

RECLAIMED LIVING ORGANIZATION CREATED TO FULFILL NEED IN COUNTY



Reclaimed Living Organizational Board Members: Amber Krynock, Jeff Summers, Jane Nice, Dave Nice, DoRetta Cline, Doug Schlatter

An effort to provide transitional sober housing is underway in Paulding County. "Reclaimed Living" is a court-supported and faith-based group whose mission is to provide supportive, safe, and temporary housing for

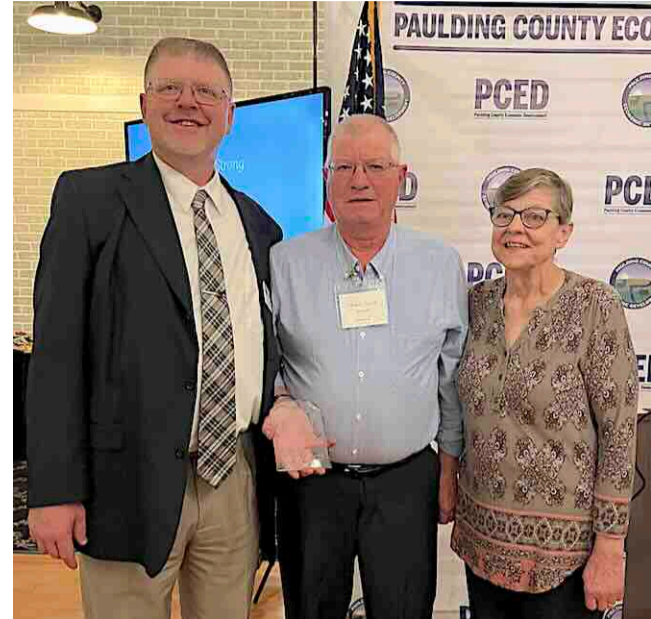
local residents struggling with substance abuse, and give them resources to reclaim their lives and become the people God created them to be for themselves and those who love them.

In the spring of 2024, an

organizational board of six individuals was formed to explore the establishment of a home where persons under Paulding County judicial supervision can temporarily live in an alcohol and drug-

(Continued on Page 2)

PCED ANNUAL BUSINESS & INDUSTRY BANQUET SUCCESS



Pictured above with PCED director Tim Copsy, Mayor Cecil Mayor, Gene Sheets and his wife, Nancy. Mayor Sheets was presented with a Mayors Award at the banquet for over 30 years of service to the Cecil community.

Paulding County Economic Development (PCED) held their 24th annual business & industry appreciation banquet on Tuesday, November 12th at Grant's Catering.

The annual banquet brought many of our local, state and regional business partners together to recap the

achievements and growth in Paulding County since last year. Following a social hour, complete with music provided by the Stringato Quartet, PCED Board President Mike Kauser opened the meeting introducing the board and thanking the Paulding County

(Continued on Back Page)

Local Advertisers appreciating local news

Aderman Dental	2
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Den Herder FH - Greninger	2
Den Herder FH - Schwab	2
Derck's Landscaping	8
Edward Jones - Bryan Post	5
Eichers Woodworking	10
FV Boosters 20th Craft Show	3
Finch Driver	11
Five Star Construction	1
Huber Opera House Elf Jr	3
Klopfenstein Repair	11
Krazy Krafers	2
Monroeville Am Leg Bingo	1
PC Bid Notice Lawn Maint	9
PC Bid Notice Snow Removal	9
PC Chiller & Boiler Bid Notice	9
PC Senior Center	7
PC Sheriff Sale CI 24 089	8
PC Veteran's Service	4
PC WMEA	4
PUZZLE - CW Sudoku	9
Ron Burt Left Turn	8
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TAZ Construction	1
United Edge KEIL Auction	10
Vail Obituary	2
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 26**
- JPHS General Meeting @ museum, 6:30pm
- November 27**
- Woodburn Comm. Hist. Soc. Meeting @ Woodburn Community Ctr., 7pm
- November 28**
- Happy Thanksgiving!
- December 2**
- Christmas Lighting @ Greenway Park (by Town Hall) in Antwerp, 6p
 - Merry & Bright Parade @ Paulding, 6pm
- December 3**
- PCRTA meeting @ Paulding Pancake House, 9:30am
 - Giving Tuesday!
- December 4**
- PC PERI meeting @ PC Sen. Ctr., 10am
- December 5**
- Blood Drive @ 1st Church of Christ, Hicksville, 1-6pm
- December 7**
- Santa Claus in Antwerp! @ Antwerp Fire Dept, 1-2:30p
 - Christmas Open House @ Oakwood Elementary, 10a-4p
 - Holiday Craft Bazaar @ NH UMC, 8a-2p
 - Lifeway Wesleyan Church Craft Bazaar, FW, 8:30a-2:30p
- December 6-8**
- Elf, Jr. - Huber Youth

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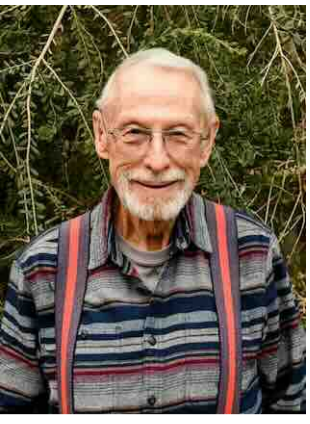
Happy Thanksgiving

FROM ALL OF US AT WEST BEND PRINTING & PUBLISHING

There is always something to be thankful for . . .

Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

OBITUARIES



PAYNE, OH:

Delmar H. Schwab, age 85, passed away on Saturday, November 16, 2024 at Vancrest of Payne surrounded by his family.

Delmar was born on January 29, 1939 in Paulding County, OH to the late Henry E. and Hazel (Caryer) Schwab. He served his country in the United States Air Force. He spent 9 years on the U.S. Air Force Security Service. On March 22, 1958 he married the love of his life, Karen Riley who preceded him in death in 2014. Delmar worked for Zeller's in Defiance, OH for 20 years in data processing. He also worked for North American Van Lines in Fort Wayne, IN for 16 years, also in data processing. He was a member of the Payne American Legion and also served in the Ohio National Guard.

Delmar is survived by his children: Jody Denning, Payne, OH; Glen (Kathy) Schwab, Davenport, IA; Glenda (Jerry) Schaefer, Wapakoneta, OH; sister, Donnavale Cooper, Napoleon, OH; grandchildren: Ashley (Justin) Armintrout, Jaime (John) Shaw, Gabriel (Maycee) Denning, Joshua (Niki) Denning, Lauren (Aaron) Brown, Meghan (Matt) Ross, Sam (Shannin) Schwab, Chloe Schwab; great grandchildren: AJ, Gracie, Taryn, Tyler, Colton, Larkin, Josie, Annalise, Isabel, and Eleanor.

Delmar is also preceded in death by his son-in-law, Mike Denning and brother, Duane Schwab.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, November 22, 2024 at Den Herder Funeral Home with Pastor Dwayne Richardson officiating. Burial will follow in St. Paul Cemetery with military rites accorded by the Payne American Legion Honor Guard.

Visitation will be from 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at Den Herder Funeral Home. There will also be visitation from 10:00 A.M. until time of services on Friday.

Memorial contributions may be made in Delmar's memory to the Paulding County Dog Shelter or Everheart Hospice.

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



PAYNE, OH:

Donald G. Greninger, age 87, passed away on Monday, November 18, 2024 at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, IN.

Donald was born on July 9, 1937 in Diamond, MO to the late Kenneth and Anna "Maxine" (Fiant) Greninger. He served his country in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. On December 5, 1993 he married Lois Saylor, who survives. Donald retired in 1995 from B.F. Goodrich Tire Company. He was a member of the Lima Missionary Baptist Church, American Legion Post #297 in Payne, OH and the Masonic Lodge #478 in Hicksville, OH.

Along with his loving wife, Donald is survived by his daughters: Julie (Mike) Arsenault, Hamilton, GA; Tina (Dale) White, Hamilton, GA; Jessica (Misty) Ryan, Houston, TX; brother, Ken (Ann) Greninger, Diamond, MO; sister, Wanda Brummett, Diamond, MO; 7 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and 1 great great grandchild.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at Lima Missionary Baptist Church in Lima, OH with Pastors Terry Brock and Clint Goodin officiating. A graveside service will be held at 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at Wiltie Cemetery, Payne, OH with military rites accorded by the Payne American Legion.

Visitation will be from 4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. on Monday, November 25, 2024 at Den Herder Funeral Home with a Masonic service at 6:30 P.M. There will also be visitation from 10:00 A.M. until time of services on Tuesday at the church.

Memorial contributions may be made in Donald's memory to Lima Missionary Baptist Church.

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

Kelly Jean Vail, 47, formerly of Antwerp, Ohio passed away November 16, 2024 at her home in Danville, California surrounded by her husband, John and her family.

Kelly was born on August 2, 1977 to Pat and Dixie (Cromley) Vail. She graduated from Antwerp High School in 1995 and from the University of Dayton in 2000.

Kelly worked at several organizations in Ohio before moving to California in 2006 to pursue her dreams.

Kelly will be buried November 25, 2024 at the Bethel Cemetery in Bremen, Ohio.



(Continued from Page 1)

free environment. The board is striving to provide a professionally staffed home with peer support where residents can develop and execute individualized recovery action plans, become employed, and repair relationships with

PAULDING COUNTY BAC STEERING COMMITTEE HOLDS FOURTH QUARTER MEETING

The Paulding County Business Advisory Steering Committee (BAC) met for their scheduled fourth quarter meeting at Paulding County Economic Development office on November 13th. The committee learned of upcoming dates for future events before starting a review of BAC template initiatives that focus on collaboration between local employers, businesses and schools for the betterment of Paulding County.

The meeting continued with Paulding County Economic Development Director Tim Copsy starting the process of sharing each individual initiative with the committee for review. The hope is that if businesses hear of other initiatives, it may inspire them to develop a similar initiative. In the same regard, if schools hear of something the other schools are working on or is working, they might also attempt that type of new initiative. The committee was able to review six of the 28 initiatives submitted to the state at this meeting.

The group shared frustrations in the lack of certified educators for some of the credentialed classes that Ohio does offer. Group discussion about how to overcome this obstacle followed.

There was also great interactive conversation, and ideas exchanged, on how students, educators, and the county businesses can create more opportunities to engage with each other.

The BAC meetings continue to make significant steps in strengthening the relationship between educational institutions and local businesses, aiming to better prepare students in their future workforce endeavors, either right out of high school, while attending college, after college.

The fourth quarter full BAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11 at the Paulding County Extension office. For more information about the Paulding County Business Advisory Steering Committee please reach out to Jessica Stechschulte at the economic development office at 419-399-8295 or office@pced.net.

MERCY COLLEGE OF OHIO ANNOUNCES SUMMER 2024 HONORS

The following students were awarded honors for the Summer 2024 semester at Mercy College of Ohio. To be named on the Dean's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.3 or higher

their families. A property in Jackson Township has been secured to fulfill this mission.

Once the home is running, the organizational board will transition into an operational one. Funds for this endeavor are being accepted through the Paulding County Area Foundation. Tax deductible donations can be made to the Paulding County Area Foundation with "Reclaimed Living" on the memo line and mailed to 101 E. Perry Street, Paulding, Ohio 45879. For more information, contact the foundation or Dave Nice at dnice@harvestfarmmanagement.com.

and be enrolled for 12 or more credit hours. To be named on the Honor's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.3 or higher and be enrolled for 6-11 credit hours. To be named on the President's List, a student must achieve a 4.0 grade point average and be enrolled for 14 or more credit hours.

Defiance, OH

Jeramie Flores, Certificate in Polysomnography, Honors List; Colleen Greiner, Assoc in Nursing Toledo, Honors List; Jared Paschall, Assoc in Radiologic Technology, Honors List

Mercy College of Ohio is a Catholic institution with a campus in Toledo, Ohio. It focuses on healthcare and health science programs. Mercy College offers graduate degrees in Nursing, Health Administration and Physician Assistant; Bachelor's degrees in Biology, Healthcare Administration, Medical Laboratory Science, Medical Imaging, and Nursing; Associate degrees in Health Sciences, Health Information Technology, Nursing, Radiologic Technology and Surgical Technology; and Certificates in Community Health Worker, Emergency Medical Technician-Basic, Medical Coding, Paramedic, Phlebotomy and Polysomnographic Technology and specialty imaging certificates.

PARKVIEW HOSPITALS EARN STRAIGHT 'A'S IN FALL LEAPFROG HOSPITAL SAFETY GRADES

All six eligible Parkview hospitals received "A" grades in the fall 2024 Hospital Safety Grades released by The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit focused on patient safety in hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers.

Parkview Regional Medical Center & Affiliates, Parkview Bryan Hospital, Parkview DeKalb Hospital, Parkview Huntington Hospital, Parkview Noble Hospital and Parkview Whitley Hospital all received top grades on this fall's report.

Leapfrog assigns an A-F grade to general hospitals across the country based on more than 30 national performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as the systems hospitals have in place to prevent harm.

Parkview Bryan Hospital, which affiliated with Parkview in October 2023, received its first "A" grade since joining the system. The hospital had previously received "C" grades in fall 2023 (scored before joining Parkview) and in spring 2024 as the hospital transitioned to Parkview's full data recording and reporting procedures.

Scripture of the Week

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

And be thankful."

— Colossians 3:15

TO WALK IN FORGIVENESS

Father, in the name of Je-



sus, I make a fresh commitment to You to live in peace and harmony, not only with the other brothers and sisters of the Body of Christ, but also with my friends, associates, neighbors and family.

I let go of all bitterness, resentment, envying, strife and unkindness in any form. I give no place to the devil in Jesus' name. Now Father, I ask Your forgiveness. By faith, I receive it, having assurance that I am cleansed from all unrighteousness through Jesus Christ. I ask You to forgive and release all who have

wronged and hurt me. I forgive and release them. Deal with them in your mercy and loving-kindness.

From this moment on, I purpose to walk in love, to seek peace, to live in agreement, and to conduct myself toward others in a manner that is pleasing You. I know that I have right standing with you and Your ears are attentive to my prayers.

It is written in Your Word that the love God has been poured forth into my heart by the Holy Ghost Who is given to me. I believe that love flows forth into the lives of everyone. I know, that I may be filled with and abound in the fruits of righteousness which bring glory and honor unto You, Lord, in Jesus's name. So be it! Amen.

Scripture References:

Romans 12:16-18; Mark 11:25; Romans 12-10; Ephesians 4:32; Philippians 2:2; 1 Peter 3:8, 11, 12; Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 1:10; Ephesians 4:27; Romans 5:5; Psalm 91:11; Philippians 1:9, 11

Peace and Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

Parkview Regional Medical Center (PRMC) scored an "A" on 21 of 23 Leapfrog report cards dating back to 2013. Parkview's community hospitals also extended their "A" streaks — Parkview Huntington Hospital has scored an "A" for seven consecutive periods, Parkview DeKalb Hospital and Parkview Noble Hospital for five straight, and Parkview Whitley Hospital for the last four reports.

"Safety for both our patients and our co-workers remains a top priority at Parkview," said Dr. Jeffrey Bork, chief quality and safety officer, Parkview Health. "Parkview acts on the feedback we receive from our frontline workers and we increasingly leverage the power of data to make improvements and maintain high-quality care and safety. We're proud to earn straight 'A's from The Leapfrog Group as recognition that our efforts create and maintain a safe environment."

Parkview LaGrange Hospital, Parkview Wabash Hospital and Parkview Montpelier Hospital are not graded because the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade does not assess critical access hospitals due to limitations on publicly available data from those smaller facilities. Parkview Orthopedic Hospital is also not graded by Leapfrog because it is a specialty hospital.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program focused exclusively on preventable medical errors, infections and injuries that kill more than

500 patients a day nationally. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive on December 5 at First Church of Christ, 118 N. Main Street Hicksville, OH in the Gym from 1pm - 6pm.

Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: fchicksville to schedule an appointment.

MERCY HEALTH OFFERS TIPS ON HOW TO EAT HEALTHY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

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HICKSVILLE KIWANIS VISITING SPEAKER



Hicksville Kiwanis members with guest speaker Allyeh Keeley are pictured, left to right: Bill Elwood, Speaker Allyeh Keeley, President Alice Bridenbaugh, Secretary Bob Bridenbaugh and Treasurer Shelia Bassett.

Allyeh Keeley, an 11th grade student at Hicksville High School, was the guest speaker at the recent Hicksville Kiwanis meeting at Magpies Family Restaurant. Allyeh was last year's representative at the HOBY Youth Leadership Conference, she was sponsored by the Hicksville Kiwanis Club.

They Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Organization is known as HOBY. HOBY was founded by Hugh O'Brien in 1958 as a nonprofit organization with the mission we work toward today, that is to inspire a global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. One of the programs that schools can participate in is the State

Leadership Seminar.

Student ambassadors are invited to 3 & 4 day seminars each spring and summer. The students explore personal leadership skills and values, and practice those skills while collaborating with diverse groups. They leverage their abilities as they apply the value of service leadership to make a positive impact in their communities.

These student ambassadors participate in facilitated dialogue and ability-based workshops to develop awareness of their leadership strengths and an understanding of their leadership values. Through these dynamic activities with their peers, students hone their skills and learn to recognize, amplify and collab-

perfect time to learn techniques and tips on how to enjoy the holiday season while eating healthy.

And is eating healthy during the holidays even possible?

Mercy Health's monthly Ask the Expert program will feature Jeannie Wagner, MS, RDN, LD, CDCES, BC-ADM, clinical coordinator, Diabetes Education Services, on Thursday, Nov. 21.

The one-hour, monthly sessions on the third Thursday of every month from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. To join, participants can call 646-931-3860 or zoom meeting ID: 975 5220 8436. The program is free and there is no need to pre-register.

Jeannie will share steps that we can take to celebrate the holiday season in a healthy manner. Before you give up going to holiday gatherings all together, know there's tips and tools to help.

Ask the Expert is the result of Mercy Health's efforts to

address factors that influence the health and wellbeing of the community. In particular, Mercy Health has focused efforts to build the overall health of area residents in the zip codes surrounding central city Toledo. Together with our partners, Mercy Health continues to make significant strides in addressing health and wellness concerns by focusing on chronic disease management, maternal-fetal health, and economic development.

The series will continue in 2025. Check back soon for the new schedule!

COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING SET

The Woodburn Community Historical society will meet on November 27, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Woodburn Community Center (east side of town) corner of 101 and Woodburn Rd. Please come and share past memories.

orate with the diverse strengths of others.

Held on college or university campuses, our programs give students a taste of college life while they delve into the engaging and fun leadership development curriculum. One weekend at a HOBY seminar unlocks a student leadership potential and helps them gain the confidence to make a positive impact on the world around them.

In Northwest Ohio these seminars are held every June on the Ohio Northern Campus at Ada, Ohio. Due to the generosity of the Hicksville Kiwanis Club, Hicksville High School has been able to send at least one student each summer.

PERI CHAPTER 10 MEETING

NOTICE!! All 96 state members: PERI Paulding County Chapter 10 will hold its meeting at the Paulding County Senior Center, 410 E. Jackson St. at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Speaker will be Merrill Asher, PERI Vice-Chairman.

BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION'S INFLATION REDUCTION ACT FOLLOWS UP ON CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENTS TO NEARLY 7,000 AMERICAN FARMS AND RURAL SMALL BUSINESSES

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that USDA is funding new projects in nearly every state to lower costs, expand access to clean energy and strengthen American farms and small businesses. USDA is making the investments through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), a program that has seen record demand in response to historic funding provided by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act.

"The Biden-Harris Administration and USDA are ensuring farmers, small business owners and rural communities have the resources they need for the future," Secretary Vilsack said. "The investments I'm announcing today will help rural communities lead our country toward an economy that benefits working people everywhere with lower costs and clean energy jobs."

USDA is investing more than \$256 million in loans and grants that will support more than 1,100 clean energy projects in 40 states.

Most of the projects being announced today are funded by President Biden's Inflation

Reduction Act, the nation's largest-ever investment in combating the climate crisis.

Since the start of the Biden-Harris administration, USDA has invested more than \$2.7 billion through REAP in 9,901 renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements. Almost 7,000 of these projects were funded by over \$1 billion provided by the Inflation Reduction Act.

REAP enables agricultural producers and rural small business owners to expand their use of wind, solar, geothermal and small hydropower energy and make energy efficiency improvements. These innovations help them increase their income, grow their businesses and address climate change while lowering energy costs for American families.

Here are examples of the awards being announced today:

- IPR Fresh, a produce wholesaler in Nogales, Arizona, is using a grant of more than \$350,000 to install a roof-mounted, solar-power system that is expected to save nearly \$67,000 a year and provide 100% of the company's electricity.
- Agriventures LLC in Pineview, Georgia, is using a grant of more than \$111,000 to replace four center pivot irrigation systems that will save the family cotton farm more than \$2,000 each year.

Hydro Technology Systems Inc. in Stevens County, Washington, is using a grant of more than \$172,000 to buy and install a hydropower retrofit turbine. The project will help the company generate enough hydroelectricity to power almost 760 homes.

Tinedale Project LLC in Brown County, Wisconsin, is using a loan of more than \$22 million to develop and operate a dairy manure anaerobic digester that will capture biogas and convert it into renewable natural gas to be transported through a local utility pipeline. The project is expected to create three jobs.

The investments announced today will benefit farmers, entrepreneurs and others in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. REAP is a part of the President's Justice40 Initiative which sets a goal that 40% of the benefits from certain federal investments go to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. USDA Rural Development supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. Visit the Rural Data Gateway to learn how and where these investments are impacting rural

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.

EBC MEMBERS VOTE TOP APPOINT ATKINS AS FULL-TIME PASTOR



Emmanuel Baptist Church (EBC) in Paulding is excited to welcome Garrett Atkins as their pastor. In May of 2024, Garrett began to regularly fill-in preaching at EBC. On October 27th, 2024 the church members voted to appoint him as their full-time pastor. Garrett is committed to the faithful preaching of Scripture, to prayer, and to shepherding the flock through relational discipleship and biblical counseling. EBC looks forward to serving as a light for Jesus Christ in the Paulding community.

Garrett had a rather unconventional journey to the pastorate. He grew up in the Paulding area and worked as a commercial beekeeper in a family business for over ten years. While working in bee-yards, Garrett spent hundreds of hours listening to an audio Bible, theological podcasts, and countless sermons. The Lord gave Garrett a desire to share the truths of Scripture with others, with a particular

burden for discipleship and biblical counseling. After several years of study, he completed his certification with the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC) in March 2024. He also finished his first year of theological education. Garrett previously served on staff at King's Cross Church in Defiance, OH as the Director of Ministry Operations and as a pastoral resident.

Garrett is supported in his ministry work by his wife, Rachel. They were married in 2018. The Lord has blessed the Atkins' with two daughters: Keturah (5) and Adira (3). Garrett and Rachel are looking forward to serving the Lord together, by His grace and for His glory.

Emmanuel Baptist Church is located at 1275 Emerald Road. Sunday worship gathering begins at 10:45am, with a prior Sunday school time at 9:30 a.m. They also meet for a weekly Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30 p.m.

America. To subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit the GovDelivery Subscriber Page.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious

food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate-smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

The Huber Opera House Youth Productions
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The Musical JR

Dec. 6 & 7 @ 7:00 pm
Doors Open at 6:30

Dec. 8 @ 2:30 pm
Doors Open at 2:00

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20th Annual Craft Show

Fairview Elementary School
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Saturday, December 7, 9 am to 3 pm

* Free Admission!
* Lunch Available!

* Variety of crafters and vendors – over 65!

Sponsored by the Fairview Athletic Boosters

Like us on Facebook - Fairview Athletic Booster Craft Show

ODNR AWARDS STORYBOOK TRAIL GRANTS TO SIX COMMUNITIES



The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) continues to spread the joy of literature and nature by awarding more than \$51,000 in grant funding for six new Storybook Trail projects in the state.

With this round of grant funding, more than \$150,000 since 2021 has been awarded to 20 communities to help build Storybook Trails for more Ohio families to enjoy.

"I love taking our grandkids to read on Storybook Trails every chance I get," said Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine. "It's exciting that we are investing in our communities, so that more Ohio families across the state can enjoy this unique experience and kids can learn and be active at the same time."

There are 21 Storybook Trails inside a number of Ohio's state parks.

Six new Storybook Trails will be created with funding awarded through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The grants are used for interpretive signage, trail and trailhead construction and maintenance. Storybook Trails feature pages of a children's book placed on large signs along an outdoor trail.

"I love coming to our state parks and seeing families walking through a Storybook Trail and the excitement they have to get to the next page in the story," said ODNR Director Mary Mertz. "The Storybook Trails in our state parks are beloved trails and have been a success across the state."

The following municipalities and organizations were selected for grant funding:

- City of Centerville, Montgomery County: Grant Award: \$9,930
- Ludowici Community Foundation, Perry County: Grant Award: \$10,000
- Madison County Chamber of Commerce: Grant Award: \$7,580
- Morrow County Park District: Grant Award: \$9,800

- Pickaway County Park District: Grant Award: \$9,148
- Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, Tuscarawas/Carroll Counties: Grant Award: \$4,902

The RTP is a reimbursement grant program that provides up to 80% project funding. This grant program is federally funded and is administered by the ODNR in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/).

Storybook Trails include multiple signs along the path, with each sign showcasing a page from a children's book.

In 2019, ODNR launched its Storybook Trails program to promote the importance of early literacy, a healthy lifestyle, and connecting with nature. There are currently 21 Storybook Trails inside Ohio state parks located in every corner of the state.

ODNR partnered with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio to provide story content for several of their trails and raise awareness of these valuable resources for Ohio families. The Imagination Library provides one free book every month to children enrolled in the program from birth to age five. To learn more about the program and how to participate, visit OhioImaginationLibrary.org (<https://www.ohioimaginationlibrary.org/>).

Ohio is lucky that different types of park and library districts across the state are creating Storybook Trails. To find a Storybook Trail near you, visit our interactive map on ODNR's Storybook Trails webpage (<https://dx-stg.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/go-and-do/family-friendly/storybook-trails>).

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

KEEP FOOD SAFETY IN MIND THIS THANKSGIVING

Turkey is the most popular dish during Thanksgiving celebrations, yet there are many inexperienced cooks who will be in the kitchen. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is encouraging consumers to practice food safety throughout the entire Thanksgiving process, from the grocery store to the dining table.

"On the most popular food holiday of the year, we're reminding consumers to follow safe food handling practices starting at the grocery store and going all the way through enjoying your leftovers," said Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Emilio Esteban. "Following these basic steps can help keep your family and friends safe this holiday season."

To keep your Thanksgiving food safe, follow this guide:

Shopping

- Bacteria can multiply to dangerous levels if perishables, like turkey, are left in the Danger Zone (temperatures between 40 F and 140 F) for too long. Pick up your turkey and other perishable products at the end of your grocery shopping so they stay cold as long as possible. Pack perishables in insulated bags with cold sources if the commute home is longer than an hour and place them in the refrigerator as soon as you get home.

- Make sure the packaging of your turkey is not torn or leaking. Juices from raw poultry can cause cross-contamination of harmful bacteria that can get you sick. Place turkey, and other raw meat products, in plastic bags and in a separate part of your shopping cart to prevent harmful bacteria from spreading.

Thawing

A frozen turkey can be safely thawed in the refrigerator or in cold water:

- When thawing in a refrigerator at 40 F or below, allow roughly 24 hours for every 4 to 5 pounds. Consider putting the turkey in a container or dish to contain juices that may leak.

- When thawing in cold water, allow roughly 30 minutes per pound. Submerge the wrapped turkey into the cold water and change the water every 30 minutes until the turkey is fully thawed. Once thawed, cook the turkey immediately.

Preparing

When it is time to prepare the turkey, keep in mind that turkeys may contain bacteria that cause foodborne illness. Keep the turkey and its juices separate from foods that won't be cooked and fully clean and sanitize surfaces that come into contact with the turkey and its juices. A USDA study found that about 30% of consumers did not successfully clean and sanitize kitchen surfaces around meal preparation.

Washing a turkey is risky because it can spread bacteria to your sink and other nearby surfaces. If you choose to wash it, make sure to fully clean surfaces with soap and water afterwards and then sanitize using a sanitizing solution.

Cooking

There are many ways to cook a turkey, but one thing remains consistent: the turkey needs to reach a safe minimum internal temperature of 165 F, as measured by a food thermometer, in three places — the thickest part of the breast, the innermost part of the thigh, and the innermost part of the wing. Always use a thermome-

ter to make sure the turkey is fully cooked even if the turkey has a pop-up temperature indicator. If stuffing your turkey, the stuffing must also reach 165 F in the center of the stuffing.

Serving

- When serving food to groups, remember the two-hour rule. Perishable foods that have sat out at room temperature for more than two hours are unsafe, due to bacterial growth, and must be discarded. When you are serving food, keep your hot food hot and cold food cold. This will keep it from developing harmful bacteria. Hot foods such as turkey, macaroni and cheese, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy must be kept at or above 140 F and you can do so by serving them in warming trays, chafing dishes, slow cookers, etc.

- Cold foods such as salad, cranberry relish, deviled eggs and cold dips must be kept below 40 F and you can do so by serving them in trays or bowls nestled over ice. Remember to replace the ice as it melts. You can also serve cold foods by dividing them in small portions and serving them a portion at a time, keeping the remainder in the refrigerator.

Leftovers

Leftovers are arguably one of the best parts of Thanksgiving. For leftovers to be safe to keep, they must be refrigerated within two hours of serving or have been kept hot at or above 140 F or cold below 40 F. Discard any foods that sat out for more than two hours at room temperature because bacteria that cause foodborne illness could have reached dangerous levels. If you have turkey leftovers, carve the bird into smaller pieces and place them into small, shallow containers so the meat can cool evenly and quickly.

If you have food safety questions while planning and preparing your Thanksgiving feast, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854), email MPHotline@usda.gov or chat live at www.ask.usda.gov 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday to reach a food safety specialist in English or Spanish. The Meat and Poultry Hotline is also open on Thanksgiving Day from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eastern Time.

Access news releases and other information at USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) website at www.fsis.usda.gov/newsroom. Follow FSIS on X at @usdafoodsafety or in Spanish at X @usdafoodsafety_es and USDA on Instagram at @usdagov and Facebook.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

ODNR ENCOURAGES BOAT OWNERS TO GET READY FOR WINTER



As temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) reminds boat owners to prepare their vessels for winter. Proper winterization not only protects against the damaging effects of cold weather, it also ensures a hassle-free start to the next boating season.

"Winterizing your boat is crucial for maintaining its performance and longevity," said Andy Foos, Boating Education Coordinator with ODNR.

Fall is a great time to prepare boats for winter to ensure they are protected and ready to go for next season.

Tips to prepare your boat for winter:

- Begin by removing your boat from the water and placing it on blocks or stands to distribute its weight evenly. This prevents stress cracks or structural damage during storage. After removal, give the hull a thorough wash to eliminate dirt, algae, or aquatic nuisance species, and inspect for any damage. Addressing minor issues, like cracks or scratches, before storage can save time and money. Applying a coat of wax provides added protection against temperature changes.

- Engine care is essential. Flush the engine with fresh water to remove contaminants, then apply fogging oil to internal components to guard against rust and corrosion. Drain water from lines, live wells, bilge pumps, and other systems to prevent freezing damage. If you have an inboard engine, add non-toxic antifreeze to the block, manifolds, and water tanks after draining. For outboard engines, tilt the motor fully down to allow water to drain. Don't forget to refill the gear case, change the oil and filter, and add fuel stabilizer to a nearly full tank to protect against condensation.

- Sacrificial anodes, which are small metal plates or rods that protect against corrosion,

should also be inspected and replaced if more than half dissolved. Additionally, remove all electronics, safety equipment, and fishing gear for storage in a clean, dry location. This not only prevents unnecessary wear but also gives you an opportunity to inspect items like life jackets, fire extinguishers, and flares for signs of damage or expiration dates.

- Lastly, cover your boat with a breathable, mildew-resistant cover or opt for shrink wrap, which can be recycled at designated locations through the Ohio Clean Marinas program in the spring (<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/land-water/clean-marinas/shrink-wrap-recycling>). Ensure the cover is tightly secured to keep out moisture and debris. Whenever possible, store your boat in a climate-controlled area to further reduce the risk of damage.

Every boat is different, so be sure to consult your owner's manual for model-specific winterizing instructions. Whether you own a fishing boat, pontoon, or jet boat, following these steps can help ensure your vessel is ready to hit the water when spring arrives.

Boaters are reminded to make sure their vessel is covered tightly with either a cover or shrink wrap to keep out moisture and debris.

Winter is a great time to refresh your boating skills and knowledge by attending an Ohio Boater Education Course (<https://ohiodnr.gov/home/news-and-events/all-events/parks-wc-events/Boating-Courses>) to be sure you are prepared and ready for spring.

For more boating tips and resources, visit ohiodnr.gov/boating.

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

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

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

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. In saying that, we do not hold agreement with the content that is printed. We are just the messengers. However, any letters that attack a person, or attempt to justify a physical attack that took place will not be considered. Keep your opinion to the discussion only. The name of the person who wrote the letter is placed at the end of each article along with the town of residence. To be considered for publication, you must live in our readership area. Letters must be no longer than 1000 words, and you must provide your legal name along with a phone number and address. You can submit a letter in person at our office, by email, mail or fax.

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

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 Antwerp, OH 45813

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Cemetery Board of Trustees would like to acknowledge and thank the voters of Paulding for putting your trust in us. In 2019 you passed a 5-year cemetery tax levy. 2025 will be the last year to collect these tax funds. Before this levy was passed, we were allotted a yearly budget of \$5,000 to make repairs to our cemeteries. In Live Oak Cemetery the mausoleum foundation was deteriorating

to the point that the building was sinking, the inside walls and ceiling were cracked, and debris was falling, the cement floor was crumbling and cracked, and we had bats roosting and leaving hazardous dirty residue on the floors. Some of the windows are cracked. The marble fronts of some of the crypts are broken, cracked and some are missing.

The crypts in the mausoleum have been professionally scanned to determine if there were any bodies remaining where a name was inscribed. Over the years, several bodies have been removed by relatives. There were anomalies detected by laser scanning in 64 crypts. The mausoleum foundation is now stable, the walls and ceiling have been repaired, painted and sealed, the floor issues have been addressed and it has a life-time warranty flooring. New etched windows were installed in the front door. There are still areas in need of repair including the damaged windows, a few areas of the porch and sidewalk need attention and broken marble slabs of crypt fronts.

For many years there has been a drainage problem in the north end of Live Oak Cemetery. It left water standing which contributed to the unstable mausoleum foundation, issues with headstones and foundations, and grief for families of loved ones who are buried in this area. This extensive project, which was done this year, took many months of discussion, meetings and decisions on how to approach the issue.

The south end of Live Oak Cemetery contains the rest-

ing place of many of our military heroes who served our country during times of war. A memorial tribute is held in this area each year. A new foundation was installed this year at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and it honors each division of our military services.

The once beautiful and healthy trees contracted a disease and were dying. The cost of maintaining these trees grew more expensive every year. Sadly, the hard decision to cut down the trees was made. We received comments from you, and from those comments, we developed a new plan. After checking with several professionals, plans were recently submitted to the Village Council for their approval to plant trees that are disease resistant, whose roots will not damage headstones and will require minimal maintenance.

We have not ignored Paulding Memorial Cemetery and its future in our community. We have been working for over a year to design a memorial area which includes a cement sidewalk and pad, columbaria and seating. This will allow anyone to come, sit and reflect on their loved ones where their ashes are preserved in a beautiful permanent structure. The pad and sidewalk have been recently installed and as time and weather permit, we are hoping to have the rest of the memorial area finished next summer.

We are volunteers for the Paulding Cemetery Board of Trustees, and we are writing this letter to help keep you informed. We receive no compensation from serving on this board. Our compensation comes from within ourselves. It is a privilege to be on this board and to be a part of this community. Pride is what we carry in our hearts by volunteering our time to serve and better the community. We vow to do our best to use your tax money wisely to make our cemeteries a memorial to those whom we cherish and who helped to form this village we call our home. We appreciate the time you take to contact us with your concerns and questions, and we welcome you to continue to do so. We still have work to do and look forward to volunteering and working with you.

Respectfully Submitted,
 —Paulding Cemetery Board of Trustees,
 Jon Snodgrass, Kim Sutton, Heather Miller

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CONSIDER TAX-SMART CHARITABLE GIFTS

As we enter the annual season of giving, you might be thinking of charities you wish to support. But you also might be wondering how to gain some tax benefits from your gifts.

It used to be pretty straightforward: You wrote a check to a charity and then deducted the amount of the gift, within limits, from your taxes. But a few years ago, as part of tax law changes, the standard deduction was raised significantly, so fewer people were able to itemize deductions. Consequently, there was less financial incentive to make charitable gifts.

Of course, this didn't entirely stop people from making them. And it's still possible to gain some tax advantages, too.

Here are a few tax-smart charitable giving strategies:

- **B u n c h** your charitable gifts into one year. If you combine a few years' worth of charitable gifts in a single year, you could surpass the standard deduction amount and then itemize deductions for that year. In the years following, you could revert to taking the standard de-

UNITED WAY OF PAULDING COUNTY - GIVING TUESDAY

"Deeds of giving are the very foundation of the world." – Pirkei Avot 1:2. We hope to build a better foundation together, through the heart of giving.

This year the Paulding County Area Foundation is matching any donation given between now and **Giving Tuesday** which will be December 3rd. Any donations received during this time will be matched, totalling up to \$15,000!

Donations can be mailed to 101 E Perry St., Paulding, OH 45879.

Donations postmarked by December 3rd will also be matched.

To see what individual funds we hold please visit our website at <https://www.pauldingcountyareafoundation.com/fund-types>

We appreciate those who participated in last years Giving Tuesday that provided \$6,255 in donations with our match of \$6,255 for a grant total of \$12,510!

duction.

- Make qualified charitable distributions. Once you turn 73 (or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later), you must start taking withdrawals from your traditional or inherited IRA. These withdrawals — technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — are taxable at your personal income tax rate, so, if the amounts are large enough, they could push you into a higher tax bracket or cause you to pay larger Medicare premiums. But if you donate these RMDs directly to a qualified charity, you can avoid the taxes. And because these donations, known as qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), will reduce the balance on your IRA, you may have lower RMDs in the future.

Of course, if you need some or all your RMDs to help sustain yourself in retirement, the use of QCDs may not be of interest to you. Keep in mind, though, that you can start making QCDs at 70½, even before you must start taking RMDs. QCDs up to \$105,000 can be taken in 2024.

- Consider a donor-advised fund. If you're interested in a long-term charitable giving arrangement, you might

want to consider establishing a donor-advised fund. You can put many types of assets into this fund, and then direct it to make grants periodically to the charities you've chosen. You get an immediate tax deduction for your contribution, and, if you donate appreciated assets, such as stocks, you'll avoid the capital gains taxes you would have incurred if you simply sold the stocks and then gave the money to the charities. One note of caution, though — your contributions to a donor-advised fund are irrevocable, and once the assets are in the fund, you can't use them for anything except charitable giving.

These strategies — QCDs and donor-advised funds in particular — can be complex and involve several issues of which you should be aware. So, you should consult your tax advisor before taking action. But if any of these techniques are appropriate for your situation, give them some thought — because helping a charitable group and getting tax benefits for doing so is a "win" for everyone.

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

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
- Bryan:** 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:** Newman'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, Farm Building Supply
- 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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DOG TREATS GET DONATED TO PC DOG KENNEL BY PANTHER PRIDE PJHS



The Panther Pride class at Paulding Junior High School made dog treats and donated them to the Paulding County Dog Kennel and Justice Animal Rescue. Shown in the pictures are the students from Mrs. Katelyn LaFountain's Panther Pride class making their donations.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY IN DECEMBER

The Paulding County Carnegie Library is excited for the holiday season. Stop by and get your picture taken by our beautifully decorated historic fireplace. Watch for interesting events at all the locations. See us for all your holiday movies and books to help celebrate the season.

Look for the Library in the Merry and Bright Parade in Paulding on December 2 at 6:00 p.m. The library will be closed December 24 and 25 so our staff may enjoy the holiday with their families. The Main library will also close at 5:00 p.m. on December 31. Watch for our Winter Reading Program coming soon. The Library Staff wants to wish everyone a happy holiday season.

MAIN BRANCH:

The Adult section is ex-

cited for the holiday season.

- Adult crafts are every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

- Coffee Talk is every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

- Adult Cookbook Club meets on Monday, December 16th at 5:30 p.m., this month's theme is Red and Green, bring a prepared dish with red, green or both and a copy of the recipe and we will share a yummy feast.

- The Frugal Hanger will be here on Tuesday, December 17th at 1:00 p.m. This month is a recap of what we learned this year. If you haven't been here, it's a chance to catch up.

- Teen Cookbook Club is on Monday, December 30th at 4:00-5:00 p.m. all supplies provided.

- New participants are always welcome at our events. Call 419-399-2032 for more information.

- Black Swamp Bookworms meet Tuesday, December 10 at 5:30 p.m., the club is reading "The Christmas

Sweater" by Glenn Beck.

The Children's Room is excited to announce "It's an Elf in' Christmas" on December 10, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. We have a live reindeer coming for a visit from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and Santa will arrive at 5:00-6:00 p.m. There will be treats and activities. Plan to come see everyone's favorite Buddy the Elf.

- Storytime is every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.

- Movie Night at the Library. December 19th, 5:00-7:00 p.m. "Elf" will be playing, Snacks provided. The movie is rated PG, bring the family.

ANTWERP BRANCH:

The Antwerp Branch is ready to share the Holiday Cheer.

- Book Club will be held December 9 at 6:00 p.m.

- Cookbook Club is always a treat on December 16 at 5:45 p.m.

- Spirit Week begins December 16th - Elf Day; December 17th - Grinch Day;

December 18th-storytime Day, PJ Day/Polar Express; December 19th - Candy Cane and Ugly Sweater Day. Stop in and see us and share a cup of coffee or tea.

GROVER HILL BRANCH:

The Grover Hill branch invites you to visit the library and enter to win the Grinch goody basket.

- Munchkin storytimes are Monday December 2 and December 16th at 10:30 a.m., with a read aloud story, activity and treat.

- Thursday, December 5th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Kristy Bidlack returns for a class in bow making. She will show you how to produce a beautiful bow. Materials will be provided.

- Senior Bingo is Thursday, December 12th, there is a light lunch followed by bingo game events.

- Saturday December 14th, the Friends of the Grover Hill Branch Library will welcome Santa Claus to town with their annual pancake and sausage breakfast fundraiser. Pictures available with Santa and Mrs. Claus from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Also, the branch will be offering a Grinchy Giveaway to the first 25 families.

- Wednesday, December 18th at 4:00 p.m. the GHBL Book Club will meet to discuss the book "The Heart That Grew Three Sizes" by Matt Rawle. This discussion will offer how we can find faith in the story of Grinch. Multiple copies will be available.

- The monthly drawing will be held on December 31.

OAKWOOD BRANCH:

The Oakwood Branch invites you to explore Whoville this month.

SHERIFF-ELECT OF THE BUCKEYE STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



Paulding, OH - Paulding County Sheriff Jason K. Landers was nominated and subsequently voted into the position of President of the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA) for 2025. Sheriff Landers was voted into the position at the Association's annual conference last week in Sandusky, Ohio.

"I am truly honored to have the other 87 Ohio Sheriffs' trust to vote me into the Presidency of BSSA. I have been on the Board of Direc-

tors for 11 years, and I am looking forward to the challenges before me," said Sheriff Landers.

The BSSA has been in existence since 1931. Over the past 94 years, there has never been a President of the Association from a county, such as Paulding, with a population under 20,000 citizens. All 88 Sheriff's in Ohio are members of BSSA, along with 3,200 deputies and approximately 17,000 associate members. Citizens interested in becoming an associate member may contact their local Sheriff.

"My predecessor, Sheriff David I. Harrow, introduced me to BSSA. He outlined the importance of being involved with committees within the organization, as well as the board of directors' meetings. There has never been a BSSA President from Paulding County, and I am grateful to pave the way for future Sheriffs of our small, but respected County," said Sheriff Landers.

Sheriff Landers will assume the role of BSSA President January 1, 2025.

WARRIORS GET OPENING WIN OF SEASON

The Lady Warriors of Woodlan recorded their opening victory of the season on Saturday as the hosts held off visiting Garrett 51-43 in non-league play.

Brooke Kneubuhler scored 11 points to lead the way for the Lady Warriors, who improve to 1-1 overall on the season. McKenna Goble posted eight markers as well for Woodlan.

Reagan Widenhoefer, Alyssa Anderson and Layla Hodson all scored six points for Woodlan with Savannah Scheumann chipping in four markers.

Other scorers for the Allen County squad were Emma McDaniel (three), Addison Klotz (two), Alix Jacquay (two), Makenna Smith (two) and Scarlett Gillingham (one).

Jacquay hauled down a team high nine rebounds for Woodlan with Anderson grabbing seven and Goble picking up six.

Kneubuhler and Widenhoefer finished with four and three rebounds, respectively, for the Lady Warriors.

Goble led Woodlan with six assists and three steals while Kneubuhler posted three assists and two steals. Hodson, Jacquay and Widenhoefer all had a pair of assists for the Lady Warriors with Anderson and Scheumann picking up two steals each.

LADY WARRIORS DROP SEASON OPENER

Woodlan opened up its 2024-2025 girls high school basketball season Friday evening with the Lady Warriors falling to host Bellmont 60-38 in non-league action.

Alyssa Anderson led the way for Woodlan with eight points in the contest while McKenna Goble and Brooke Kneubuhler each chipping in five markers.

Emma McDaniel picked up four points for the Lady Warriors followed by Reagan Widenhoefer (three), Makenna Smith (three), Layla Hodson (three), Alix Jacquay (three), Maria Thullner (two) and Savannah Scheumann (two).

Anderson also led the way with seven boards for Wood-

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KEEP IT LOCAL

PAULDING FFA MEMBERS COMPETE IN STATE AQUARIUM MANAGEMENT CDE



Pictured left to right are members of the Paulding FFA Aquarium Team: Jacob Harris, Remington Boroff, Addi Pease, Libby Breier, Jayla Griffith, Darcy Taylor, Megan Manz, Grace Goyings and Avery Cooper.

By: Paulding FFA

Reporter, Addison Hunt

On November 14th, the Paulding FFA Aquarium Management team, consisting of senior Grace Goyings, juniors Jacob Harris, Addi Pease, and sophomores Megan Manz, Remington Boroff, Jayla Griffith, Avery Cooper, Olivia Breier, and Darcy Taylor, competed at the Ohio State Fairgrounds in the

State Aquarium CDE.

The members had to identify different types of freshwater and saltwater fish, aquarium equipment, take a written test, and complete practicums on aquarium care. This year's practicums included siphoning a tank and testing pH.

The team placed 9th in the state of Ohio and the team will receive a plaque at the

State FFA Convention in May.

The top placer was Remington Boroff scoring 14th out of 200 individuals. The Paulding FFA would like to congratulate this team for all of their hard work and a special thanks to former FFA member Carter Manz for coming in and helping the team prepare. We are so thankful for our community support of the FFA Chapter.

gram, while also driving increased enrollment, persistence, degree completion, and the facilitation of high-demand career opportunities.

"By investing in the support for our students who are a part of the 21st Century Scholars program, we are investing in the future of our community," said Giang Petroviak, PFW's director of student success initiatives. "This new funding allows us to better assist scholars from the moment they begin exploring college options in high school all the way through to their graduation, empowering them to succeed and earn their Purdue degree here at PFW."

Wooley and Petroviak were joined by Ron Herrell, PFW's director of financial aid, during the grant submission process.

Anyone interested in learning more about 21st Century Scholars initiatives at PFW may email 21st@pfw.edu.

For additional information, contact Geoff Thomas at geoff.thomas@pfw.edu or 260-437-7657 (mobile).

ODOD BROWNFIELD FUNDS AWARDED FOR GROVER HILL, ANTWERP, PAULDING PROJECTS

The Paulding County Land Reutilization (Land Bank) committee has been informed by the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) that four projects around the county have been confirmed for cleanup with the brownfield funds set aside for the county.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted and Director of Development Lydia Mihalik have announced an additional \$58.2 million in state support to help clean up and redevelop 61 hazardous brownfield sites in 33 counties, including four projects in Paulding County.

Those four projects include: the former Stokely canning property in Paulding; the former grain mill facility on the Mercer Landmark campus in Antwerp; the donated JJ Ross Gas Station in Grover Hill and being accepted just under the application deadline was the former Grizzley brake manufacturing facility in Paulding.

The Land Bank anxiously awaited this announcement for the last several months as project paperwork and acquisition of property continued. Land Bank President and Paulding County Treasurer exclaimed, "This announcement is awesome and has been long awaited. It's a testament to the dedication of all involved."

Each project brought challenges.

ONE LITTLE, TWO LITTLE, THREE LITTLE PILGRIMS



Ann's Bright Beginnings preschoolers in the 3 and young 4 year old class recently talked about the first Thanksgiving. They learned about pilgrims and Native Americans and then made their very own pilgrim hats! Shown here wearing the beautiful festive hats are from left: Ava Hobart, Lenna Sauber, Micah Etter, Maelee Etter, and Keelyn Schweinsberg.

The latest property added to the list was the former JJ Ross Gas Station. The Ross family was instrumental in the donation of this property to the Land Bank so that removal of the gas tanks can take place and the building structure evaluated and leveled, if necessary. Paulding County Economic Development Director Tim Copsey shared, "The Ross family continues to be a great partner in the rehabilitation of the Grover Hill community. This donation of the gas station property follows the 2023 donation of the former ice cream business building that was located next door to the Grover Hill Fire department and donated to them. That site was also cleaned up with ODOD funds for the beautification of the community. We cannot thank the Ross family enough for their help, donation and collaboration."

The former Grizzley manufacturing facility had been identified as a clean-up site from day one. The property has sat dormant for well over 30 years. However, attorneys for the current property owner, Cummins, Inc., were concerned about liability issues during the future environmental clean-up work. Great communication between Cummins, Maumee Valley Planning representative Estee Blair, Matt Wagner, with the Land Bank designated environmental team Tetra Tech, Copsey, and ODOD helped ease concerns and the project was confirmed just prior to the deadline.

The Stokely parcel, located just across County Road 142 from the Grizzley site, is owned by Paulding Village and was the easiest to work with, once the ponds were determined to be man made and not wetlands.

The former grain mill in Antwerp sat on property owned by current rail provider Patriot Rail, but was most recently operated by Mercer Landmark and earlier farmer cooperatives. In order for the property to be eligible for remediation funds, the parcel had to be surveyed, separated into its own parcel, and donated to the land bank. This took several months but collaboration between Patriot Rail and the Land Bank Committee saw the task and paperwork completed in time for the project to be funding eligible.

With this \$1 million ODOD brownfield funding confirmation, attention will now turn to the separate \$500,000 state allocated funds for commercial and residential blight remediation project. This funding has garnered some high attention in the county as some very visible building projects have been submitted to this program.

These projects include: the former trailer court property purchased by the land bank on Water Street in Paulding, just west of the high school football field; the former Faith Alive Church on Caroline Street that is also owned by the Land Bank and will be removed to make room for a beautiful new veterans memorial project; a blighted house, now owned by the Melrose Village, located next door to City Hall; the old tile brick barn located on Harrmann Road near the Antwerp Local School is owned by the Antwerp/Payne/Paulding County CIC; and a former business building in downtown Haviland, owned by the Haviland Village. These buildings, and 37 more properties around the county, await evaluation and ODOD approval.

PJHS STUDENTS AND STAFF VOLUNTEER AT LOCAL FOOD PANTRY



On Saturday, November 16th 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: Sofi Martinez, Zoey Manz, Ms. Jami Karnes (math teacher), Mrs. Pam Moore (ELA teacher), and Joey Griffith.

lan while Jacquay hauled in five with Goble and Kneubuhler both totaling four.

Anderson dished out a pair of assists with Widenhoefer, Hodson and Kneubuhler all getting three steals. Jacquay picked up two steals as well for the Lady Warriors.

The Warriors finished the contest 16 of 39 from the field (41 percent) while Woodlan made three of eight free throws (38 percent). The Allen County squad connected on a trio of three-point field goals out of a dozen attempts (25 percent) with Goble, Smith and Widenhoefer all hitting three-pointers.

PURDUE FORT WAYNE RECEIVES \$160,000 GRANT TO EXPAND ITS SUPPORT OF 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS

Maybe one of the best examples of what Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program was designed to do when it launched in 1990 can be found today at Purdue University Fort Wayne. The program, which helps students from families that meet certain in-

come eligibility guidelines, pays up to 100% of tuition at public colleges in Indiana and part of the tuition at private or independent colleges. At PFW, approximately 13% of its students this semester are in school because of a 21st Century Scholarship.

To help PFW further expand what it does to support this segment of its student body - and eligible prospective students who as of 2023 are now automatically enrolled in the 21st Century Scholars program - the Indiana Commission for Higher Education has awarded the university a \$160,000 grant. PFW is using the funds to bolster various resources and services, steps that include the addition of two college success coaches who will focus exclusively on the internal and external elements of the university's 21st Century Scholars pipeline.

"Through this generous grant from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, we are able to demonstrate our broader commitment to accessibility, retention, and student success," said Ryan Woo-

ley, PFW's associate vice chancellor for enrollment management. "With the addition of our two new coaches, PFW can also strengthen its off-campus engagement with area high schools and other important connections across the community."

Journal Gazette Editorial Page Editor Fred McKissick wrote on Nov. 5: "Research from the Lumina Foundation reveals that individuals with a bachelor's degree earn, on average, about \$1 million more over their lifetime than those with only a high school diploma. This earning potential increases spending power, consumer demand and tax contributions, benefiting the broader economy. States with higher educational attainment typically see lower poverty rates, reduced reliance on public assistance and improved public health outcomes. Every Indiana resident who earns a degree strengthens the state's economy and enhances societal well-being."

Because of the 21st Century Scholars program, more than 90,000 low-income high school students in Indiana who are on track to graduate in 2027 and 2028 - well over twice as many as compared to pre-automatic enrollment figures - are now better positioned to reach higher.

PFW's new college success coaches are Madeline Minobe and DeShawn Woods. Their primary responsibilities will be to engage, support, and retain students who are in school because of the pro-

we're not just bankers . . .

we're neighbors

Antwerp, Ohio
419-258-5351
305 S. Main St.
Antwerp, OH 45813

Payne, Ohio
419-263-2705
102 N. Main Street,
Payne, OH 45880

Harlan, Indiana
260-657-1000
10726 Thimlar Rd
Harlan, IN 46743

the Antwerp Exchange Bank
Est. 1898

Member FDIC



Thank you for supporting

The Paulding County

Senior Center's

Replacement Levy!

THE LEFT TURN



Two former Thunder Midget Champs Zach Wigal leading Jacob Denny at Tulare Thunderbowl in California. Midwest Thunder Midget Photo

By: Ron Burt

I wish all of you a very fun and safe Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you for supporting my weekly racing column and for supporting my Facebook page, Ohio Sports Blitz and my Facebook Live scoreboards. I'm still doing weekly high school football playoff scores for every game in the state and starting this week the women's high school basketball scores and the men's scores when they start playing. These Live nightly scoreboards will run until the high school basketball state championships end. I cover over 20 high school conferences. Because of you, an average of 2,000 followers a week log into my high school live scoreboards.

that grassroots racers enjoy and want to hang out together- all about the community." Many of you have seen them at Limaland, Fremont, Kokomo and other Tri-state dirt tracks. It's an excellent class to prepare drives for the National Midgets and Sprints.



Jon Watson new Midget for 2025. Midwest Thunder Midget Photo

Jason Bennett is one of the three newest drivers that will be joining the Midwest Thunder midgets this spring. Jason is from the Cincinnati area and has previous experience in Lightning sprints. He is currently building his car. Another driver looking to run a full schedule is Jon Watson. He has run a part-time schedule with USAC Midwest Thunder Midgets since moving to St Louis in 2017. He has relocated to Columbus Ohio and plans to run a full schedule in 2025 in his new Ecotec midget, sponsored by Faith Group, LLC, a St Louis based consulting and engineering firm specializing in security, IT and building systems for transportation clients. Taten Long of Miller City, Ohio is also joining the Thunder Midget Class. Taten has been racing karts, and he and his dad Mark recently bought the beautiful #16 midget from Bobby Blount.

Congrats to Thunder Midget 2023 Champion Zach Wigal for being named the DART Rookie of The Year Award Winner of 2024. Zach was given a ride last summer with the USAC NOS National Midget Series. He's set a cou-

ple of fast qualifying times, heat wins and one feature win. The young Ohio driver is currently racing with the National Series in California. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out!

OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL HONORS SAYLOR AND BOWSHER



Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Adam L. Saylor

Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Adam L. Saylor has been selected the 2024 Trooper of the Year at the Van Wert Post.

The selection of Trooper Saylor, 31, is in recognition of outstanding service during 2024. Fellow officers stationed at the Van Wert Post, chose Trooper Saylor based on his leadership abilities, professional ethics, courteous treatment of others, enthusiastic work attitude, and cooperation with supervisors, peers, and the public.

Trooper Saylor joined the Highway Patrol in 2016 as a member of the 160th Academy Class and is a graduate of Van Wert High School. Saylor serves as a Field Training Officer and has also been awarded the Patrol's physical fitness and safe driving awards.

Trooper Saylor and his family reside in Van Wert County.



Radio Dispatcher Patrick P. Bowsheer

Radio Dispatcher Patrick P. Bowsheer has been selected the 2024 Dispatcher of the Year at the Van Wert Dispatch Center. Bowsheer joined the Highway Patrol in 1997 and has served at the Defiance and Van Wert Dispatch Centers. Originally from Edgerton, Ohio Bowsheer is a graduate of Edgerton High School. He is a part of the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Members Assistance Team, and was selected as the Post Dispatcher of the Year in 2011, 2019, and 2021 and District Dispatcher of the Year in 2019.

Bowsheer, 59, was honored in recognition of his outstanding service over the past year. Supervision and dispatchers chose Bowsheer based on his technical job knowledge and ability, enthusiastic work attitude, teamwork, and prompt and courteous response to the public's request for information and assistance.

Bowsheer and his family reside in Williams County.

Both Saylor and Bowsheer 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.

TROOPER HUFFMAN NAMED BOWLING GREEN POST TROOPER OF THE YEAR



Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Jeffery J. Huffman

Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Jeffery J. Huffman has been selected as the 2024 Trooper of the Year at the Bowling Green Post.

The selection of Trooper Huffman, 34, is in recognition of outstanding service during 2024 at the Bowling Green Post. Fellow officers stationed at the Bowling Green Post chose Trooper Huffman based on leadership abilities, professional ethics, courteous treatment of others, enthusiastic work attitude, and cooperation with supervisors, peers and the public.

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

Trooper Huffman joined the Patrol in October 2016 as a member of the 161st Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and has been assigned to the Bowling Green Post throughout his career, where he has been Post Trooper of the Year twice. He earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement four times and the Criminal Patrol Award six times. Additionally, he has earned the Colonel Paul A. Pride State Criminal Patrol Award twice.

Trooper Huffman earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Bowling Green State University in 2014. He is originally from Fostoria and a graduate of Arcadia High School.

DISPATCHER CLABAUGH NAMED DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR AT THE PATROL'S BOWLING GREEN DISPATCH CENTER



Ohio State Highway Patrol Dispatcher Sara M. Clabaugh

Ohio State Highway Patrol Dispatcher Sara M. Clabaugh has been selected as the 2024 Dispatcher of the Year at the Bowling Green Dispatch Center.

The selection of Dispatcher Clabaugh, 26, is in recognition of outstanding service over the past year at the Bowling Green Dispatch Center. Sworn officers and dispatchers chose Clabaugh based on technical job knowledge and ability, enthusiastic work attitude, teamwork, and prompt and courteous response to the public's request for information and assistance.

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

Dispatcher Clabaugh joined the Patrol in 2022 and has served at the Bowling Green Dispatch Center throughout her career. She was nominated for the Ohio Public Safety Telecommunications Gold Star Award in 2023.

Dispatcher Clabaugh earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from The University of Arizona in 2023. She is originally from Piqua and a graduate of Otsego High School. She resides in Henry County with her husband and children.

TROOPER MARTIN NAMED TOLEDO POST TROOPER OF THE YEAR



Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Camron J. Martin

Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Camron J. Martin has been selected as the 2024

Trooper of the Year at the Toledo Post.

The selection of Trooper Martin, 23, is in recognition of outstanding service during 2024 at the Toledo Post. Fellow officers and dispatchers for the Toledo Post chose Trooper Martin based on leadership abilities, professional ethics, courteous treatment of others, enthusiastic work attitude, and cooperation with supervisors, peers, and the public.

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

Trooper Martin joined the Highway Patrol in 2022 as a member of the 170th Academy Class. He earned his commission in February of the following year and has been assigned to the Toledo Post since. Trooper Martin is originally from Toledo, and is a graduate of Clay High School in Oregon. In addition to this year's Trooper of the Year recognition, he has also earned the Ohio State Highway Patrol Criminal Patrol Award in 2024.

Trooper Martin and his family reside in Lucas County.

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Monica A. Shaw, Marion, OH; Disorderly conduct; Guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Maintain general good behavior

James C. Berger, Paulding, OH; Disorderly conduct; Pled no contest, found guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Maintain general good behavior

Anthony D. Lewis-Brown, Defiance, OH; Violation of protection order; pled no contest, found guilty; 180 days jail, 150 day suspended; Defendant to pay all costs; Shall

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 for 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

HIGH SCHOOL
Men & Women's Basketball
SCORES & MORE
20 Conferences:
9:30 & 10:30PM
Ohio Sport Blitz Facebook Live with Ron Burt
www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz

DERCK'S LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES
15193 Rd. 45
Antwerp, Ohio 45813
419-506-1902
MULCH COLORS:
Red, Brown and Black
Black Dirt, Small Gravel and River Rock
Call for Special Orders

have no contact with victim or family, jail days to run concurrent with ODRC sentence
Trent Levi A. Wells Jr., Paulding, OH; Aggravated menacing; Pled no contest, found guilty; 180 days jail, 173 suspended; Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Placed on standard probation; Submit an evaluation and complete any counseling; No unlawful contact with victim; Complete 20hrs community service; Maintain general good behavior

Demetrius T. Mixon, Taylor, MI; Marked lanes, Guilty; Case was waived by defendant; Seat belt/drive, Guilty; Case was waived by defendant
Cynthia Switzer, Paulding, OH; Vehicular manslaughter, Pled no contest, found guilty; 90 days jail, 30 days suspended; Operator license suspension from 11/14/2024 to 11/14/2029; Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Restitution in the amount of \$720 to the Paulding Common Pleas Court; Placed on standard probation; Evaluation at Westwood; 100hrs of community service; Remedial driving; Distracted driving

Shantel Collins, Cloverdale, OH; Trespassing; Case dismissed per state, without prejudice; Costs waived
Joy Davis, Paulding, OH; Disorderly conduct; Guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Maintain general good behavior

Ricky C. Eaton, Yorkshire, OH; Failure to control; Guilty; Bench trial held; Sheriff's fees waived

Tyson M. Ward, Oakwood, OH; Following close; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Scott Kiner, Oakwood, OH; Disorderly conduct with persistence; Pled no contest, found guilty; 30 days jail, 30 days suspended; Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Placed on standard probation; No contact with victim; 30hrs community service; Risk as-

essment and follow any recommendations

Nicholas W. Decker, Grover Hill, OH; Permit drug abuse; 30 days jail, 30 days suspended; Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Maintain general good behavior

Caleb Belice, Evansville, IN; Failure to control; Pled no contest, found guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs

Barry A. Jackisch, Fort Wayne, IN; OVI/under influence, Guilty; 30 days jail, 30 days suspended, May install ignition interlock device no later than 11/30/24 and provide proof of same, License suspension from 10/24/2024 to 10/24/2025, License suspension may be reduced to 6 months upon successful completion of same, Defendant to pay all fines and costs; OVI/breath (low), Count B dismissed; Marked lanes, Count C dismissed

Brady Karzynow, Sherwood, OH; Driving/texting; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Howard E. Adkins, Defiance, OH; Seat belt/drive; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Scott C. Feister, Celina, OH; Seat belt/drive; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Mary K. Akers, Paulding, OH; Marked lanes; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Singh Harpreet, Brampton, ON; Cross divided highway; Pled no contest, found guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs

Jonathan P. Garcia, Holgate, OH; Driving under suspension/OL forfeiture, Count A dismissed; Seat belt/drive, Pled no contest, found guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs

Colin P. Kauffman, Fort Wayne, IN; Driving under suspension/non FRA; Pled no contest, found guilty; Half of fine may be suspended if defendant provides proof of license issues being cleared by 12/20/24

Andriel T. Cardoso, Paulding, OH; Seat belt/drive; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Moise S. Armbruster, Defiance, OH; FRA suspension; Case dismissed at defendant's costs; Proof of insurance provided

Tina Peterson, Paulding, OH; Improper backing; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Trevor Speice, Paulding, OH; Deer parching/no tag; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Modou Faye, Indianapolis, IN; Failure to control; Pled no contest, found guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs

Cori M. Johnston, Monroeville, IN; Seat belt/drive; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

NOCAC, PALMER ENERGY REPRESENTATIVES SHARE INFORMATION WITH PAULDING CO. MAYORS

The Paulding County Mayors Association participated in their fourth quarter meeting last week at the Paulding County Economic Development office. This week, Commissioner Mark Holtsberry joined nine of the eleven mayors, and a council member and fiscal officer from Grover Hill.

Following introductions and attendance, the group heard from aggregate electric provider Amy Hoffman with Palmer Energy. She shared that currently the villages of Latty and Payne are in the aggregation that is open to all villages in the county. Paulding Village residents recently voted down using the services of Palmer Energy. Hoffman shared that their purpose is to help negotiate for better electric prices in communities and they can present in public meetings to help villages understand better what they are voting for. Even in communities that have voted into this aggregation group, the residents can opt out of the program. Both Payne and Latty village mayors shared how this has been beneficial to their community residents and for their own electric bills in the villages. It was also noted that they can meet with individual high kilowatt using businesses to negotiate pricing. Hoffman will be available to set up future meetings with individual businesses and villages as requested.

Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC) Financial Planner Amy McMaster and Kevin Koithal presented to the group. There are many county residents that are retired, disabled or on fixed incomes that often reach out in various ways to try and understand funding sources for residential housing updates or repairs. McMaster shared funding programs through local Maumee Valley Planning CHIP program, regional, state, and USDA options. Mayors shared success stories of village residents who have been successful using the programs and also pointed out potential pitfalls to watch for. It was good for newer elected officials to understand the many funding options available.

Commissioner Mark Holtsberry asked the group about what they believed their biggest challenges would be in the upcoming calendar year. Great discussion took place in regard to village budgets, infrastructure costs and even a

collaborative discussion in regard to junk and zoning issues.

Other discussion points for the evening included:

- Oakwood Mayor Josh Duslak shared benefits of villages being members of the Ohio Municipal League.

- It was again noted how well the county-wide recycling event was and all villages hoped it would continue.

- Frustration was shared by all villages about the slow progress of AEP in transitioning village street light bulbs to LED lights. Discussion led to a collaborative letter signed by all villages and county commissioners to see if it might encourage a better overall response from AEP.

The quarterly meeting is designed to introduce rural community elected officials to grant funding opportunities, utility providers, social service networks and county officials that the group may not otherwise be introduced to or understand. The participation, collaboration and communication all continues to grow at each event.

The next meeting will be scheduled for the first quarter in 2025 in February.

PAULDING COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Paulding County Retired Teachers Association will meet on Tuesday, December 3 at 9:30 A.M. for a holiday breakfast at the Paulding Pancake House.

There will be no business meeting. Reservations are not needed. All retired administrators, teachers, aides, secretaries, custodians, bus drivers, and food service employees are invited to attend.

NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE HONORED AREA VETERANS

The Northwest State Community College Auditorium was near capacity as the College welcomed NSCC employee and student veterans, community veterans and their families, elected officials and other distinguished guests for a complimentary Veterans Luncheon on Thursday, November 7th. The luncheon served to recognize and honor veterans for their valued service to our nation.

NSCC President Dr. Todd Hernandez, a US Navy veteran, opened the event with welcoming remarks. As a highlight, Keynote speaker Chief Master Sergeant Michael Haas from the Air Force, 180th Division (Retired) shared some memorable experiences from his time of service. Kerry Patrick Clark provided the musical entertainment during the event, to the delight of the audience.

"It is our privilege to pay tribute and give thanks to those who bravely serve, or have served, in the United States military," said Robbin Wilcox, Executive Foundation Director at Northwest State. "NSCC is dedicated to serving the veteran community, and this luncheon is one shining example of that service."

NSCC currently has approximately 120 student-veterans pursuing coursework, credentialing, certificates and/or associate degrees. For more information on veteran services available at Northwest State Community College, please call the Registrar's Office at 419.267.1395 or visit them online at NorthwestState.edu/veteran.

The West Bend News
Sudoku Puzzle

5				2				
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				9	8		5	
					6	7		
	4			7		9		
	2		9				8	
8		6						4
				5				7

PATROL INVESTIGATING FATAL CRASH IN WILLIAMS COUNTY

The Defiance Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal crash that occurred on November 10, 2024, at approximately 3:18 P.M. The crash occurred on County Road I east County Road 15.50 in Jefferson Township, Williams County.

Gerald C. Bogan, age 89, of Bryan, Ohio was driving a 1998 Lincoln Towncar eastbound on County Road I. Mr. Bogan failed to negotiate a

curve, traveled off the left side of the roadway and struck a tree. Mr. Bogan was pronounced deceased at the scene. The crash remains under investigation.

The Patrol was assisted on scene by Williams County Sheriff's Office, Williams County Emergency Medical Service, Bryan Fire and Rescue and Hutch's Towing.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol reminds all motorists to always wear safety belts, and to never drive impaired or distracted.

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. The proposal shall be marked "2025 County Mowing, Trimming and Ground Maintenance" and addressed to the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. The proposal must be received at the office of the Board of County Commissioners no later than 9:00 a.m. on the 4th day of December, 2024. The Board of County Commissioners' office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals. Should you have any questions, please contact the Paulding County Commissioners' Office at 419-399-8215.

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. The proposal shall be marked "2025 Paulding County Snow Removal" and addressed to the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. The proposal must be received at the office of the Board of County Commissioners no later than 9:00 a.m. on the 4th day of December, 2024. The Board of County Commissioners' office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals. Should you have any questions, please contact the Paulding County Commissioners' Office at 419-399-8215.

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



"Perhaps we should have advertised in the West Bend News?"

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CHILLER AND BOILER INSTALLATION FOR THE PAULDING COUNTY JAIL

Notice is hereby given that Request for Proposals will be received at the office of the Board of County Commissioners of Paulding County, Ohio, 451 McDonald Pike Suite E Paulding, OH 45879, Until Monday, December 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., at which time and place, RFP's will be opened and read for Chiller and Boiler Installation and Manufacturer's Recommended Maintenance for The Paulding County Jail.

The Paulding County Board of Commissioners is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide and install a new Chiller and Boiler System at the Paulding County Jail located at 500 E Perry St. Paulding, OH 45879.

SCOPE OVERVIEW:

1. Install a Heat recovery unit that will capture the exhausted air and reuse it as applicable for the outside air intake on the air handlers;
2. Install new chilled water air handlers in place of existing package rooftop units. These units should have hot water coils as well;
3. Install air cooled water chiller on the ground with tertiary tan;
4. Install a high-efficiency boiler for heating the hot water loop;
5. Upgrade controls for the entire facility. Facilitate energy application/analysis software which will use AI to keep the system in optimum tune and provide building analytics for current and projected energy usage and analysis.

The bidder awarded the contract must provide a performance bond executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Ohio, in an amount equal to the bid. Said performance bond will be required upon signing the contract for this project.

Bids may be hand delivered or mailed in a sealed envelope to: Paulding County Commissioners, 451 McDonald Pike Suite E Paulding, OH 45879, and bearing the Bidder's name and address and marked "RFP for "Chiller and Boiler Installation for the Paulding County Jail". The Board of County Commissioners office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Should you have any questions, please contact the Paulding County Commissioners office at 419-399-8215.

The Board of County Commissioners of Paulding County, Ohio, reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids received.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
 Heather Barnhouse, Clerk

ACPL HONORED WITH LIBRARY MARKETING AWARD



Pictured above are Nate Burnard (ACPL Systems Services Manager), Jeff Garver (ACPL Digital Communications Specialist), Aja Michael-Keller (ACPL Director of Communications), and Chris Ford (ACPL Marketing Manager).

The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded the 2024 Sara Laughlin Marketing Award by the Indiana Library Federation (ILF) in recognition of its communication strategy for the 2023 rollout of the Library's System Upgrade.

The Sara Laughlin Marketing Award honors and recognizes a library for its successful, creative, and contemporary marketing efforts and is presented to an institution that met the criteria for excellence in creative use of current marketing approaches and calling attention to the indispensable role of the library in the community.

Nominees must provide documentation of planning and program materials, data, evaluation, letters of support,

and in-house publications that give concrete examples of how data was used to make decisions, how creative efforts were employed, and how the project resulted in positive outcomes for patrons.

The System Upgrade's intricate technology and accelerated timeline required cross-departmental collaboration and focused communications. The award recognized not only the external communications that supported patrons, but also the internal communications that ensured employees were informed and trained as the project was rolled out.

"Our librarian colleagues worked tirelessly on the system upgrade to give Allen County the best library experience possible and, as the communications team, it was our job to make sure every-

one was aware of the changes to come," said ACPL Director of Communications Aja Michael-Keller. "The project was vast and affected all aspects of patron services. Our team is proud of the rollout overall and it is so rewarding to be recognized for our part in its success through strategic marketing efforts."

Michael-Keller, along with ACPL staff members Nate Burnard (Systems Services Manager), Jeff Garver (Digital Communications Specialist), and Chris Ford (Marketing Manager), accepted the award on November 19 at the ILF's annual conference in Indianapolis. They were presented with a crystal trophy and a \$1000 monetary award which will be placed in gift funds to support library or staff initiatives.

DCTV RECEIVES \$25,000 GRANT



Pictured receiving the grant are (L to R) Josh Busch - DCTV Director of Operations, Sarah Tackett - Co-Executive Director and CEO at DCTV and Jay Hanson - DAF Grants Committee member.

The Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) awarded Defiance Community Cultural

Council- DCTV, \$25,000 from the DAF Community Fund this fall!

This grant will be used for production updates at DCTV including mobile production capabilities, a new on-air scheduling system, video on-demand archiving and a Creator's Studio.

EMPOWERING YOUTH: OHIO DELEGATION TAKES PART IN 30th GLOBAL YOUTH INSTITUTE

In a celebration of leadership and innovation, five exceptional high school students from Ohio recently represented the state at the 30th Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa. This prestigious event, hosted by the World Food Prize Foundation, brought together more than 100 students from

across the United States and other countries to tackle pressing global challenges, including food security, poverty, and environmental sustainability.

The Global Youth Institute experience is supported by Ohio 4-H, the youth development arm of The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES). Ohio 4-H, which is led through Ohio State University Extension, the outreach arm of CFAES, offers 4-H programs to youth in all 88 of Ohio's counties.

The students chosen to participate in this year's Global Youth Institute are exemplary representatives of Ohio's commitment to youth leadership, said Margo Overholt-Seckel, program manager for Ohio 4-H Workforce Development and Pathways and coordinator of the Ohio Youth Institute.

"This experience allows students to understand the global reach of their work and inspires them to make meaningful contributions to issues impacting people worldwide," Overholt-Seckel said. "The ideas and passion these young leaders bring to the table are invaluable as we strive to address complex food security challenges."

The group included three students from Dublin Coffman High School in Dublin, Ohio: Zara Iqbal, a junior, and Amelie Anderson and Audrey Price, both seniors. They were joined by two students from Bio-Med Science Academy in Portage County, Ohio: Liam Basta and Sadie Hovis, both sophomores. The students were accompanied by Heidi Hisrich, a science teacher at Bio-Med Science Academy, and guided by Overholt-Seckel.

The Global Youth Institute experience, which is also supported by Farm Credit Mid-America, reflects Ohio's commitment to empowering young people through education and leadership development. This opportunity connects Ohio youth with pathways to future careers in agriculture, sustainability, and global development, according to David Civittolo, interim associate dean and director of OSU Extension.

"Ohio is proud to support young people committed to solving the world's biggest challenges," Civittolo said. "The Global Youth Institute is a transformative experience that shapes their perspectives on global issues, instills a commitment to service, and encourages lifelong learning."

Now in its 30th year, the Global Youth Institute provides Ohio youth with the opportunity to engage in roundtable discussions, present their research on innovative agricultural solutions, and participate in activities alongside Nobel and World Food Prize laureates, government officials, and industry leaders. Students also collaborate with peers from other states and countries, exploring ways to bring their knowledge back to their communities, fostering both local and global impact.

Ohio 4-H is the largest youth development program in Ohio, reaching more than 84,000 youth across the state. Through 4-H clubs, camps, and educational programs,

DEFIANCE DEVELOPMENT & VISITORS BUREAU RECEIVES \$7500 GRANT



The Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) granted \$7,500 to Defiance Development and Visitors Bureau (DDVB) from the Defiance City Capital Projects, Offerle Family and Wertz Family funds under the DAF umbrella. This grant will be used for the continuation

of the Facade Enhancement Program in downtown Defiance.

Pictured representing the grant are (L to R) Katie Groff - DAF Trustee and Development Committee Chair and Kirstie Mack - DDVB Executive Director.

VICTORY CENTER RECEIVES \$7800 GRANT



The Foundation would like to congratulate The Victory Center on their recent grant of \$7,800 during our fall grant cycle. This grant will be used for various programming including art therapy, weekly yoga, and

cancer support groups.

Pictured representing the grant gift are (l-r) Dianne Barndt - The Victory Center Executive Director and Jim Williams - DAF Board President.

Ohio 4-H empowers young people with skills in leadership, citizenship, communication, and community service. Nationally, 4-H serves over 6 million youth, making it the largest youth development organization in the United States.

For more information on

how Ohio youth can get involved in future events such as the Global Youth Institute, please contact Overholt-Seckel or visit go.osu.edu/oyi. The next Ohio Youth Institute is on April 14, 2025, at Ohio State, with registration due by March 12, 2025.

Absolute FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Sat., Dec. 7th @ 10 am ET

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TRACTOR/BACKHOE/LIFT: 2011 Case IH Magnum 290, Case 580K 4x4 backhoe w/ ext. hoe, Conдор 46N telesc. lift

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 batwing 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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DO YOU SUPPOSE ...



This is the most amazing story I have ever heard. That a person could live a long life, and come across something that they had never heard of before. Apparently it is true, and it was kept a secret for over 100 years. At least it sounds possible and it's something to consider.

If you have ever seen 100 of tons of coal stored, it is stored in several different bins. Therefore if one bin catches fire, it can be contained to that one bin. Also it is kept damp by dousing it with water regularly. One day those in charge of keeping the coal supply smelled a strong odor. A worker at the top felt it and it was damp. But apparently bunker number 6 was smoldering and then it was burning.

When they asked the foreman, what should they do, he said the one thing they can't do is tell the people because it might cause a panic. Fireman were called and they did not like what they saw. The fireman worked in 4 hour shifts but could not contain the blaze. Finally they called for fire boats to assist. Yes I mean boats because it was the Titanic that was burning.

The Titanic had been launched May 31st, 1911, and it sailed from Southampton April 10th 1912. Apparently it took a year to get it ready to sail. I wonder how they got all of this coal down below the deck. The fire was discovered a day before launch on April 9, 1912, and was extinguished at midnight on April 15th, 1912, when it hit an iceberg and broke in two.

I have never even heard of this before. Didn't even know that it was a theory, that it could have been involved. Several of the survivors in the engine room said that the fire might have been a cause of the accident. The place that the iceberg

ripped a hole in was part of the hull that had been weakened by fire. I have never even heard about this, and I have read much about the Titanic over the years.

Of the 2,240 people on the ship only a little over 700 survived. The fact that anyone survived was a miracle. The wireless telegraph had just been invented, and they were able to find the telegraph operator and put out an SOS. There was a ship closer but it's telegraph room has been shut down for the night.

The ship, Lusitania, was about 10 miles away, and she heard the SOS and rescued those that were saved. The inventor of the telegraph, Guglielmo Marconi had turned down free passage on the Titanic, choosing to go on the Lusitania leaving 3 days earlier. He was killed when riding the Lusitania a second time in 1915 when it was sunk by a German U-boat.

I guess you learn something everyday. I thought I knew everything about the Titanic, but I guess you can always learn something new.

—James Neuhouser

MVNU CELEBRATES ALUMNI AT HOMECOMING

Mount Vernon Nazarene University's Homecoming was a whirlwind of celebration, kicking off with the Homecoming Chapel on Friday and culminating with the President's Prayer Breakfast on Sunday morning. In between, alumni and friends were greeted with a plethora of activities that welcomed them home.

Rev. Brad Kochis ('94) got Homecoming underway by speaking at the Homecoming Chapel on Friday. Kochis currently serves in dual roles as the District Superintendent of the North Carolina District Church of the Nazarene and in his newly accepted position as the Chief Development Officer here at MVNU. He addressed the crowd, speaking on the importance of the local church and its impact on MVNU.

"Mount Vernon matters because the local church matters," Kochis said. "In the current role in which I serve, in the district superinten-

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



Seniors Evan Hodkinson and Lyssi Snouffer were name the 2024 Homecoming King and Queen, respectively. They received their crowns during a presentation on Saturday evening. (Photo courtesy of Mount Vernon Nazarene University)

dency, I've had a front row seat to seeing how the local church makes a difference in the work around them. The local church, in my opinion, is the most important entity in the entire world."

Kochis saw firsthand the impact that local churches can have after the devastating Hurricane Helene hit his district this fall.

"When a disaster shows up, the local church shows up long before any government agency shows up," said Kochis. "When a disaster hits and the government agencies and news crews have moved on to the next big headline, the local church remains right where it was planted, right where it loves, right where it cares. The local church — whether it's in Swannanoa, N.C., Asheville, N.C., Forest City, N.C. or Waynesville, N.C., where disaster has been in the Lake Lure area — not only do they show up, but they remain. I've seen them do incredible things. "This is why I believe Mount Vernon Nazarene

University matters because the local church matters. Institutions just like Mount Vernon Nazarene University are important to the fabric of our very society. I believe it to my core. I don't just believe (MVNU) is important because what it did for me and my personal life. I believe (MVNU) is important because of what it offers the greater good to the entire of the world."

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARDS

The MVNU Alumni Association awarded several awards out during the Homecoming Chapel. The Distinguished Alumni Service Award to Dr. Paul ('83) and Becky ('82) Freel. Dr. Jennifer (Chlam) Holmes was the recipient of this year's Outstanding Young Alumni Award, and Pastor Edward Solano was presented with the Outstanding Clergy Alumni Award

For an in-depth look visit mvnu.edu/alumni-awards.

Phil Argento, Mitchell Soviak and Riley Swanson were inducted into the Cougar

Wall of Fame. The three former Cougar Athletes were introduced at halftime of the men's basketball game against Trinity Christian College on Friday.

For a complete wrap up, visit mvnucougars.com/general/2024-25/releases/20241019guqwz6.

Two selected Mount Vernon Nazarene University alumni were honored during Homecoming Festivities on Saturday. Mary Beth Bird ('84) and Melissa (Prater) Rex ('99) were both remembered in separate dedications.

For more on their dedications, visit mvnu.edu/dedications.

The MVNU student body crowned their King and Queen Saturday night during Homecoming festivities. Seniors Evan Hodkinson and Lyssi Snouffer were selected for their respective roles.

Dr. Castleman greeted alumni, donors and friends on two different occasions during Homecoming. On Saturday afternoon, Dr. Castleman held a President's Reception in Foster Hall and gave a report on his first year at MVNU.

Among the highlights was the increased enrollment. First-time in college enrollment increased by over 10 percent and graduate enrollment is up nearly 30 percent, thanks to the success of the International Executive Studies program.

"One of the things that we focused on is enrollment," said Dr. Castleman. "When I started on October 1, 2023, I immediately started an IES program, which is an International Executive Studies program. Some people questioned it, but there is a two-fold reason.

"The first and foremost reason is that we see the GPS program as an evangelical tool. It is a tool to get individuals into a Christian education that would never have gone to a Christian institution before. They are going to be exposed to the gospel in every course. Number two is international students have to pay full rate. There is no financial aid. They have to have the cash in the bank in order to get accepted and come to the institution. ... January 20th of this year is when we started. We started with zero international students and as of this week, we are at 208 students in the international program."

Dr. Castleman also took some questions from those in attendance and responded

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

his thoughts. One of the questions posed was the success of the engineering program.

MVNU, which offers tracks in mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering, has begun to explore civil engineering, based on market needs.

The question of job placement was also asked about engineering students.

"On our job placement rate, we are looking at that because the problem is the students are going back into their hometowns and the jobs may not be there," said Dr. Castleman. "What we have to do is we've got to begin to create partnerships with organizations and that's not something we do have right now. Now, I can tell you that our placement rate for nursing is high. Once a nurse finishes here, they place well."

To combat this issue, Castleman said the MVNU is also launching an engineering co-op board, to help build partnerships across Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. This initiative will provide students with paid co-op positions that offer real-world experience and academic credit, enhancing career readiness.

Rounding out the Homecoming weekend was a President's Prayer Breakfast on Sunday morning. Dr. Castleman greeted nearly 80 alumni and friends, which heard from Distinguished Alumni award winners, the Freels, and Outstanding Young Alumni honoree, Dr. Holmes.

For more on Homecoming, visit mvnu.edu/homecoming.

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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. The application deadline is November 25, 2024, at 5:00 PM.

- Benefits include:**
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PCED ANNUAL BUSINESS & INDUSTRY BANQUET SUCCESS



(Continued from Page 1)

Commissioners and staff for their support.

Dinner was served before a presentation was provided for the nearly 200 attendees at the event. The presentation opened with brief introductions by banquet sponsors Jessica Satler, with the Regional Growth Partnership, along with RJ Mancini with Jobs Ohio. PCED Director Tim Copsey then gave a recap of the year that highlighted the \$61,982,960 private investment into the county. PCED acknowledged 20-year investment members; Natural Design & Graphics, Dooley Funeral Home and Antwerp Chamber of Commerce.

Two Antwerp High School students, Braylen Moreno and Derek Hines, both from Mrs. Kayla Bagley's Audio Visual classroom, prepared a wonderful Paulding County quality-of-life video for the county. In collaboration with the PCED office, the video was developed to be shared on the PCED website and captures all the great entertainment opportunities and food estab-

lishments around Paulding County.

In between some of the success stories, marketing blurbs were shared about new county businesses that became PCED investment members in 2024. Those businesses and owners included: Studio 38 Cheer and Tumble facility with Cassandra Oates, Hidn Treasures Artisan Market & U-Haul with Heather & Mike Shurburn, Deja Brew by Cassy coffee trailer with Cassy Kashner, Hometown Speech Connections Pediatric Speech Therapy office with Jen Smith and Misty Meadows U-pick Flowers with Misti Klopfenstein.

The last item on the evening agenda was to acknowledge the Paulding County 2024 Mayor's Award. The newly established award will be presented to one of the eleven village mayors annually for their service and dedication to community. The first annual recipient of the award was presented to Village of Cecil Mayor Gene Sheets. Gene has been the mayor of Cecil for over 30 years and goes above and beyond in fill-

ing roles of village administrator, utility worker, sewer plant operator along with many other tasks for the small rural community.

Copsey shared, "This annual banquet is just a culmination of one year's worth of great collaboration, teamwork and dedication to the Paulding County community. It's a well attended event that brings all our PCED partners together for a night of sharing success and networking before we all enter the holiday season. We are glad to be able to share all of these wonderful stories and successes with each other as we continue to build on #pauldingcountystrong."

HUBER OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS ELF, JR.

The story begins at the North Pole as Santa Claus (played by Colton Hancock), Mrs. Claus (Leah Garmater) and the Elves sing a Christmas Carol in the workshop and the arrival of Buddy the Elf (Titus Garmater), who, despite an abundance of enthusiasm, falls short in his toy-making abili-

ties. Charlie (Cataleya Perez), the boss, expresses disappointment, but the elves quickly chime in to make Buddy feel better. Charlie tells Buddy to take a break and asks Shawanda (Anna Wiechart) to pick up the extra slack. Unaware that Buddy is listening, they reveal that Buddy is, in fact, a human and not an elf.

Buddy sets off to meet his father. Meanwhile, Walter Hobbs (Brock McDowell), Sam (Tate Herendeen), and Secretary Deb (Dani Frame) are discussing the unfortunate situation with their latest song from which the last two pages are missing with Sarah (Kailin Elwood), Chadwick (Noah Campbell), Matthews (Layne Salisbury), and Mr. Greenway (Ben Harris).

After meeting Buddy, Walter's wife, Emily (Rachel Garmater), and his twelve-year-old son, Michael (Hayden Anderson), want to go Christmas shopping with Buddy. At Macy's, they meet the Manager (Lin Ballard). Buddy falls in love at first sight with Macy's elf, Jovie (Melina Schroeder), and inspires other Macy's employees to decorate with some Christmas spirit.

Later on, when Michael tells Buddy about seeing Santa, everyone rushes to Central Park to help Santa gather the Christmas spirit he needs to make his now-broken sleigh fly. A large crowd gathers around Santa's broken sleigh, including New York One reporter, Charlotte Dennon (McKenna Bergman). To prove to the crowd that it's actually Santa Claus, Buddy reveals what Darlene Lambert (Lilia Bowden) and Emma Van Brocklin (Emma Anderson) received as gifts on past Christmases. The New Yorkers sing, and Santa's sleigh rises into the

HOLIDAY SEASON PICNIC BASKET DRAWING



Starting December 2 enter to win a Holiday Season Picnic Basket. Drawing boxes will be in businesses in Woodburn. The basket will contain goodies to eat and gifts certifi-

cates to area businesses.

This drawing is sponsored by Woodburn Main Street and Char's Grill. The winner will be announced on December 14, 2024.

air, Christmas spirit is restored and everyone gets what they want for Christmas!

Elves are played by: Emmy Anderson, Ava Bauer, Blakely Brown, Claire Brown, Madi Brown, Bridgette Bussing, Eden Campbell, Trinity Campbell, Addlynn Chrisman, Henry Clark, Emily Davis, Kathryn Heffelfinger, Trace Heffelfinger, Trent Heffelfinger, Cataleya Perez, Meadow Perez, Ella Pettit, Vivian Sensabaugh, Anna Wiechart, Eden

Wilson.

Other cast and crew members include: Jacoby Campbell, Connor Harris, Alex Harris, Jordyn Vance, Mackenzie Yenser, Greyson Combs, Zane Tryzenka, Maddy Hedge, Joey Greer, James Greer

For information visit: huberoperahouse.org. You will want to be sure to include this holiday event in your plans on December 6, 7, and 8 at the Huber Opera house in Hicksville, Ohio.

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