citation for stop sign violation and littering.

November 5, a motor vehicle hit-skip was reported at Sunoco.

November 5, a resident of the village reported that someone had attempted to scam him. The caller allegedly told him he had fines that needed to be paid using

prepaid Visas.

November 7, a resident of Daggett St reported that someone had obtained his social security number off the internet and had attempted to use it on several occasions.

November 7, a wallet was turned in to the police station that was found at Dollar General.

November 7, a resident of Schaffer Rd reported that he believed a side-by-side had struck his mailbox. The case was investigated.

November 9, the police department assisted the EMS with a squad run in the village.

November 9, the police department was notified by the Paulding County Sheriff of a protection order on a local resident.

November 9, the police department was contacted in reference to a vehicle unlock for a resident on Park Ave. The officer responded and provided the unlock.

November 11, officers were called about a motor vehicle hit-skip. Approx. 5 mail

boxes, one telephone pole and cement planter had been smashed by an unknown vehicle. The case was investigated and it was determined to be a farm tractor with a plow. The owner and driver of the equipment were notified and a report was prepared and a citation issued.

November 11, a resident of Woodcox reported his neighbors were harassing him.

November 12, around 11:00 p.m. officer received a report of an alarm at a downtown business. The officer responded and found it secured and contacted the manger.

November 13, around 11:00 a.m. the police department was notified of a domestic dispute on N. Main. The parties were warned about disorderly conduct.

If you would like to report any suspicious activity or if you have any questions, please contact the Antwerp Police Department, 419-258-2627. They are always ready to serve the residents of the Village of Antwerp!

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# Antwerp Chamber of Commerce Shop Antwerp First NOVEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>



**SHOP ANTWERP FIRST is this SATURDAY!**  
Shopping local is essential to the longevity of small businesses' success in a rural community. For 2024 Antwerp Chamber of Commerce organized a new twist on the Shop Small motto by hosting a SHOP ANTWERP FIRST the Saturday BEFORE Thanksgiving in hopes of jumpstarting the holiday shopping season in Antwerp.  
Beginning at 9am, stop in the Welcome Center at Antwerp VFW Post #5087 to pick up your Shopping Bag, a coupon page with Chamber businesses' deals for November 23rd and register to participate in the Business Scavenger Hunt.

The Annual Scavenger Hunt is a great representative of the thriving business community in the village of Antwerp. Decipher the clues that will lead you to each participating business, find the Elf while shopping, and snap a selfie with them. Return to the VFW with your completed Hunt photo gallery before 12pm to be entered into the drawing for \$100 in Chamber Bucks (you'll just show your photos to a Chamber rep).  
Enjoy the morning in Antwerp visiting the Chamber businesses (take this spread with you!). Check out the home-based businesses at the VFW - Judy Hook w/Ageless Reflexology, Jennifer Nestleroad, Arnold's Upcycling & more. Antwerp Exchange Bank will have their

money tree drawing. H2O Water Store is running a sale on the 23rd and more home-based businesses will be in the adjacent building with their offerings for shoppers - including Krazy Krafers, Jessie's Money Maker, Marbled Disasters, Anything & Everything Creations and the Country Butterfly. Grab a coffee at Genesis House, browse in Petals & Vines, More Than Boutique and Junque for that unique gift(s). Schedule your appointments - whether it's with Hormann's, Pierce, Friend's or Small Town Bliss. Riverside Tire also has a great deal on propane!  
Check out the league information at The Upper Nine golf simulator. Enjoy a FREE bowling

game at Pin-A-Rama or a famous Bob & Virgil's cheeseburger from 9am to 1pm. Plan your lunch or dinner with the delicious menus from Hop's Place or Oasis Bar & Grill. Fill up that fuel tank and order a pizza at The Pit Stop after you've enjoyed your morning in the Village of Antwerp.  
Be thankful for businesses & organizations who support small business like Paragon Tempered Glass, West Bend Printing & Publishing, Dooley Funeral Home, Sam Switzer Realty, ACDC, Sarah Mowery Dentistry, Antwerp Rotary Club, and United Way of Paulding County (among many others)!

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**Receipt Drawings**  
You could win \$100 or \$25 in Chamber Bucks on November 23rd!  
Spend \$50 or more in ONB Antwerp Chamber business for a \$100 drawing.  
Spend \$25-\$49 in ANY Antwerp Chamber member business for a \$25 drawing.  
Drop your receipts off at the Welcome Center before 12pm!

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# PJHS FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS



On Saturday, November 9th sixth grade students and staff from Paulding Junior High School volunteered at the Caring and Sharing Food Pantry in Paulding, Ohio. Shown in the picture from left are: Brantley Myles, Iridessa Reyes, Mrs. Amanda Tice (Science/Social Studies Teacher), Mr. Phil Romero (Intervention Specialist), Avri Schroeder, and Julio Cortes Becerra.

# PAULDING HS ANNOUNCES OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Paulding High School October Students of the Month are pictured above (l-r) Freshman: Kyler Foor, Sophomore: Vivienne Myers, Junior: Addison Pease, and Senior: Johnny Lipps.

# VANTAGE'S RESTAURANT, CUP & SAUCER, OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE COMMUNITY



Culinary Arts senior, Mckenna Hall (Parkway High School), prepares luxurious desserts at Cup & Saucer.

If you are seeking an extraordinary restaurant experience that is delicious and meaningful, Cup & Saucer at Vantage Career Center awaits you. Managed by Vantage's talented junior and senior Culinary Arts students under the skilled leadership of Chef Instructor, Chad Conklin, this restaurant offers more than just a meal – it offers a showcase of passion, dedication, and talent on every plate. Cup & Saucer will open its doors to the public, by reservation only, for lunch Wednesday through Friday, beginning November 13th and will seat guests from 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Every bite is a testament to the dedication these students

bring to their craft. "Good food starts with good ingredients and these students are the key ingredient in everything they create. Their talent, dedication and passion are the best any kitchen could hope for." Chef Conklin says proudly. Adding to the excitement this season, Cup & Saucer will host two spectacular holiday meals, perfect for sharing with friends and family. Mark your calendars for a Thanksgiving celebration on Tuesday, November 26, a feast of classic holiday dishes prepared with exceptional flair. You will also want to join us for a festive Christmas meal on Tuesday, December 17, where every dish encompasses the holiday spirit. Given the popularity of these events, we encourage you to reserve your seats early by calling 419-238-5411 ext. 2069. Please note, due to high demand, walk-ins cannot be accommodated. Come celebrate the artistry and skill of Vantage's Culinary Arts students and experience the unforgettable service and cuisine at Cup & Saucer. We are eager to welcome you to a culinary adventure that blends exceptional food, heart, and community.

# KRIS KRINGLE MARKET IN THE VILLAGE OF CONVOY

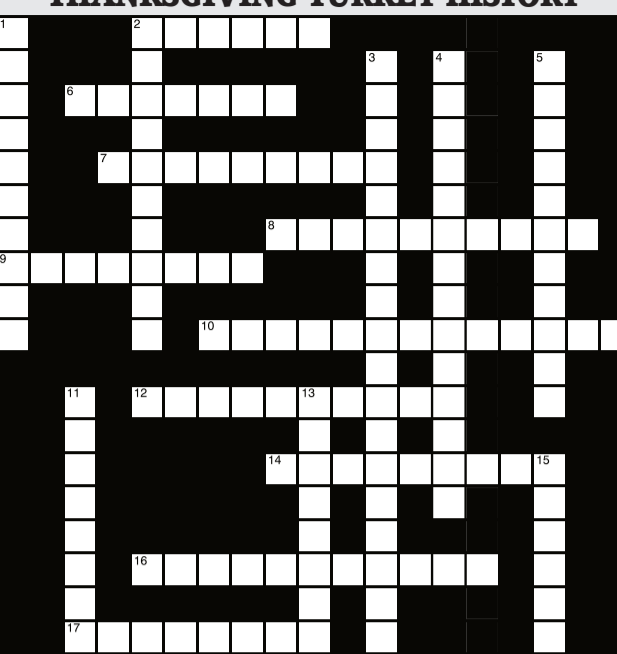
2024 Kris Kringle Market will be held on Saturday December 7th from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday December 8th from 1:00–5:00 p.m. at the Convoy Fox Hunters building in Convoy OH.

Vendors participating are A & B's Chips & Salsa/Alvarez Mexican Food, Annie Rose Crocheting, Cherry Tree Creations, Color Street Nails, Convoy Coffee Roasters, Cotton & Threads, Donna's Sewing and Embroidery, Gilkey Glass & Homestead, Girl Scouts Free Christmas Package Wrapping, Girl Scouts Popcorn, Her Positive Baking, Honey & Henry Barkery, JH Custom Wood Designs, Jim Pickett Bones of Kekimonga, LMS Bakery, Marlee's Morse's, Sisters Embroidery & More, Something From The Garden, Wild Daisy Creations. Bring a friend and take in all of downtown Convoy.

# O HOLY NIGHT CHILDREN'S CANDLELIGHT PARADE

2024 Convoy Christmas in the Village finale will be the O Holy Night Children's Parade on Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Children & live animals will be walking in costume to remind everyone of the real reason for Christmas, Jesus' birth. The parade will begin at Convoy Methodist Church and travel through downtown to the Convoy Village Square where the Christmas Story will be read & caroling.

# WEST BEND NEWS Crossword Puzzle



- Across
2. The bird traditionally associated with Thanksgiving feasts.
6. Thanksgiving originally celebrated the harvest, and turkeys were plentiful at that time of year.
7. Thanksgiving dinner often used for sandwiches and soups after the holiday.
8. The species of turkey native to North America and hunted by Native Americans and Pilgrims.
9. Early settlers who are believed to have celebrated the first Thanksgiving in 1621.
10. The process by which turkeys were tamed for farming and consumption.
12. A brand of turkey often featured at Thanksgiving feasts across the U.S.
14. The Native American tribe that joined the Pilgrims for the first Thanksgiving.
16. The Pilgrims ate a variety of wild game, but turkey became symbolic of their diet.
17. A traditional side dish, often placed inside the Thanksgiving turkey.
Down
1. A symbol of abundance often associated with Thanksgiving, though not directly related to the turkey.
2. A popular footrace held on Thanksgiving morning in many U.S. cities.
3. A modern tradition where the U.S. president spares a turkey from being eaten.
4. The settlement where the first Thanksgiving feast took place.
5. A traditional side served with turkey at modern Thanksgiving dinners.
11. Turkeys were originally prized for their feathers as much as for their meat.
13. The most common method of cooking the Thanksgiving turkey.
15. The sound made by male turkeys, often associated with Thanksgiving.

solution on page 11

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# ON-LINE SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2329.153
THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK, Plaintiff, vs. LAUREN FAVORITE, ET AL., Defendants,

Case No. CI 24 089
Pursuant to an Order of Sale in the above-entitled action, the following real estate will be offered for sale:

418 E Baldwin Ave, Paulding
Parcel Number: 30-01S-034-00

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

Said premises appraised at Seventy-Five Thousand (75,000.00) and cannot be sold for less than two-thirds of that amount on the first sale date.

The first sale date will be on the December 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders must be registered with RealAuction on-line bidding at:

https://paulding.sheriffssaleauction.ohio.gov.

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

In the event this property does not sell on the above date, a second on-line auction will be held on December 19, 2024 at 10:00a.m. On this date, there will be no minimum bid. However, the purchaser will be responsible for any costs, allowances, and taxes which the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.

The appraisal of this property was completed without an interior inspection. Neither the Sheriff's Office nor the appraisers are responsible for the condition of the property at the time the purchaser takes possession.

Purchasers are advised they have no legal right to access this property until the Sheriff's Deed has been filed with the Paulding County Recorder's Office.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand and No/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars will be due at the time of the sale. Balance of the purchase price shall be paid before the deed is recorded.

The successful bidder will have Thirty (30) days from the sale date to obtain an examination of title at their expense, if so desired. Should such examination disclose the title to be unmarketable by any defect in the court proceedings or the existence of any outstanding interest rendering the title unmarketable, the successful bidder has Thirty (30) days to file a written motion requesting the sale be set aside. If the court finds the title unmarketable, the court will refuse to confirm the sale or fix a reasonable time, not to exceed Ninety (90) days, within which the defect of title may be corrected.

Taxes shall be prorated to the date of the sale and paid from the sale proceeds.

Sheriff Jason K. Landers
Paulding County, Ohio
www.pauldingohsheriff.com

James L Sassano & Maureen Zink Delaney, Attorney for Plaintiff

# NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of County Commissioners of Paulding County, Ohio, is requesting a proposal for mowing, trimming, landscaping and ground maintenance for the Paulding County Courthouse Square, 120 S. Walnut St., 303 W. Harrison St., Paulding County Annex Building, Board of Elections, Eaton Cemetery, OSU Extension, County Home Cemetery and (6) Pump Stations during January 1, 2025, thru December 31, 2025. All inquiries must have a certificate of liability included with their bids. Specifications for county lots may be picked up in the Commissioners' office 451 McDonald Pike, Suite E, Paulding, OH, or online at www.pauldingcountycommissioners.com

HEATHER BARNHOUSE, CLERK
BY ORDER BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
MIKE WEIBLE
MARK HOLTSBERRY
LISA MCCLURE

# NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of County Commissioners of Paulding County, Ohio, is requesting a proposal for snow removal for the Paulding County Courthouse, County Parking Lot, Board of Elections, January 1, 2025, thru December 31, 2025. All inquiries must have a certificate of liability included with their bids. Specifications for county lots may be picked up in the Commissioners' office 451 McDonald Pike, Suite E, Paulding, OH 45879, or online at www.pauldingcountycommissioners.com

HEATHER BARNHOUSE, CLERK
BY ORDER BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
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# HEALTHY EATERS AT ANN'S BRIGHT BEGINNINGS



Ann's Bright Beginnings are visited twice a month by Mrs. Erika Johanns, SNAP-ED assistant from the Ohio Extension Office in Paulding. She shares healthy habits with the children such

as nutrition, MyPlate, exercises, plus she always brings along a new tasty treat for us to try. Shown here with Miss Erika in the back are: Echo Middleton and Jovan

Grace. In front are: Maelee Etter, Micah Etter and Gatlin Gerschutz. For more information about our programs, please contact 419-399-KIDS.

# FAIRVIEW FFA ATTENDS NATIONAL CONVENTION



The Fairview FFA had another amazing year at the 97th-annual National Convention! Nine members, including the whole officer team and an extra member, attended the trip. They got up early on Wednesday October 23 and headed down to Indianapolis. On the way down they decided to make some stops and go on some tours. They started at Ozark Fishery and were able to see their amazing facility where

they raise fish and sell them all over the world! They were also able to touch the fish and see all the different types of goldfish they raised. They then headed off to Grandpa Joe's Horse Back Riding Trails, each could ride either a mule or horse and headed out as a group to ride the trails. To say the least, it was one of their favorites and made convention a little more memorable. As soon as they finished

with horseback riding they were off to Hunters Honey Farm where they got the chance to fill their own honey bear containers with their homemade honey and see exactly how they make and package their honey. Before they left they got some fun pictures and then were on the way to the convention center for check-in! The bus was loaded once again to head to the Laney Wilson concert! The members had a blast jamming out to her songs on the way to the concert and had an even better time jamming out the music in person!

Just as the night of the first official day of National Convention warped up, day two was underway. They went to opening session bright and early in the morning and were able to hear Kevin Wanzer talk about living life to the fullest and have fun! After opening session they were able to go to the shopping and career center. At the career center the teacher Miss Nagel gave out a scavenger hunt to complete! The girls group was able to complete almost all of it and then was able to go

shopping! After shopping part one, it was off to the food trucks out in front of the Lucas oil stadium for some lunch. They ended up going back to the shopping center and filled the afternoon with shopping and having fun.

After the shopping adventure they headed upstairs to watch a hypnotist showing! The hypnotist name was Michael C Anthony. He invited a few of the member from the crowd to participate and to say the least we saw some crazy things happen! Day two was relaxing as well as fun but we still had two more days to get through!

On day three there was a morning session featuring Temple Grandin who is an American academic, inventor, and ethologist. She is a prominent proponent of the humane treatment of livestock for slaughter and the author of more than 60 scientific papers on animal behavior. Then they were off to two tours that involved popcorn and engines.

The first stop was to Not Just Popcorn in a cute little town outside of Indianapolis where they got to see how they made the popcorn and what the process is like. When the tour was done they were able to shop around and see all of these different flavors.

They then headed off to Cummins Engine factory! They received a small tour and was shown how they make the engine, what they do and how they are tested. The boys were super excited for this tour but the girls got a little bored but made it through! Once the tour was finished they headed to the Rodeo! Some members got to sit on a bull and take some pictures and where able to meet some of the riders before they rode. After the rodeo they were pretty hungry so Miss Nagel took them to Olive Garden for some pasta and breadsticks!

On the final day of the National Convention they headed off to closing session/American Degree Ceremony! They watched as Carrie Zeedyk walked across the stage to receive her American Degree and cheered her on and got pictures with her after words to congratulate her once again! On the way home from Indianapolis they all slept basically the whole way back but while awake all they could talk about was what an amazing time they had. This is always a huge trip the FFA Officer team and one other special member that gets an opportunity to go is able to take. Not only does it make memories that will last forever but they also come closer as a team. Friends are made with members from other states and always laugh about the memories that are made. A shout outgoes to the Fairview FFA Chapter for pitching in money to make this possible and for the advisor, Miss Nagel, for being a chaperone and making this whole trip possible! Another huge congratulation to Carrie Zeedyk in receiving her American Degree! We appreciate everyone for everything and it's safe to say it was another great year at the 2024 97th annual National Convention and Expo.

# STEINER SPEAKS AT THE KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club of Paulding County was privileged to have Bryce Steiner (Owner, West Bend Printing) as the guest speaker at the November 14, 2024, club meeting. Bryce came at the invitation of Dave Burtch (Fellow Kiwanis Member). Bryce spoke to the Kiwanians about how West Bend was started and how it has grown over time to meet the needs of the community and the changing of the times.

# DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE PARTNERSHIP WITH DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION



Shout out to Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 for your partnership and support of our Defiance County community over the last year! During the Moose fiscal year of November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2024, they have donated

\$141,665 through the Defiance Area Foundation (DAF). Pictured with the check are (L to R) Anne Murray - DAF Past President and Trustee and Stacey McCartney - Defiance Moose Lodge Administrator.

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**COMBINE HEADS:** Case IH 2162 35' draper head, Unverferth HT-25 header cart, J&M HT-8 header cart, Case IH 2208 8-row corn head, PLANTING EQUIP: Case IH 1250 16-row planter, Case IH 5400 20' drill w/ markers & no-till coulters cart, TRUCKS/TRAILERS/WAGONS: 1992 International 4900 grain truck, 2009 International Prostar day cab, 1990 Ford L8000 dump truck, 45' drop deck trailer w/ nurse tank, flat rack wagons, Killbros 350 gravity wagon. TILLAGE: Krause 32' X-fold packer, Glencoe 13 shank soil saver, Eversman 3212 land leveler, John Deere rotary hoe, Int. 10-ft disk, Case IH 330 true tandem 31' Turbo Till, Unverferth 130 5-shank zone builder, OTHER: Woods 180 blading mower, Rhino 2160 boom mower, Int. 10' rear blade, DMI 3100 7-shank anhydrous bar, Tarter 3-pt fertilizer spreader, 40' grain elevator w/electric motor, Brent 472 grain cart, Mayrath 10-61 roll away grain auger, New Idea tandem axle manure spreader, poly fert. tanks & MORE!



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**ODNR ENCOURAGES BOATERS TO REGISTER FOR UPCOMING FREE OHIO BOATING EDUCATION COURSE**



COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Parks & Watercraft is encouraging Ohioans to take advantage of upcoming Ohio Boater Education Course dates (OBEC) taking place this fall and winter. This free, essential training is required for anyone born on or after January 1, 1982, who operates a boat over 10 horsepower. The course is open to anyone wishing to participate. “Taking part in an Ohio Boating Education Course is a valuable way to learn key skills and safety practices before heading out on the water,” said Andy Foos, Boating Education Coordinator with ODNR. “Completing the course not only meets the legal requirement but also contributes to safer, more enjoyable boating for everyone.”

Ohio Boater Education Courses (OBEC) are free and covers topics for safe and responsible boating. OBEC is a comprehensive, one-day class designed to fulfill Ohio’s mandatory boater education requirements. The course covers essential topics for safe and responsible boating, including boat handling

and preparation, safe operation practices, legal requirements, emergency procedures, and water sports safety. Each session concludes with a test to ensure participants are equipped with the knowledge needed for a safe boating experience. While there is no charge for the class, registration is required.

Upcoming OBEC Dates and Registration Links:  
 November 16 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) – Sandusky  
 November 16 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) – London  
 December 14 (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) – Sandusky  
 December 14 (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) – Delaware  
 January 11 (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) – Ashley  
 January 21 and 23 (5:00-9:00 p.m. both days) – Hebron

For more information on boater education and skills, visit the ODNR website (<https://ohiodnr.gov/home/news-and-events/all-events/parks-wc-events/Boating-Courses>).

The ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft provides exceptional outdoor recreation and boating opportunities by balancing outstanding customer service, education, and conservation of Ohio’s 76 state parks and waterways.

In 2024, join ODNR as we celebrate 75 years of protecting Ohio’s natural resources and providing outstanding and award-winning recreational opportunities.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at [ohiodnr.gov](http://ohiodnr.gov).

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**DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIEDS IS FRIDAYS @ 12NOON. CALL 419-258-2000**

**WANTED: Old toys, postcards, jewelry, coins, railroad items, watches, military collectibles, antiques, pens, stamps, comics, magazines, records. Paulding by the jail. (419)399- 3353 or txt 419-786-9514. tf**

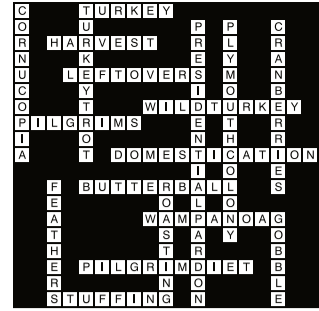
**RAIN TECH SEAMLESS GUTTERS, 419-258-1818 46-48**

**CHARTER BUS TOURS: Call for detailed fliers. March 23-29-2025, Savannah-Charleston, \$1,669/person. April 26 - May 1, 2025, Virginia Military Extravaganza, Norfolk & Virginia Beach. So much included! \$1,299/person; Alaska - July 30 - Aug. 10, 2025, Our 35th tour. 4 day inland & 8 day cruise: \$3,929 Plus air and Ins. (Optional). Evelyn's Excursions, 419-737-2055, 419-367-1471. Also on web & Facebook. 46-49**

**DESIGN - PRINT - ADVERTISE: West Bend Printing & Publishing can get you what you need FAST! Logos, office stationery, building signs, yard signs & banners. All done HERE. Call or stop in today! 419-258-2000.**

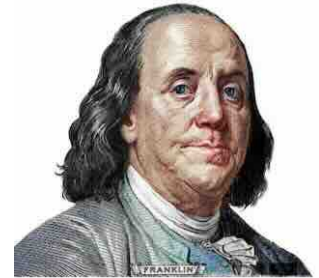
**FOR RENT: Small two-story house. 303 Stone St. Antwerp, OH. 419-487-1945. 47-48p**

IN For more information about Panera Bread and to find a location near you, visit [PaneraBread.com](http://PaneraBread.com). To find your local Salvation Army and learn more about Christmas assistance programs in your area, visit [SalvationArmyIndiana.org](http://SalvationArmyIndiana.org).



**Crossword solution from page 9**

**BEN FRANKLIN**



Even at an advanced age, you learn something new everyday. Early in the 19th century an older man living in England, summoned a book dealer to his home. He was in the market for some books.

The book dealer had some rare material. An older book that had been written perhaps 40 years previous. Poems and a collection of writings. As the man was perusing the book he suddenly turned white as a ghost. He saw something that affected him greatly. The book dealer asked him if he was okay and he said yes he was. In the margin was handwritten notes that had been written by his uncle Ben.

At one point in Ben Franklin’s life he had gone to live with his younger brother James. Now James had a nine year old boy that was completely enamored by his Uncle Ben. Uncle Ben always had something on his mind. The boy would sit beside his uncle and his uncle would read him a poem he had written, show him an idea for an invention. Uncle Ben had quite an imagination.

Now James became concerned about this, so when he would see them together he would take his son out to the workshop and teach him how to make something out of wood, or do something

practical. He did not want his son involved in useless trivia. Now this was not the Ben Franklin you know, for you to see the son's name was also Ben Franklin and he was the one that became one of the fathers of our country, probably the most influential person in our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution.

The second Ben Franklin was a newspaper publisher and a writer and an inventor. His greatest publication was called Poor Richard’s Almanac. Most of our early fathers had a library which consisted of two books, the Bible and Poor Richard’s Almanac. The Ben Franklin that you know was greatly influenced by his uncle Ben Franklin.

I like to mark history by three events. The landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620, the signing of the declaration of independence in 1776, and the War of 1812 which ended all British rule and was near the time Indiana became a state. Ben Franklin lived during the 156 year period before the Revolutionary War.

Our forefathers established a great country, which has now struggled for 240 plus years, to stay great. How long we can last is anybody’s guess, but countries have come and gone all through the centuries.

“If my people which are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, I will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14 ff. KJV paraphrased. —James Neuhausner

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**PANERA BREAD HOSTING TOY DRIVE TO SUPPORT THE SALVATION ARMY**

November 11, kicked off a 3-week toy drive at 42 Indiana Panera Bread restaurants, marking an expansion in the program that helped to collect toys at select restaurants last year. This year, the collection will benefit Salvation Army Christmas assistance programs in counties across the state of Indiana. Collection boxes will be out November 13 to December 6 at each participating Panera Bread. New, unwrapped toys for infants through teens can be dropped off during each location’s regular business hours.

Thousands of local families turn to The Salvation Army during the holidays to help put toys under the tree and Christmas dinner on the table. Families hit hard by inflation, job loss, and financial difficulties often face the difficult choice between paying rent or a utility bill and providing Christmas gifts and a festive family meal for their children. Salvation Army programs, like Angel Tree and Toy Shop, help to relieve the extra financial burden of the holidays and ensure that families in need can still experience the joys of the season.

“We’re so grateful to Panera Bread for growing this program in 2024,” said Major

Marc Johnson, Divisional Commander for The Salvation Army Indiana Division. “With thousands of Hoosier families in need of help this Christmas, a toy drive like this can make a huge impact on our ability to meet the need in each community where we serve. This is a season of joy, and each year The Salvation Army strives to bring that joy to as many of our neighbors in need as we can.”

Panera Bread began as St. Louis Bread Company in 1987 and is now operating in 48 states, Washington, D.C., and Canada. This toy drive is just one of many ways that the company gives back to communities through seasonal and year-round philanthropic efforts.

Participating Panera Bread locations by city:

- Anderson, IN; Bloomington, IN; Carmel, IN (2 locations); Clarksville, IN; Columbus, IN; Evansville, IN (2 locations); Fishers, IN; Fort Wayne, IN (3 locations); Franklin, IN; Goshen, IN; Greenfield, IN; Greenwood, IN; Indianapolis, IN (8 locations); Kokomo, IN; Lafayette, IN; Merrillville, IN; Mishawaka, IN; Muncie, IN; Munster, IN; New Albany, IN; Noblesville, IN (2 locations); Plainfield, IN; Portage, IN; Schererville, IN; South Bend, IN; Terre Haute, IN; Valparaiso, IN; West Lafayette, IN (2 locations); Whitestown,

**HELP WANTED**

**Full-Time Police Officer Position (Lateral Transfer)**

The Woodburn Police Department is currently accepting applications for a Full-Time Police Officer. This is a Lateral Transfer position. Qualified candidates must have completed an Indiana “Tier 1” academy or an equivalent POST-certified academy from another state, and have prior experience with a law enforcement agency.

Interested applicants should submit their resumes to Chief Brad Parker via mail at PO Box 247, Woodburn, Indiana 46797, or via email at [b.parker@cityofwoodburn.org](mailto:b.parker@cityofwoodburn.org). The application deadline is November 25, 2024, at 5:00 PM.

- Benefits include:**
- Competitive starting salary of \$45,000-\$55,000 (2025)
  - Take-home vehicle
  - Paid vacation, sick time, and personal days
  - Retirement options, including PERF 77, Civil PERF, or a matching 403(b) plan
  - Uniform allowance
  - Opportunities for off-duty details and security employment

*We look forward to receiving your application!*  
 — Chief Parker,  
 City of Woodburn

**The City of Woodburn is an equal opportunity employer**

**HELP WANTED**

**Paraprofessional**

Paulding Elementary has an immediate opening for an ESEA Certified Paraprofessional (Teacher’s Aide), which requires an ESEA Educational Aide license through Ohio Department of Education. The applicant must also pass a background check.

Please send a cover letter and resume with 3 references to Mary Born, Principal, 405 N. Water St, Paulding, OH 45879, or by email to [m\\_born@pauldingschools.org](mailto:m_born@pauldingschools.org). For questions, please call 419-399-4656, ext 1310.

**Physical Education Teacher**

Oakwood Elementary School is looking for a Physical Education Teacher. Applicant must have a K-12 Physical Education certification through the Ohio Department of Education. The effective start date is February 21, 2025.

Please send cover letter and resume with 3 references to Jana Hiltner, Principal, 301 N. First St., Oakwood, OH 45873, or by email to [j\\_hiltner@pauldingschools.org](mailto:j_hiltner@pauldingschools.org). For questions please call 419-594-3346, ext 1410

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# WT STEAM CENTER ASSIST MAINTENANCE DEPT.



Pictured above are Wayne Trace Senior Engineering Design student Luke Stouffer with Maintenance Director Bob Thomas and the new downspout.

Wayne Trace High School's maintenance director Bob Thomas recently approached the school's STEAM center with a challenge: could they create a downspout to replace a broken ceramic one that is no longer made? Bob was quickly introduced to Luke Stouffer, a senior student in Mr. Ed Stuart's Engineering Design course. In less than a

day, Luke had measured, calculated, and designed a replacement downspout using Fusion 360, a computer-aided design program that he just learned this fall. The design was printed using one of the school's 3D printers, and in less than 48 hours, the problem was solved!

We are ready for your next challenge, Bob!

## 2024 CONVOY CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Village of Convoy Historical Society will be presenting the "2024 Festival of Trees" in the Convoy Opera House at 111 South

Main Street, Convoy, OH. The venue is handicap accessible. The event will be held on Friday December 6th 3:00-6:00 p.m., Saturday December 7th 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 8th from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

The Opera House will be

decorated with over 30 trees by local businesses, churches, organizations, organizations, Crestview Schools, and individuals throughout the Van Wert area. Trees will be adorned by Adam Brower, Harting Farms, Convoy Research Club, Convoy Methodist Church, Convoy Sports Center, Crestview Art Club, Crestview Bible House, Crestview FFA, Fran Neiswander, Roberta Burnett, Julie Zaleski, Joanne Bandeen/Keely Gamble, Laudick's Jewelry, Ray Hertz, Recovery Massage, Redeemer Christ's Kids, Roberta Burnett, Roehm Farms, Tricia Tussing Schlemmer Farms, Secret Garden Floral & Gifts, Daily Dose, Rebel Bean Coffee, Straley Realty by Anne Brecht, Sugar Ridge Church Bible Buckeyes, Van Wert County Historical Society, Village of Convoy, Convoy Library and more.

There is still room for more trees, let us know. Call Vicki at 419-749-2055.

### 2024 Convoy Christmas in the Village Kids' Activities:

#### SATURDAY

9:30 a.m. - Storytime & Craft at the Convoy Library; 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Train Display at the former VMC Building; 12:00-2:00 p.m. - Santa Claus at the Convoy Village Square, sponsored by the Convoy Lions Club; 12:00-2:00 p.m. - Kids Craft & Face Painting at Special Occasions, with the Crestview Art Club; 2:00 p.m. - Train Pinata in the Convoy Village Square, Organized by Sue & Michelle Lichtle; 1:00-4:00 p.m. - Horse Drawn Wagon Rides at the Convoy Municipal Building sponsored by the Convoy Lions Club, Photo Opts in the Convoy Village Square and at the Train Display

#### SUNDAY

12:00 Noon - Cookie Walk in the Fry Pie Bakery/Annex; 1:00-5:00 p.m. - Hot dogs & Hot Chocolate; Pet Parade at 2:00 p.m. in the Square; Cookie Decorating at 2:00 p.m. Fry Pie Bakery; 2:00 p.m. - Pet Parade, Convoy Village Square; 3:00 p.m. - Ugly Sweater Event in Opera House; 5:00 p.m. - O Holy Night Children's Candlelight Parade, West Tully Street to Convoy Village Square Reading of Christmas Story, Carol Singing, Closing prayer

### OEDA SEEKS HOST COMMUNITIES FOR ITS ANNUAL SUMMIT

The Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) announced that is accepting location proposals for its Annual Summit for the next two years. Interested communities and regions should complete the host committee interest form by December 9, 2025. The form can be found at [survey.monkey.com/r/OEDASummit25](https://survey.monkey.com/r/OEDASummit25) or using the QR Code below.

The Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA), and its predecessor organization the Ohio Development Association (ODA), have been continuously holding an annual conference for Ohio's economic development professionals and stakeholders since 1980.

Traditionally, the conference was held in central

Ohio, but for the first time this year, the organization held the Summit in Toledo at the Glass City Center. The event was highly successful - with the largest attendance (430+ registrants), highest sponsorships, and high attendee satisfaction (4.1 on a 5.0 scale). Following the event, 93% of participants were in support of rotating the Summit around the state.

"This year's Summit in Toledo demonstrated the strength of Ohio's regions and the energy our host communities bring to the event," said David Zak, President & CEO of OEDA. "Rotating the Summit location gives us the opportunity to showcase the diversity and economic potential across the state while making the event more accessible to our members in different regions. We're excited to see which communities will step forward with creative proposals for our next Summit destinations."

In response to attendee feedback, OEDA developed a selection process modeled after the International Economic Development Council, which is currently seeking indications of interest for its 2026 national conference. Next year's IEDC conference will be held in Detroit.

OEDA hopes to select and announce the winning proposals before the end of the calendar year.

Call or Email your classified ad today!  
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## THIS WEEK ON PCBW: BRIAN SHUHERK



Listen this week to the Paulding County Business Weekly podcast, where we hear from Solid Ground owner Brian Shuherk, who shares about the Solid Ground business and all the exciting benefits that they can provide. Irrigation, landscaping, landscape drawings, and snow removal just to name a few.

Brian shares how this business started in the trunk of a car and has developed

into a regional service business. Thank you to program sponsor, OhioMeansJobs. You can tune in on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or listen online at [www.my1027.org/paulding-county-business-weekly/](http://www.my1027.org/paulding-county-business-weekly/).

Paulding County Business Weekly is also available in podcast form through Apple, Google & Spotify.

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