

Local fishing team among best in the state

Two local high school fishermen are finding themselves consistently among the best in the state.

Rylan Hamlin, a sophomore at Michigan Center High School and Jack Swihart, a junior at Lumen Christi, have been having tremendous success fishing the state circuits. Hamlin and Swihart are the 2022 The Bass Federation (TBF) and Student Angler Federation (SAF) Michigan State Fishing Champions.

They are the only team to ever win both championships in the same year.

A third member of the team, and the one who makes it all happen, is Chad Hamlin, Rylan's father, along with Linda, his mother. Chad owns Clarklake Plumbing, the team's primary sponsor, and drives the bass boat for the team while they are fishing during tournaments.

But when it comes to pulling fish in the boat, it is all Rylan and

"If I could, I would fish every day."

**Rylan Hamlin
Jackson Fishing**

Swihart. The two, who have named their team Jackson Fishing, have won both the 2022 TBF and SAF Michigan State Fishing Championships.

The championship tournament was held on Lake St. Clair and they had their biggest weight ever of #27.13 pounds. They won the championship by over 6 pounds ahead of second place. This championship win qualifies them for the 2023 National Championship in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The pair, who are each 15 years old, credit their success to a lot of practice. "I would fish every day if I could," said Hamlin.

Linda Hamlin, Rylan's mother, noted that the sport can be expensive and that they are always looking for more sponsors.

Both young men hope to earn scholarships in the sport.



Jack Swihart, left, and Rylan Hamlin, right, are having tremendous success on the high school fishing circuits this summer.

COURTESY PHOTO

DNR investigating fatal boating accident

Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officers are investigating a fatal boating incident involving an 11-year-old girl who was struck by a boat in Hillsdale County.

The incident occurred around 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, on Lake Michindoh, offshore of the Michindoh Conference Center, which is a Christian camp and conference center, located along Bacon Road on the east side of the lake.

Names of those involved in the incident are not being released pending conclusion of the ongoing investigation.

A 25-year-old lifeguard from the conference center was operating a 1989 Supra Sunsport that was pulling 12 children on a banana boat, which is a non-motorized inflatable tube people ride on pulled by a motorized boat. Both the boat and tube belonged to the Michindoh Conference Center.

A 29-year-old woman was also on the boat, watching the children as a "spotter." All children were wearing life jackets and helmets.

Three children fell from the banana boat into the water. When the operator returned to pick-up the children, the vessel struck a fourth child, an 11-year-old girl, not previously seen in the water. The man operating the boat immediately jumped into the water to help the child.

A woman from the conference center called 911 requesting an ambulance; a second person called 911 providing additional details.

The child was immediately transported to the dock at the conference center and was met by emergency responders, who provided care for the girl's life-threatening injuries. EMS personnel rushed the girl by ambulance to Hillsdale County Hospital. There, she succumbed to her injuries.

Alcohol and drugs are not believed to be a factor. Weather conditions were favorable for boating; the boat was the only operating vessel on the lake when the incident occurred.

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Keep your eye out for this pest

Photo courtesy of Emilie Swackhammer, Penn State University, Bugwood.org./

Top, left: Spotted lanternflies are more likely to be seen with wings folded. Look for grey to brown wings with black spots, and black-striped wing tips. Photo courtesy of Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org. Top, right: Adult spotted lanternfly's bright wing coloration is hidden when wings are closed. Photo courtesy of Robert Gardner, Bugwood.org. Bottom, right: Spotted lanternflies may lay egg masses on vehicles, outdoor furniture or other items that can be transported to new areas, leading to new infestations.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is asking for the public's help by being on the lookout for spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect with the potential to seriously affect Michigan's agriculture and natural resources. This insect feeds on more than 70 different plants including grapes, apples, hops and hardwood trees.

"Our agricultural and natural resources are part of Michigan's identity, and spotted lanternfly has the potential to forever change that landscape," said Robert Miller, MDARD's invasive species prevention and response specialist within the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division. "With its ability to wreak havoc on grapes, apples, hops, stone fruits and more, this could be devastating to Michigan's farmers and the state's food and agriculture industry."

First detected in the United States in 2014 in southeastern Pennsylvania, spotted lanternfly has been spreading rapidly across the northeastern states. To date, infestations have been confirmed in Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New

Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Although live spotted lanternfly has not been detected in Michigan, MDARD and the United States Department of Agriculture have confirmed five cases of dead spotted lanternfly found in separate locations

"Our agricultural and natural resources are part of Michigan's identity, and spotted lanternfly has the potential to forever change that landscape."

Robert Miller
MDARD's invasive species prevention and response specialist

across the state. In these cases, the dead insects were found in packaging materials or objects shipped from states with known infestations.

Spotted lanternflies cannot fly long distances, but they lay eggs on nearly any surface like cars, trailers, firewood, outdoor furniture and more. Before leaving an infested area, MDARD is asking people to check vehicles, firewood and outdoor equipment for unwanted hitchhikers. Individuals and businesses receiving shipments from states known to have spotted lanternfly also should be on the lookout for adults or egg masses on goods and packing materials.

"With the current rate of spread, it is possible spotted lanternfly could reach Michigan at any time," Miller added. "Public awareness and reporting are essential to early detection, which provides the opportunity to contain an infestation before it becomes a widespread problem."

Spotted lanternfly causes direct damage by sucking sap from host plants while secreting large amounts of a sugar-rich,

sticky liquid called honeydew. This honeydew and the resulting black sooty mold can kill plants and foul surfaces. The honeydew often attracts other pests like yellow jackets, flies and ants, affecting outdoor recreation and complicating crop harvests. From late summer to the first hard frost, spotted lanternflies are in their adult stage and easiest to identify. Adults are roughly one inch long. Their folded wings are gray to brown with black spots. Open wings reveal a yellow and black abdomen and bright red hind wings with black spots transitioning to black and white bands at the edge.

Female spotted lanternfly lay egg masses in the fall, which resemble old chewing gum, with a gray, waxy, putty-like coating. Egg masses can survive winter temperatures to hatch in the spring. Hatched eggs appear as brownish, seed-like deposits. Spotted

lanternfly juveniles are wingless and are black with white spots, developing red patches in their final juvenile stage. If you find a spotted lanternfly egg mass, juvenile or adult, take one or more photos, make note of the date, time and location of the sighting, and report it to MDARD via email at MDA-Info@Michigan.gov or by calling 800-292-3939. If possible, collect a specimen in a container for verification.

Before traveling, check out the map of confirmed spotted lanternfly locations. For additional information on identifying or reporting, visit Michigan.gov/SpottedLanternfly.

Michigan's Invasive Species Program is cooperatively implemented by the Michigan departments of Agriculture and Rural Development, Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and Natural Resources.

At Wilcox Lawn and Landscaping

Business is growing...

And opportunity is knocking for potential new employees



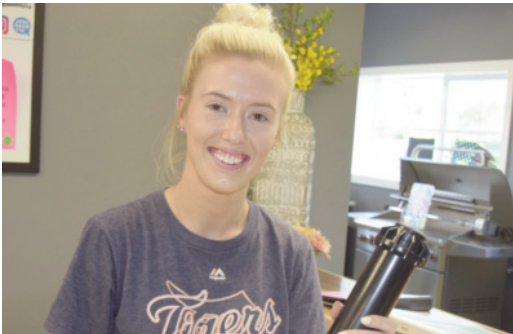
Wilcox Lawn & Landscaping co-owners Jeff and Julie Slat are looking for employees. “If you like to work outdoors, this is the perfect place for you,” said Julie.



Wilcox Lawn & Landscaping co-owner Jeff Slat demonstrates the riding fertilizer machine on the company’s beautiful lawn.



Mother and daughter, Christine Hegwood, right, and Nicole Kaseman enjoy each other’s company while caring for flowers in the Wilcox greenhouse.



Office Manager Taylor Wilcox rings up an irrigation part at the front service desk.



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**Story and photos
By John Hummer
Editor**

Wilcox Lawn & Landscaping has been caring for the area’s lawns, yards, and landscapes for over 36 years and they plan on doing it for a long time to come, having just moved into a brand-new building and outdoor facilities on Blue Ridge Road just off U.S. 127 in early 2021.

Business is booming for owners Jeff and Julie Slat, and with their new Lily Pad Garden Center customers have many choices with which to beautify their property – whether it be a home or business.

But with the growth comes some growing pains for the family-owned business. Like many

other businesses in the new economy of stay-at-home work, Wilcox is experiencing some difficulty in finding employees for two of its main divisions – lawn services and irrigation. Julie says those services are in demand in the area. Lawn services include environmentally-friendly fertilizing and weed control, as well as tree and shrub care; the company no longer does mowing.

“We’re expanding in an age where it’s really hard to find help,” Julie explained. “We’re trying to find new ways of hiring people for those who don’t realize what we have to offer here – like high school kids or anybody who wants a change in career. We like to train people – even if you don’t have any experience.”

For their lawn services division, in addition to being trained on-site, must pass a test administered by the State of Michigan. “You need to get a license and we help you study for the test,” she noted. “Then we train you to be a lawn care technician.” Wilcox pays for the testing and licensing. For the irrigation end of things, trainees learn everything from installing irrigation systems to repairing and maintenance of the systems. “If you learn irrigation, it’s wide open – you can go as far as you want to,” she said. “This is a trade you learn – not everybody can do it.”

Julie noted that some of the company’s 17 current employees have been with the business for over 15 years and

have a wealth of knowledge to share with those just beginning in the field.

“If you like to work outside, this would be a good way to go,” she said. “We try to make it a really good environment to work in.”

Aside from lawn services and irrigation, the company is always on the lookout for experienced and knowledgeable landscape workers – doing everything from design to hardscape, softscape, and waterscapes.

One of the newest additions to the business is the Lily Pad Garden Center. Customers will find plants, including both annuals and perennials, hanging baskets, trees and shrubs, of course, mums for the fall, and more. The Wilcox yard material area has a complete line of mulch and stone, available for pick-up or delivery.

“We try to be a one-stop,” Julie noted. Their new spacious office area features a service desk where customers can discuss all of their lawn and landscaping needs, order irrigation parts, and any landscape materials the company stocks.

Wilcox Lawn & Landscaping serves a large area including Jackson, the Irish Hills area, east to the Ann Arbor area, and as far west as Albion. The business is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Lily Pad Garden Center is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information or to set up a job interview, call 517-529-4550. Visit the company website at wilcoxlawncare.com.



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Napoleon High School graduate Brian Stuard follows through on a drive during the PGA's Rocket Mortgage Classic at Detroit Golf Club on Thursday.

Long summer possibly coming to an end for Stuard

Photo, story by Jeff Steers
Exponent special writer

PGA golfer Brian Stuard describes the summer months on the world's top tour as a "disease."

And it continued to spread on Friday.

Stuard missed his 11th consecutive cut on the PGA Tour with rounds of 71 and 74 at the Rocket Mortgage Classic at Detroit Golf Club.

The longtime PGA Tour player will need to make a cut, play extremely well, and produce at top 10 finish at the Wyndham Championship this week in order to qualify for the playoffs.

He will start the week in the mid-130s on the FedEx Cup Series points list. The top 125 earn playing privileges for the 2022-2023 season. He entered last week in the mid-140s in the standings, but players on the PGA Tour who are participating in the LIV Tour – a rival to the PGA – was dropped from the points standings.

Stuard shot a 1-under-par 71 at the Detroit PGA Tour event despite hitting 83 percent of greens in regulation and a large majority of the fairways.

His putter let him down in his home-state PGA tournament.

Stuard had missed the last 10

cuts in PGA Tour events prior to Detroit after a promising start to the 2021-2022 season.

"It's like you have a disease that you can't get rid of it," Stuard said of his summer months on the PGA Tour. "It has been a tough time playing professional golf lately."

The Napoleon graduate made 10-of-12 cuts between the beginning of February and the start of May.

On Thursday, Stuard missed four birdie putts within eight feet on the slick greens in Detroit. He three-putted for a par 5 late in the round after hitting the green in two.

"I played okay today (Thursday), but didn't get anything out of it," Stuard said of the round at Detroit Golf Club. "Obviously finishing in the top 150 is a secondary goal."

Stuard is still one of the best drivers on the PGA, currently fourth in driving accuracy hitting nearly 72 percent of fairways. But he is 152nd in greens in regulation (64 percent) and 154th in putting (1.77 per hole).

"The longer you go on a streak like that (missing cuts), it is hard to get it back," Stuard said.

The FedEx Cup Series playoffs starts after play next week at the Wyndham Championship.

Stuard has made more than \$650,000 in the current season and nearly \$12 million in his career on the PGA Tour.

The PGA Tour veteran doesn't know what to think of the LIV Tour. He wasn't one of the golfers offered multi-million deals to play on the Saudi Arabia-backed tour.

"It (the LIV Tour format) sounds nice in theory, but it doesn't seem like golf," Stuard said. "It is not the same emotions ... like today I was battling all day to make a cut (on Friday)."

With only approximately 60 golfers playing on the LIV Tour – and no cuts – the last place player earns \$120,000.

That amount is equivalent to a 17th-place finish on the PGA Tour.

He expects to finish in the top 150 in the FedEx Cup Series standings which will allow him some starts in the fall PGA 2022-2023 season. He will need a good start in order to be eligible for PGA tournaments as 2023 rolls around.

Stuard said it has been a long summer and looks forward to some time off.

"I look forward to getting home, taking a break, and getting refreshed," Stuard said.

Former Michigan, NBA star coming back to Brooklyn for camp



PHOTO COURTESY CHARLES RICHARDSON

Zavier Simpson will be at Columbia Central High School to teach boys and girls ages K-12 on August 20. The camp will include two sessions: Session one will be for grades 7-12 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.. Session two will be for children K-6 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Interested individuals can register at www.shootnet.com.

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Obituaries

Barbara W. (Tocias) Kyser

Barbara W. (Tocias) Kyser was born on May 31, 1926, in Lansing, the daughter of Ray and Gertrude (Kreidler) Tobias. Barb attended Lansing, Eastern High School, graduating in 1945. Through mutual friends, she was introduced to her husband Ronald Kyser, and they were married on November 2, 1946. They built their home in Brooklyn, Mich., where they raised their three children. Barb was a homemaker and expert seamstress. She was also a Girl Scout leader for several years and loved to go camping. Barb had many close friends that she socialized with, she enjoyed Euchre Club, Birthday Club and P.T.A. Just prior to Ron's passing they sold their home in Brooklyn and moved to Barryton, Mich. Barb lived there for several years before moving to Cedar Crest Cares AFC Home in Remus; where she lived until her passing



Barb Kyser

on Friday, July 22, 2022, at the age of 96. She is survived by her children, Mitchell (Virginia) Kyser of Horton, Carol (Floyd) Young of Lake City and son-in-law James (Cindy) Ray of Lake Isabella; 6 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; and several nieces and nephews. Barb was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Ronald; daughter, Linda Ray; two sisters, Francis and Ellenore; and brother, Elwood.

A 1 p.m. graveside service will be held on Sunday, August 14 at Highland Cemetery in Brooklyn with a luncheon to follow at the American Legion.

Memorial contributions may be made in Barb's name to Promedica Hospice, 1053 West Main St., Fremont, MI 49412.

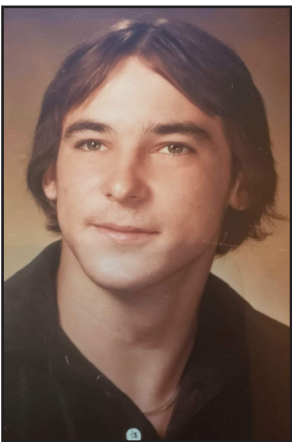
Please leave a condolence, picture, or memory at www.daggettgilbertfuneral-home.com

Mark Hamilton Felkey



On June 23, 2022, Mark Hamilton Felkey died unexpectedly, but peacefully in Denver, Colo., of a coronary condition. He was 58 years old.

Mark is survived by his mother, Rosemary Bailey, of Shelbyville, Mich.; his step-mother, Lois Felkey of Onsted, Mich.; his son, Joseph Felkey of Brooklyn, Mich.; his brother, father, Clarence "Matt" Felkey of Mitchell (Michele) Felkey of Onsted, Mich., and brother,



Mark Felkey

Shelbyville, Mich.; his brother, Michael (JoLeen) Felkey of Ann Arbor, Mich.; his sister, Linda (Charles) Hunt of Onsted, Mich.; his sister, Kathi (Fred) Olinghouse of Montpelier, Ohio; and Dennis (Mary) Fish of Benson, Ariz. He was preceded in death by his

Donald Fish of Brooklyn, Mich. Mark was born on January 20, 1964, in Ankara, Turkey. He graduated from Columbia Central High School in 1982 where he was an accomplished athlete and woodworking student. He served in the US Navy and was deployed to the Western Pacific on the USS Samuel Gompers (AD-37). After leaving the Navy, he became a highly skilled cabinetmaker in Southeast Michigan and Denver, Colo. He was known for being a very genuine and generous person who was liked by all who had the pleasure of meeting him.

Joseph 'Jay' Vincent Bonar

Joseph Vincent Bonar, 74, of Brooklyn, Michigan, went to be with the Lord on July 25, 2022 after a brief but courageous fight against cancer in Fort Myers, Florida. Born in Detroit, Michigan May 26, 1948 to the late Joseph Vincent, Sr. and Patricia (Burleson) Bonar, he was a man of many monikers and lived a bold yet gentle life.

As a boy, Jay was the proud older brother of six younger siblings whom he loved dearly and marshalled joyfully. He attended Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic elementary school as did all his siblings. In his youth, he played football with the Detroit Bulldogs and earned the title "Bean Ball Bonar" as a baseball pitcher. He went on to captain the De La Salle High School bowling team. He attended University of Michigan-Dearborn, graduating with a BSE Electrical Engineering in 1970. Shortly thereafter, he would take his first solo flight as a pilot out of Detroit City Airport, without telling his worried mother. Owning his own plane for a time, Jay would tell others that flying and being up in the clouds made him feel close to God.

Joseph always introduced himself as "Joe". The first time he introduced himself as "Jay" (an abbreviation of his initials "J.V.") was to Debbi on the night they met. He and Debbi married July 12, 1974, beginning an adventure filled life.

Jay was a man of vision and unbreakable optimism. His early ventures included owning gas stations and selling Christmas trees while in college. He and



Jay Bonar

Debbi would spend several years in California where Jay exercised his entrepreneurship spirit in commercial and public development. Upon moving back to Michigan, Jay launched businesses in residential development. He built across Michigan, Florida, California, Nevada, and Pennsylvania. Jay navigated the

highs and lows of business with an indomitable spirit, trust in the Lord, and his mothers' prayers. Jay would make friends with anyone and everyone in the room, taking great joy in dramatic retellings of past adventures and making plans for future ventures. He was never happier than when bringing someone along for a ride, whether it was by plane, boat, or a fine automobile. His best adventures were with Debbi by his side.

Jay was proud to carry his father's name, but he refused to go by Junior. When Joseph Vincent Bonar, Sr. passed away in 1988, Jay stepped up as the new family patriarch. He faithfully cared for his widowed mother until her death in 2013. He took his role of Eldest Brother seriously and extended this relationship even to those outside of the family. Jay served quietly, for many years, as conservator, benefactor, and business owner. He was particularly proud of and gratified by the work he did with St. Rita Catholic Church's outreach to the needy. He was quick to speak about his ideas and strategies and respected the dignity of those he served.

When nieces and nephews arrived, Jay enthusiastically dubbed himself Uncle Ace,

especially after Joseph Vincent Bonar, II ("DUECE") was born. He reveled in a new generation of Bonars and Ursittis to look after and he enjoyed every moment of it, listening to their stories and supporting them in their endeavors. Jay loved family parties, outings at the lake, business gatherings, and UM game days.

A loyal and generous husband, brother and uncle, Jay will be truly missed and we are grateful to the Lord for blessing us with him.

Surviving Jay are his wife of 48 years, Debra Ann (Ursitti) Bonar; mother-in-law, Ann Ursitti; and brothers-in-law, Chuck (Patty) Ursitti, Steve (Diane) Ursitti and Matthew Ursitti. Also survived by siblings, James, John-Michael (Diana), Susan Mattox, Patricia (Donald) Robertson, Mary (Daniel) Judd, Gerald (Kelly); and many beloved nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Patricia (Burleson) Bonar and father-in-law, Eric Ursitti.

Jay's Family and friends will gather from 3:00PM - 7:00PM, Rosary to begin at 7:00PM on Thursday, August 4, 2022 at Eineder Funeral Homes - Brooklyn Chapel (137 S. Main St., Brooklyn, MI 49230) Jay's Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00AM, Gathering beginning at 10:00AM on Friday, August 5, 2022 at St. Rita Catholic Church (10516 Hayes Rd., Clarklake, MI 49234). His interment will take place at St. Patrick's Cavalry Cemetery, Brighton, MI. Fr. Thomas Helfrich OSFS will serve as celebrant. Please leave a message of comfort for Jay's family or sign Joe's guestbook at www.EinederFuneralHomes.com

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