



Community celebrates its heritage - inside

EXPONENT

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\$2⁰⁰

‘Times have changed’

Lock your doors, police say; theft numbers up

By Julie Riddle
Contributing writer

Residents should lock their doors with sticky fingers on the rise in Jackson County, police say.

After a two-year lull, theft crimes have increased to near-pre-pandemic levels in 2022, with 2,628 reports of shoplifting, larcenies, and vehicle thefts keeping Jackson County police busy last year.

In 2020 and 2021, theft reports dipped to about 2,250 per year, down from roughly 3,000 thefts per year in the previous decade, according to data provided by the Michigan State Police and updated to include 2022 data late last month.

Police attribute some of last year's increase to a hike in the financial need among residents, driving them to steal. They also chalk up the climbing numbers of stores reporting more thefts to police, abandoning their previous practice of giving shoplifters a talking-to and letting them go because of incidents of attacks on store security guards.

Theft often also signals a darker, more serious concern, with people snagging items from stores, homes, or idling cars to fund their drug addiction, police leaders say.

Surveillance tools, including cameras and loss-prevention officers, help drive theft numbers down, and as more stores and homes use such measures, police are better able to identify and stop those who steal, said Christopher Boulter, deputy director of support services at the Blackman-Leoni Department of Public Safety.

While the city and county are, on the whole, a safe place to visit and live, residents and visitors can go a long way toward protecting their belongings by taking the simple step of locking their home and car doors, Boulter said.

“When I was a young kid, we didn’t even lock our front doors,” Boulter said, reminiscing about hot summer nights with only the screen door closed and his mom’s purse and keys always left on the front seat of the car. “Those times have changed.”

Of the 735 recorded shoplifting incidents in the county in 2022, more than two-thirds happened in Blackman Township, the home of two malls, several busy big-box stores, and nearly all of Jackson’s west-side shopping district.

See *Thefts* page 12

It’s for the animals



Jackson County Animal Shelter volunteer Sue Lovell proudly shows off Dottie, a seven-year-old female Chihuahua. Dottie is on the shelter’s pet therapy team and often visits nursing homes, schools, and other special occasions to help as needs arise.

Jackson County Animal Shelter celebrates new addition, renovations

Eleven dogs and puppies adopted out same day

Story and photos
By John Hummer
Editor

The Jackson County Animal Shelter celebrated the completion of their building addition and renovations last Friday, Sept. 8 at their facility on Spring Arbor Road in Jackson. The shelter

broke ground on the project April 11, 2022 thanks in large part to the passage of a 2018 millage, overwhelmingly approved by Jackson County voters.

The celebration included a ribbon cutting, open house, and refreshments. In addition, a

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The family on the right came to the Jackson County Animal Shelter open house last Friday to check out the dogs up for adoption. Carly Ellis, the mom from Napoleon, holds her two sons – four-year-old Calvin (in the back) and big one-year-old Gideon. On the left is shelter volunteer Shannon Elbert who is holding a black doodle that was up for adoption.



This year, Jeff Hubbard and his mother, Jackie, will celebrate 80 years of continuous business in the auto industry. Through the years the family has had additional shops in Brooklyn, Adrian, Hudson, Clinton, and Manchester. In 2023, they retain shops in Brooklyn, Onsted, and Hudson.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE MCLEMORE

Hubbard’s Auto: 80 years, three generations

By Michelle McLemore
Contributing writer

Hubbard Auto Center plans to celebrate its 80th year in business with a week of celebratory food, historical artifacts, and gratitude to the community during the week of Sept. 18. The business spans three generations, three Onsted-area locations, and additional satellite stores.

The year 1943 brought the spark igniting the auto repair business for Ovid Lamony Hubbard, then 35. Originally, a farmer who placed well at county fairs for his sheep, Hubbard purchased land on M-50 near Laird Road (the current Yoder’s site). At the time, the property only had a house and a corn crib. Ovid boarded up the corn crib and it became his first garage. His wife, Marion Irene (Jordon) Hubbard kept the books.

Business grew, and in 1953, Ovid moved his operation to North Main Street in Onsted. Grandson Jeff Hubbard shared Ovid’s business abilities in a few stories. First, to get the building materials, “Ovid bartered with the owner of the Onsted Lumber Yard. He got the building materials in exchange for car service.” Next, he needed to get branded gasoline. Jeff continued, “Texaco was the big national name at that time. A man came out to basically tell Ovid he was declined, but Ovid convinced him to take a drive. He showed him the different lake communities, farms, and so on to prove there was

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AHA grant births pickleball program

By Michelle McLemore
Contributing writer

The Onsted Elementary School recently received the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge and American Heart Challenge grant for \$1,500. The grant will support physical education instructor Brad Maska's project, "Wildcat Pickleball."

"Pickleball is a sport that has taken off the last few years and seemed like a logical choice to give our students the ability to learn and play a lifelong sport," Maska said.

The grant money was used to purchase enough equipment to set up six nets in the Onsted elementary gym for a fall pickleball segment of physical education class. Principal Marsha Davis, shared, "Eventually, we will move one or two of the nets out to a storage area by the playground where two courts have been painted." Davis is hopeful that perhaps someday the school can "secure funds to make actual pickleball courts like outside tennis courts."

The equipment arrived shortly before school started and stu-

"Pickleball seemed like a logical choice to give our students the ability to learn and play a lifelong sport."

Bras Maska,
Physical Education Teacher

dents from Adrian College's Business Department helped local pickleball player Jackie Freeman set up the equipment. Maska plans to use the equipment at the start of the year, during this week. "We are looking to kick off our lessons with guest speaker Mrs. Jackie Freeman, a local pickleball player and author of a pickleball book for youth. We then will start to implement it with our students in the weeks that follow."

Freeman is no stranger to Onsted Elementary as she was invited to lead a pickleball workshop, during fall 2022 professional development, which was focused on adult self-care. Speaking at the professional development workshop led to a weekly Tuesday night, open gym pickleball night for the staff and community.

Maska expanded on the elementary's connection with the grant organization. "The last few years our community has been tremendous in supporting the American Heart Association. Last year we raised over \$20,000 to help the cause during our annual fundraiser. We are very excited about this opportunity and cannot thank our community enough for the support they have given our school as we continue to raise money for the AHA."

According to the AHA, "The Heart Challenge grant program was developed to allow schools to implement a variety of wellness activities . . . to finally and forever change the course of heart disease, stroke, and congenital heart defects."



The Adrian College business students have volunteered the last few years for Onsted Elementary Principal Davis as she prepared for the first day of school. COURTESY PHOTO

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special delivery of adoptable small dogs and puppies, special for the occasion, were available for qualified adopters to take home as their own. The event also included a slide show highlighting the construction project and many of the

events carried out by the shelter over the past year.

"It was our privilege and honor to welcome everyone to their county animal shelter today," said Lydia Sattler, animal services director for the shelter.



Jill Johnson, a volunteer for the shelter, holds Benji, a one-year, five-month-old male soft-coated Wheaten Terrier mix. Benji was hoping to get adopted at last Friday's open house.

"We had an amazing turnout."

In the first hour-and-a-half of the open house, the shelter completed 11 adoptions of small dogs, puppies, and even one big mixed-breed dog. "That was very exciting," Sattler said.

The special delivery of small dogs and puppies came from Mississippi, arranged by what's called the "Pretty Pity Committee", employees from two animal shelters in the south (Atlanta, Ga. and Hattiesburg, Miss.) that work together to get the dogs out of the south and sent north, Sattler explained.

The shelter continued operations, though somewhat limited at times, throughout the 17-month-long construction project.

The renovation project added new rooms for large dogs, isolation space for cats and dogs, indoor meet and greet areas, a dog spa, a community room, additional office spaces, restrooms, outdoor dog play patios, and a private room for owned-pet euthanasia requests.

Building renovations were one of the promises made when the shelter asked Jackson County voters for the passage of the millage in 2018. Additionally, animal control officers were brought back; three full-time officers now serve all of Jackson County.

"We are so grateful for the community support for our local shelter, starting with the passage of the 2018 millage," Sattler said. "Thanks to the voters and our ongoing support, the homeless pets of Jackson County have a formidable team on their side to be their voice and provide the best possible comfort and care while they await finding their match in a new loving home."

"Promises were made when the county asked for millage dollars and we have followed through on those promises and aim to go above and beyond to serve our community while also being fiscally responsible."

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Hubbard . . . from page 1

more than just the village that could support the station. It took a little extra salesmanship to convince the gasoline representative, but Texaco reconsidered and gave him the franchise."

On the east side of Onsted Highway, he built a cement block building and operated there for a few years before selling the property to the Lenawee County Road Commission. (Today the site is recognizable as a storage unit property, and a building housing a tanner and hair salon.)

During this time, Ovid and Marion were raising son Philip. Philip's interest in cars was strong by senior year. He helped organize a group known as The Buzz Boys in 1952. Philip became the President. Per an *Adrian Daily Telegram* article, "The group's goal was to further safer and saner driving among teen-age drivers. Periodic automobile check-ups and good driving habits were requirements for all members." The teens worked with Lenawee County Sheriff Deputy Edward Kamke. To highlight driving safety, Kampke introduced the senior group at the Lenawee County Fair before a scheduled stunt contest on the track.

On August 24, 1953, The Buzz

Boys held an economy driving contest traveling 50 miles at an average speed of 40 miles per hour. A winner was selected according to miles per gallon of gas used. Philip Hubbard won first, Tom Brown second, and Richard Hubbard third. Philip graduated Onsted as Salutatorian in 1953 and then went on to earn an associate degree from Jackson Community College in Business. Some would say, Philip also proved his intelligence when he proposed to, and married, Jacquelyn (Jackie) Burton on August 3, 1957 in the Onsted Baptist Church.

By 1959, Ovid was ready to expand again. He opened a gas station on the corner of Slee and Onsted Highway taking his son Philip on as a partner. In September of this same year, Jeffrey Burton Hubbard was born to Philip and Jackie and this third-generation son would have many automotive memories as part of his growing up.

"We had a wrecker service from the 1950s into the late 1980s," Jeff recounted. "It was a 24/7 business. A normal Christmas for me was to wake up, open a couple presents, ride along on a wrecker call, and then go to the grandparents'

house. I asked Dad once why we had to go even on Christmas. He patiently explained that we'd be going to my grandparents' house in the afternoon. If we didn't go help those people with the wrecker, then they couldn't go to see their grandparents."

The 1960s brought a higher demand for car-related services. Ovid purchased land from Effie E Kelley and put it in both he and Philip's names. However, the country was also embroiled in international conflict. A friend warned Philip and Jackie that the draft was coming, and it'd be better to enlist wisely. As Ovid was a veteran of the Army Reserves, Philip joined Adrian's Combat Reserve Unit and attended training at Fort McClellan in Atlanta, Ga. While Ovid continued the business on the home front, Philip was assigned to the Army's Chemical Corp Training Command, Unit 392 Chemical Company (Combat Support). When Jackie could be near, she was. Otherwise, she kept up employment near home and was involved in various charity and community groups.

In 1961, Dacel Richardson began working for Ovid in the repair shop. The business partnership and friendship would last over 15 years. By 1968, it was time for major improvements. The Village of Onsted granted Hubbard Auto Center's request for four 8,000 gallon underground gasoline storage tanks and eventually their request for a 24x40 building. Then, in 1970, Philip purchased the gas station and Jackie took over the books while Ovid kept involved until the end.

When Jeff was asked about the 1973 national gas shortage, he recalled the impact clearly. "We had a huge billboard sign up—'Out of Gas'—and then a load would come, and we'd get really busy."



Philip and Jackie Hubbard hosted an Onsted High School history class at their Onsted Highway Auto Museum in the early 2000s.

He paused to laugh. "I wasn't allowed to pump gas until I was tall enough to reach the windshields. This was when we were full service—cleaning windows and pumping the gas for every customer. The lowest I've pumped is 27 cents a gallon during the gas wars."

The son from the third generation, Jeff, joined the business in the 1980s after his college graduation from Grand Valley. "I thought I was headed to corporate America; however, the economy was not so good at the time. I wasn't going to just sit around, so I went to work. The school millage was voted down. Mr. Deuel walked in, came up to me, and said, 'You're going to run an intermural basketball program for us. Those kids have to have something to do.'" Jeff paused and smiled. "You just didn't tell Mr. Deuel 'No.'" Jeff and five other parents organized the program and coached in the Elwood Little Building (now the middle school). From there he was asked to assist Dennis VanSickle in the formal basketball program and eventually the Track program. "I loved coaching, so this job helped me stay in the industry and fulfill my passion coaching at the school."

By 1987 it was time to do extensive remodeling of the shop. An addition was added to the back of the building. Dacel Richardson's repair business was moved into the space. Sections of the walls were opened up and the front room was freed up for displays.

In the 1990s the white auto parts building was sold off to Marion Schultz. Schultz put it on a trailer and hauled it to his farm on Stephenson Road behind the centennial farmhouse where it became the site of many garage sales through the years by the Schultz family.

Eventually, the family would sell off the gas aspect to June and Jeff Elwell who built JJs on the facing corner of Onsted Highway. Hubbard's was able to then focus on service and parts. Through the years, the Hubbard family was active in the community beyond the auto empire. In 1968, Philip and Jackie joined the Irish Hills Chapter of the Antique Car Club in which they'd be active for 50 years. In 1969, Philip was named to the Onsted Bank board where he would serve nearly 50 years. He served on the Onsted Village Planning Commission and the medical board to ensure Onsted retained a doctor's office. He also worked on getting the first tennis courts installed at Onsted High School. Philip and Jackie were also active in the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America for 45 years.

Jackie has served on the local library board, the Get-to-Gether Club, the Village Park and Playground Committee, the school foundation, and has

helped with Onsted Car shows. Jeff has served on the Bank of Michigan board, Kiwanis Club, Onsted Car Show Committee, MIS Car Show Committee, and the Michigan Automotive Parts Association. Additionally, he coached and helped put on the Firemen and Kiwanis snowmobile fundraiser races. Jeff's wife, Marty, has been active on the Onsted Downtown Development Authority for many years. Individually and collectively, the family has been supporters of the growth of the village all along.

The business was an active supporter of 4-H youth as buyers at the annual Lenawee County Fair Junior Livestock Auctions. The Auto Center sponsored a youth basketball team, made donations to the Lenawee Association for Retarded Citizens, Kids Day America, Michigan State Grange Convention, and other local charities. The Hubbards also hosted teachable times with the local Girl Scouts and a high school stress management class covering proper maintenance and repair of vehicles.

Every model eventually is retired and special ones move into memory as classics. In January of 1997, Ovid was driving a car to deliver parts when he was struck at an intersection. He passed shortly thereafter. Wife Marion passed the next year. In addition to keeping the business's books, she had been active in the Onsted Baptist Church and Missionary Society, as well as with the Onsted Women's Club.

Philip would retire the same year as his father passed, yet he continued building his local automotive history museum on Onsted Highway, south of the village. He continued his hobby of finding, fixing, and showing vintage cars and helping with the local Onsted Festival car shows until November of 2013 when he was struck by a motorist at dusk crossing the street to pick up his mail.

Patrons tease Jeff about his relatives' longevity of commitment to the business. His retort is that Jackie is starting her 90th year this September. "She's the record holder at this point," he said. Jackie can still be found working morning shifts at the shop nearly every day. Jeff manages the shop from the office next door.

In 2023, Hubbard's maintain three service shops – one in Onsted, Brooklyn, and Hudson. They include car and truck care, electronic services, heating and cooling services, engine and transmission, undercar services, brakes, and more. Stop in to check out their ongoing services, celebrate their 80 years of continuous service with them, and wish Jackie a very happy 90th birthday during the week of Sept. 18.

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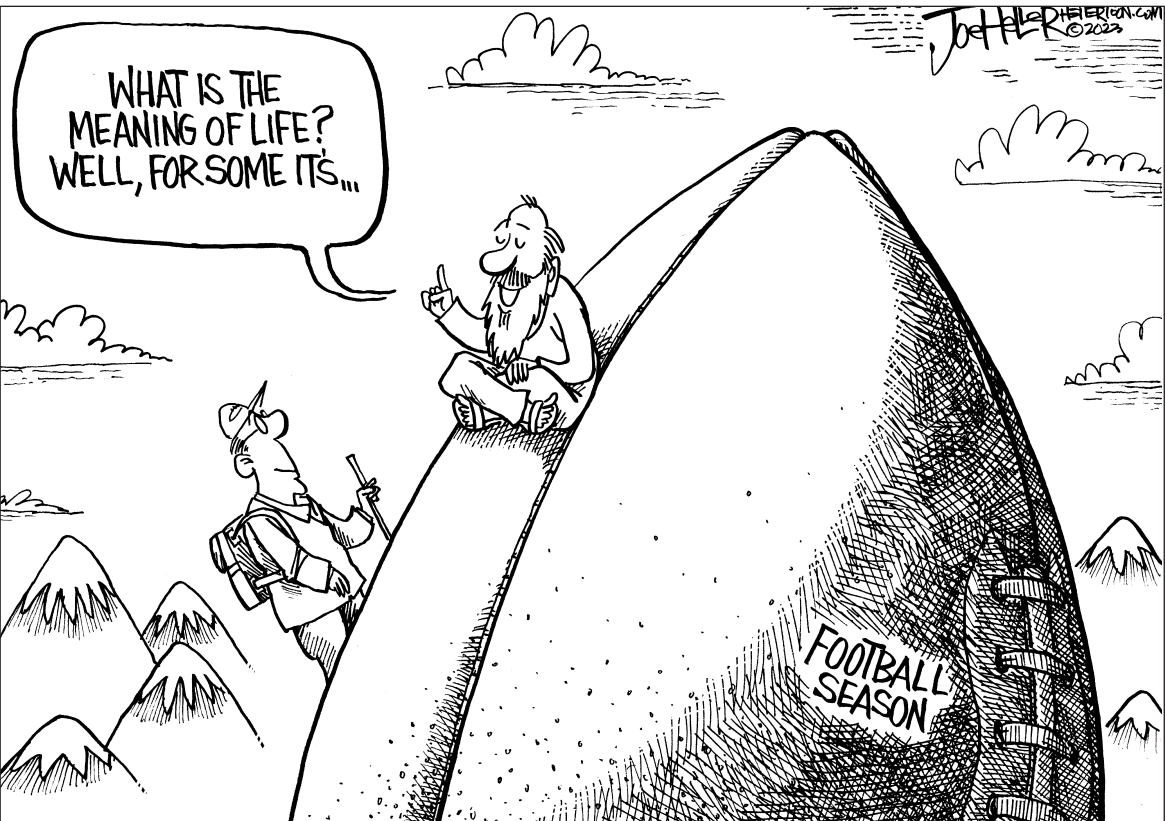
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September 11, 2001 — May we never forget

It's been 22 years since that infamous day. That September day when terrorists hijacked airplanes and executed coordinated attacks on American soil, killing almost 3,000 people. Most of us remember exactly where we were and what we were doing during the shocking and unthinkable attacks on our nation. For me, the moment is as vivid as if it had just occurred yesterday. I had two young children in 2001, aged five and almost eight. We were home-schooling that year and my son was having his weekly piano lesson at the instructor's home. My daughter and I waited for him in the living room where the TV was playing a morning talk show. Unexpectedly, the images on the screen changed, the piano lesson ceased, and all eyes and ears were fixed on the television in disbelief. Like most Americans, we

spent much of the day watching the news coverage and wondering what would be next. Like many of you, I remember seeing the second plane hit the twin towers. I remember the black billowing smoke, the sound of sirens, the crumbling buildings, and the fear on faces. I remember the heroic first responders rushing into danger to save lives. Just like most of us remember where we were on September 11, 2001, we also remember what followed in the days, weeks, and months that followed. I remember a nation coming together in a way I had not seen before during my lifetime. The people of the United States laid aside their differences and joined hearts and hands during one of the most challenging times in our modern history. The phrase "Never Forget" is now a verbal symbol of that horrific day. Not only must we never

forget the sacrifices of brave first responders and those who lost their lives but let us also never forget the lesson learned during the aftermath: that when facing a crisis as a country, we have an opportunity to come together and lift up each other and our communities. At the Lenawee Community Foundation, we believe in the importance of coming together and building up our community. We believe we can have a much greater impact together than we can have alone. On September 11, we not only remember that tragic day in 2001, but we also pause and reflect on the lessons of unity and hope that followed as we put differences aside and joined together for the good of our communities, our nation, and our shared future. **State Rep. Bronna Kahle**
57th District

An honor much-deserved

Jackson woman, 103, receives special state tribute

By John Hummer
Editor

Betty Dahlem Desbiens, 103, beloved Jackson philanthropist and nature lover, received a special tribute from the State of Michigan on Friday, Sept. 8. She was honored for her lifelong contributions of public service and financial support to environmental protection, historical preservation, and animal welfare. Nancy Smith, constituent services aide for State Senator Sue Shink, presented the award to Desbiens while she was surrounded by several of her dearest friends. Among her accomplishments, Desbiens founded the John and

Mary Dahlem Environmental Education Center in Jackson. The tribute notes that the center serves as a place for people to learn about and immerse themselves in the natural environment and experience the diversity of plants and animals in 300 acres of conserved land. She also assisted in the founding of the Hanover Horton Historical Society, preserving local history for present and future generations, and founded the Jackson County Parks Society, promoting park volunteerism. The tribute was signed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist, Senator Sue Shink, and State Representative Kathy Schmaltz. "A State Tribute is a big deal," said Smith. "It recognizes and congratulates Michiganders whose accomplishments are impressive. Betty Desbiens is an outstanding citizen and a treasure to this community. Today we celebrate and thank her." In 2011, one of the three peregrine falcon chicks that hatched atop the Jackson County Tower Building was named "Betty" in honor of Betty Desbiens.



This photo of Betty Desbiens was taken in 2021 when she was 101-years-old. PHOTO BY ROBERT GAECKE, JR.

Letter to the editor

Last tree needs to come down

Dear editor,
I have to agree with Matt Schepeler about our pine trees on the square being replaced. Since the storm took down one of the trees, I think they should take down the other one. We need trees to light up our village square around Thanksgiving, Christmas and even New Year's Day. Without them it would be a dull town.

Yvonne Trumbull
Brooklyn

JSO presents 'Jazz Night with The Pherotones'

The Jackson Symphony Orchestra (JSO) is hosting "Jazz Night with The Pherotones," at Weatherwax Hall in downtown Jackson, 215 W. Michigan Ave., on September 30 at 8 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit jacksonsymphony.org/music-on-tap.

Thompson Square to perform at Michigan Theatre

The Township and Village Police Association is hosting Thompson Square on Friday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Michigan Theatre of Jackson. For ticket information, call 517-879-2170. The Michigan Theatre is located at 124 N. Mechanic St., Jackson.

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JAMA, Jackson College Career Fair

JAMA and Jackson College are hosting a Career Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. to noon; and Wednesday, Sept. 20, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Commonwealth Commerce Center Building, City View Room, 209 E. Washington Ave., Jackson.

College students and community members will have an opportunity to meet with local employers who are hiring now. They will also learn about career and internship opportunities.

Jackson Academy Fair

Congressman Tim Walberg's Jackson Academy Fair is being held Monday, Sept. 25, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Northwest High School, 4200 Van Horn, Jackson. Students and parents will hear from representatives of the five academies: Air Force Academy, Naval Academy, Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Military Academy, and Merchant Marine Academy.

To learn more, visit Walberg.House.gov or call 517-780-975.

It's YOUR Business

By Cindy Hubbell, President/CEO
Irish Hills Regional
Chamber of Commerce

517-592-8907 • www.irishhills.com



The Irish Hills Regional Chamber of Commerce is holding its Membership Appreciation Celebration on Thursday, September 21 beginning at 4:30 p.m. at **Cherry Creek Cellars**. Members will receive two complimentary tickets to the event which include a drink token, two raffle tickets, a wine glass, live music, and heavy appetizers from **JR's Hometown Grill & Pub** and **Sandbar Café Coffee & Creamery**. To register go to IrishHills.com or call our office at 517-592-8907.

Join **Callaghan's Coffee Café** for BINGO on Friday, September 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. featuring games, prizes, food, and drinks. Callaghan's is located at 109 S. Main Street in Brooklyn.

Jerry's Pub & Restaurant is featuring Fish Fry Friday and Karaoke on Friday, September 15, from 7 to 10 p.m. Go to jerryspub.com for more information.

The **Brooklyn American Legion Post #315** is hosting

Rock for a Cause to benefit the **Brooklyn Food Pantry** on Friday, September 15, from 7 to 11 p.m. with Joey D & the Small Bar Superstars. There is a \$5 donation at the door or a non-perishable food item.

YMCA Storer Camps is holding a Women's Adventure Wellness Weekend from Friday, September 15 to Sunday, September 17. The weekend will give you a great opportunity to try new activities, get fit, experience some outdoor adventures, or just enjoy the peaceful surroundings of the camp. Go to ymcastorer camps.org to register.

The **Irish Hills Eagles** have the following specials: Friday, September 15 they will have perch dinners, from 5 to 7 p.m., the public is welcome. Euchre sign up is at 6:30 p.m., games start at 7 p.m. for \$5, the public is welcome. On Sunday, September 17 they will be offering an all-you-can-eat-breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon, \$8 for

adults and \$3 for children, the public is welcome. The Irish Hills Eagles are located at 9500 Wamplers Lake Road in Brooklyn.

Oh These Irish Hills! is holding its Run for the Hills 1 mile, 5K Run/Walk at **Hidden Lake Gardens** on September 16 beginning at 9 a.m. Go to OTIH.org for more information on how to register. Proceeds go to Hidden Lake Garden's Reach for the Sky campaign and Oh These Irish Hills! projects.

The Clinton Inn is holding a Charcuterie Open House on Friday, September 22, from 4 to 8 p.m. Tour this exquisite event center while enjoying a charcuterie spread and discover the perfect venue for your upcoming celebrations, corporate events, weddings, and special occasions. Go to theclintoninn.com for details.

For more Irish Hills happenings, go to the community calendar at IrishHills.com.

Then and Now

From car dealership to childcare



In the 1950s, this complex on the west side of Brooklyn's Main Street was Brooklyn Chevrolet, owned by Bob Donohoe. They sold used cars and pickups. PHOTO COURTESY OF JACKIE HUBBARD



Owner Bob Donohoe is shown here on the right, with two associates. PHOTO COURTESY OF JACKIE HUBBARD



In 2023, the lot now hosts Little Acres Day Care and Xtreme Tan. In the past, it was the site of a bakery and a church.

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Columbia Police report

August 31	Road; Peace officer: Daugherty Road; Assist other agency: Lewis Road, Woodstock Township; Disorderly: Monroe Pike; Loud music: Monroe Pike	Road/Daugherty Road; Perrin Street, Woodstock Township; Disorderly: Cindy Circle
September 1	Alarm: North Main Street; Disorderly: Somerset Drive; South Meridian Road; Inspection property: Hyde Road (2); Abandoned vehicle: South Meridian Road; Domestic: Ernest Street; General non-criminal: Cary Road; Decatur Drive; Loud music: Vineyard Lane	
September 2	General non-criminal: Hewitt Road; Purvis Lane; Jefferson Road; Inspection property: Hyde Road (2); North Lake	
September 3	Loud music: Kingsbury Drive; Assist other agency: Brooklyn Road, Napoleon Township; Center Street, Napoleon Township; Inspection property: Hyde Road (2); Disorderly: Lane Street; Alarm: Brooklyn Road; Found property: East Mill Pond Drive; General non-criminal: Hyde Road; Personal welfare check: North Parker Street, Woodstock Township; Natural death: Marshall Street	September 5 Inspection property: Hyde Road (2); General non-criminal: North Main Street/Marshall Street (2); Jefferson Road; Holiday Drive; Suspicious situation: South Stony Lake Road; River Street/Tecumseh Street; North Lake Road; Assist other agency: Amberton Drive, Napoleon Township; Larceny: South Main Street; Personal welfare check: Jefferson Road; Domestic: O'Rourke Court; Fraud: Brooklyn Road; Domestic: Jefferson Road
September 4	Inspection property: Hyde Road; (2); General non-criminal: Woodstock Street/Lewis Road, Woodstock Township; Hyde Road; Found property: Grand Boulevard; Malicious destruction of property: Potter Street; Parking: Hyde Road; Personal welfare check: Brooklyn	September 6 Inspection property: Hyde Road (2); Brooklyn Road; General non-criminal: North Main Street/Marshall Street (2); Health and safety: Hewitt Road; Suspicious situation: School Street; Domestic: Jefferson Road; Personal welfare check: Golfview Drive; Trespassing: Taylor Road-

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HillBilly-Rob Landscaping , 3422 S. Meridian Road, Jackson (Landscaping & Tree Cutting) Robert Brown, owner;	B & T Services , 1501 Pringle Ave., Jackson (Tree Services) Barney Clark, owner;	All Out Solutions , 309 Fifth St., Jackson (Construction) Brent Mees, owner;
Harold Hauling and Scape , 1200 Chittock Ave., Jackson (Hauling and Scape) Harold Gregory Taylor, owner;	R-N-D Solutions , 8758 Grayling Drive, Jackson (Construction) Ryan Wick and David Himburg, owners;	Luvone's Beautiful Occasions , 223 N. Thompson St., Jackson (Event Planning) Ollie Luvone Guerrero and Julian Armando Guerrero, owners;
Biallys Property Management , 7785 Thorne Road, Horton (Property Management) Michael Bially, owner;	Wicks Wicked Tree Service , 321 S. Maurice Ave., Jackson (Tree Services) Ryan Wick and David Himburg, owners;	Sebring Wood Works , 603 Royal Drive, Jackson (Woodworking) Steve Sebring, owner

Marriages

Cierra Sowle, Jackson County clerk, reports the following recently recorded marriage license applications:

Holly Marie Valliere, Stockbridge and Brent Phillip Hannewald, Stockbridge; Michael Jason Vancalbergh, Jackson and Kaela Rae Scott, Jackson; Dusti Lynn Loomis, Rives Junction and Chase Steven Oberlin, Rives Junction; Holly Lynn Gillespie, Albion and James Lewis-Nathaniel Minnick, Albion; Mikki Ann Mathews, Rives Junction and Cody Richard Caldwell, Rives Junction; Benjamin Jacob Miller, Jackson and Kristy Elizabeth Rabeau, Jackson; Aubrey Navarre Penn, Jackson and Hebrean Jason Hein, Jackson; Maurisha Davyette Johnson-McClurge, Jackson and Kahari Lovell Willis, Jackson; Kiersten Logan-Marie Bailey, Jackson; Matthew Allan Woelders, Jackson; Anthony Joseph Fagan, Jackson and Jewel Ann Frisby, Jackson; Alicia Marie Swager, Jackson and Nathaniel James Cannon, Warner Robins, Georgia; Kacie Michelle Houtz, Jackson and Martez Lawrence-	Kwame Rowdy, Jackson; Kent Louis Clancy, Jackson and Donieta Irene Rhoades, Jackson; Elizabeth Ann James, Jackson and James Paul Jerome Collins, Jackson; Brandi Rachelle Davis, Parma and Joshua Alan England, Parma; Maria Ann Higgins, Plymouth and Jason Patrick Kellogg, Jackson; Timothy Joseph Jones, Jackson and Melody Ann Jones, Jackson; Brandy Rosevelia Kraft, Jackson and Logan Alan Kukulka, Jackson; Matthew Richard Wetmore, Springport and Megan Marie Raymond, Springport; Grant Thomas Rohloff, Jackson and Haleigh Marie-Friday Gottschalk, Jackson; Michael Thomas Lamentola, Grass Lake and Marla Lynn Moore, Chelsea; Larry Dean Myers Jr., Concord and Angelina Elizabeth Johnson, Concord; Katlin Lindsay Cahill, Jackson and Jordon James Wylie, Jackson; Josephine Mae LaFave,	Jackson and Trenten Arthur McDougall, Jackson; Amanda Ann Tatar, Jackson and James Kenneth Pasch, Jackson; Kaitlyn Mackenzie Marsh, Jackson and Taylor Christopher Kinney, Jackson; Brianna Helen Sanchez, Jackson and Andrew Alan Bagnell, Jackson; Gary Leland VanOrder Jr., Onondaga and Allison Desiree Choate, Onondaga; Shane Allen Esham, Albion and Avery Rose Burman, Jackson; Patricia Ann Turner, Jackson and Edmond Harry Fuytinck, Mt. Morris; Christopher Lee Miller II, Rives Junction and Tonya Marie Boswell, Rives Junction; Danielle Lynn Shelts, Parma and Corey William Wheaton, Parma; Danielle Elaine Powaga, Grass Lake and Kevin Matthew Fisher, Michigan Center; Tyler Steven Bupp, Jackson and Rachel Beth Ann Baldwin, Jackson; Briana Ray Prieur, Mosherville and Nathan Thomas Masters, Jackson; Derick Anthony MacCready, Jackson and Jasmine Ahuja, Charlotte;
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Columbia Fire Department Report

Columbia Fire Department report, Crime	September 1 Rescue: Constitution Avenue; Cary Road	September 3 Rescue: Marshall Street (2); Constitution Avenue
Columbia Fire Department report	September 2 Rescue: Hewitt Road; Nicole Drive; Purvis Lane; South Grand Pointe Drive; Assist other agency: Norvell Lake Road, Norvell Township	September 4 Rescue: Palo Alto Drive
August 31 Fire: School Street (2); Rescue: Nicole Drive; Dearmyer Road		September 5 Assist other agency: Brooklyn Road/Flamingo Drive, Napoleon Township

Brooklyn couple celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

Gene & MaryAnn Davenport celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on September 8, 2023. They were married in the Irish Hills at St. Joseph's Shrine where they also had their reception in 1973.



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Napoleon Township

Fire and police departments receive Meijer gift card donations

Story and photo
By John Hummer
Editor

People in need after a fire or emergency in Napoleon Township will receive a little extra in the foreseeable future thanks to donations of Meijer gift cards from Meijer, Inc. and the Napoleon Community Benefit Fund to the Napoleon fire and police departments.

The gift cards that were donated will help with purchasing food, toiletry items, and/or clothing when an unexpected event occurs in the Napoleon Township fire response area.

"This is a great partnership between nonprofits and local businesses working together to help and protect the local community residents," said Napoleon Township Assistant Fire Chief Jeremy Holbrook. "Napoleon Township fire and police departments would like to thank Meijer Inc. along with the Napoleon Community Benefit Fund for donating the Meijer gift cards to administer when a need arises."



Napoleon Township fire and police staff hold up Meijer gift cards recently donated to their departments to help people in need after emergency situations arise. From left: Assistant Fire Chief Jeremy Holbrook, Fire Chief Greg Bickford, Officer Santino White, Deputy Police Chief Matt Peters, and Firefighter Becky Livermore.

Three crashes in two days keep police hopping

By John Hummer
Editor

It was a busy post-Labor Day for the Napoleon Township Police as three traffic crashes resulted in some level of injury to occupants of the vehicles involved in the incidents. Two of the crashes occurred on Tuesday, Sept. 5, while one took place on Wednesday, Sept. 6.

Police say that on Sept. 5 at 3 p.m., a 71-year-old female Jackson resident was traveling east on Brooklyn Road (M-50) in a 2010 Dodge Ram pickup at a high rate of speed and passed a vehicle on the right that was turning left at Flamingo Drive. She collided with a 2013 Chevrolet Equinox that was waiting to enter Brooklyn Road from the Brooklyn Road Veterinary Clinic. The crash resulted in non-life-threatening injuries to both occupants of the at-fault Dodge Ram pickup as well as the passenger of the 2013 Chevrolet Equinox she struck. The driver of the Dodge Ram was cited for speeding and improper passing on the right.

In another incident on Sept. 5 at 5:20 p.m., a 77-year-old Napoleon man was driving his 2021 Can-Am Spyder, a three-wheeled motorcycle, south on Napoleon Road and attempted to pass another southbound vehicle as it was approaching the stop sign at Brooklyn Road (M-50). Napoleon Township Police stated that he was speeding and passing in a no-passing zone. He failed to manipulate a left turn onto Brooklyn Road and traveled through the intersection crashing as he ran into the southwest corner of the intersection. The driver of the motorcycle was transported to Henry Ford Jackson Hospital by ambulance and treated for possible head injuries. He was not wearing a helmet and alcohol is suspected to be a contributing factor. Further investigation is ongoing.

Police also reported an incident on Sept. 6 at 7:30 a.m. when a 47-year-old Napoleon man was driving his 2005 Harley Davidson motorcycle east on Stony Lake Road when a deer ran into the road in front of him. The driver was unable to avoid striking the animal. The motorcyclist laid down the bike on its right side and it skidded approximately 100 feet before coming to rest in a ditch. The driver was not wearing a helmet, but only sustained minor injuries from the collision and sliding on the roadway.

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Sisters Melissa Gatza, left, and Carrie Childs-Thor, both of whom graduated from Grass Lake High School, now co-own a business together called Bee Linked which focuses on jewelry making. They had a booth at Heritage Day. Carrie's daughter, Delanie Claire Maute, died on New Year's Eve 2022 at the age of 13 after contracting Ewing's sarcoma. Before she died, she told her mother that she was going to come back as a bumble bee, hence the name Bee Linked.



The Grass Lake Senior Center hosted square dancing under the pavilion at the Community Events Park at Heritage Day. The senior center has square dancing every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m.

History for all ages to explore

Grass Lake Heritage Day

Story and photos
By John Hummer
Editor

Visitors that went to Grass Lake Heritage Day, an annual event to celebrate the Grass Lake area's history, couldn't have asked for a better day. With temperatures in the mid-60s to mid-70s by day's end, visitors were able to learn about and appreciate days gone by in Grass Lake and the surrounding area.

The event featured local historian Linda Hass, president of the Jackson County Michigan Historical Society, who spoke about Grass Lake's links to the Underground Railroad.

Hass's presentation explored the fascinating history of Jackson County's connection to the Underground Railroad with a focus on Grass Lake's role.

After the presentation, Hass highlighted, "There was a member in the audience that is living today in the house of the Underground Railroad agent I referred to in my talk. The house belonged to Henry A. Francisco. They didn't know that background before they attended the talk."

"Grass Lake deserves a lot of credit for its enthusiasm and promotion of history," Hass added. "I tip my hat to Grass Lake."

Other Heritage Day happen-



Patricia Simpson, left, and Linda Hass stand outside the history yurt that was featured at Heritage Day. Hass delivered a presentation on the Underground Railroad at Heritage Day. Simpson chaired the event.

ings featured James Dameron's display of his historic photo collection in the Heritage Day history yurt. There was a small farm display at the Coe House Museum that highlighted centennial farms in the area. The Jackson County Genealogical Society & Library, an organization dedicated to the encouragement and enhancement of family history research, also had an exhibit.

Old-fashioned games for children were hosted by the Jackson District Library Grass Lake Branch at the Lost Railway Museum, which also served popcorn. Grass Lake Cub Scout Pack 326 demonstrated how to

use a vintage sock washing machine. There was also a tractor show that took place at the Hudson Farm near Grass Lake.

Heritage Day also featured pony rides and a petting zoo by the Wild World of Biodiversity, an old-time community fair exhibit, square dancing hosted by the Grass Lake Senior Center, many craft vendors, and an assortment of food trucks for hungry visitors.

The opening ceremony of the event featured Morning Colors and flag raising by Scout Pack 326 and the National Anthem performed by three members of the Grass Lake High School choir.

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Local movie takes flight

‘Fly Old Bird’ premieres at TCA

Story and Photos
By Michelle McLemore
Contributing writer

The locally filmed movie, “Fly Old Bird: Escape to the Ark” premiered on Saturday, Sept. 9 at Tecumseh Center for the Arts. The movie was written by screenwriter and Tecumseh resident, Alan Maki, who pulled from local talent and scenery and with the help of the cinematographer’s son, Shaun Maki completed the production. The Dove Foundation reviewed it, and declared, “This is a wonderful movie that clearly shows that sometimes the person we need for a friend is the last person we would have chosen.

We chose to film in the Irish Hills area because of its beauty along with the local people who were interested in being a part of this production.”

In addition to Maki’s family members and friends, “Esther Myers and Dr. Eric LaMey [of Onsted] have small roles and did a nice job for us,” Alan Maki shared. “Also, Jackie Hubbard — what a doll as she was gracious enough to allow us to use her 1968 Chevy Impala over a five-week period. The car is basically a character in the film in and of itself.”

Dr. LeMay explained that as a supportive character (a recreation supervisor), his scenes were shot in one day with basic lines and yet, “they were open to adjusting lines to what you would normally say and I kind of did that. It was my first time acting.”

Ester Meyers also commented on having a positive experience. “It’s pretty exciting for an old lady to be in a movie — even with such a minute part. I’m a lady in a nursing home sitting in my rocking chair. Don’t blink or you’ll miss me,” she laughed with a high musical lilt. Meyers recounted knowing Maki for a few years and how one day he said he had a part for Eric LeMay and her to play. “We were dumbfounded but thought, ‘Why not?’ It was neat to have that opportunity.”

Not all the actors were as easy to persuade. “I knew my brother-in-law, Dennis McComas, would be great but I had to convince him,” Alan Maki said. “Dennis hit a home run acting in this movie. He was just great.”

Local settings that were utilized in this production included Cambrian Assisted Living, the former Herrick Memorial Hospital site, Onsted Park, the American Legion, John Bryan’s Simply Found Creations store in Rome Center, Bauer Manor, the sign on M-50 “With Jesus all things are possible”, the Tecumseh cemetery, behind the junior high school, and New Brook Mobile Home Park. Several churches also opened their doors to the family-oriented, Christian-based filmmakers. The United Methodist and First Presbyterian churches in Tecumseh as well as Cadmus Presbyterian and Crossroads in Adrian were also spotlighted.

“Sometimes we’d knock on the door and introduce ourselves. You just have to be kind of brave,” Alan admitted.



The 1968 Chevy Impala was used in the film “Fly Old Bird.” The car was on display at the opening premiere and is owned by Onsted resident Jackie Hubbard.

As Maki’s third movie, his goal was, “to make my best movie ever and get worldwide distribution. We accomplished that.”

Surpassing Alan’s excitement for the film is his admiration and continuous praise of his son’s contribution. “Shaun is the key behind all this stuff, the genius behind the production. We wouldn’t get to first base without his directing and cinematography. I count on him, and he makes us all look good.”

Shaun Maki expressed his gratitude to the entire cast and crew. Additionally, he shared, “It was an awe-inspiring experience to capture scenes at the Ark Encounter in Kentucky. The Ark itself was a conduit that bridged the past with the present infusing our faith-based narrative with a

unique authenticity.” This is the only movie to date that the managers of the Ark have allowed to film on location in Kentucky.

“Fly Old Bird” unfurls a narrative tapestry steeped in freedom, friendship, forgiveness, and faith. “I love viewing these positive attributes from behind the lens as director and bringing them to life to viewers across the world,” shared the younger Maki.

According to Alan Maki, Bridgestone Multimedia Group Global took less than 30 minutes to review the submission before calling back and asking them to sign for worldwide distribution and streaming rights. More information about the father-son film company, their other films, and trailers can be found at flyoldbird.com.

“Shaun is the key behind all this stuff, the genius behind the production. We wouldn’t get to first base without his directing and cinematography. I count on him, and he makes us all look good.”

Alan Maki
producer and Shaun’s dad



Tecumseh residents, Shaun and his father, Alan Maki, created “Fly Old Bird: Escape to the Ark” from scriptwriting to directing, cinematography, and producing. The team drew on local actors and settings to tell the story.

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Napoleon High School

From left: Napoleon High School seniors Braydon Jones, Cameron Smith, and Thomas Hays, all members of the school's National Honor Society, hold and display stacks of books that will be shipped overseas to military personnel as part of their Operation Paperback project.



Operation Paperback provides reading opportunities for military

Story and photo
By John Hummer
Editor

Operation Paperback is back at Napoleon High School this month, thanks to Napoleon senior Thomas Hays and the school's National Honor Society.

Last spring semester Hays got the school and the community involved in Operation Paperback – a national, non-profit organization, whose volunteers collect gently-used books and send them to American troops overseas. Hays is passionate about reading and discovered the organization while researching volunteer opportunities.

"It was a huge success in the spring," said Candy McDevitt, a teacher at Napoleon High School and one of the National Honor Society advisors, noting that the group collected nearly 800 books.

The volunteer effort, spearheaded by Hays, is once again conducting a paperback book drive at the school and throughout the surrounding communi-

"It's really exciting to be able to help out the troops in all four branches of the military."

Thomas Hays,
Napoleon High School
National Honor Society

ties. "So far, we have collected 240 books out of our goal – to collect 500 books by the end of September," Hays stated. The group has collection boxes at the new Ackerson Lake High School in Napoleon; the Ezra Eby Elementary, Napoleon Middle School, and Napoleon High School offices, as well as the Napoleon, Grass Lake, and Brooklyn branches of the Jackson District Library.

"It's really exciting to be able to help out the troops in all four branches of the military," said Hays.

The National Honor Society must also raise funds to ship the books overseas. McDevitt said it costs about \$7 a box to ship the books. To date, the National Honor Society has received monetary donations from Napoleon Bee Supply, Napoleon Stone, Napoleon Lawn and Leisure, Quality Glass, and Aggies to help with shipping costs.

Operation Paperback accepts the following book types: action/adventure, audio books (CD only), biographies, business and economics, classic and contemporary literary fiction, cookbooks, cozy mysteries, crafts and hobbies, current events/political affairs, fantasy, finance/investing, graphic novels/comics, historical fiction, history, home and gardening, horror, leadership/management, military fiction, military history, mystery, mythology, personal growth, philosophy, poetry, romance, science fiction, self-help, sports, suspense/thrillers, travel, true crime, westerns, and women's fiction. People can also donate magazines (current year only), large print books, puzzle books, and movies (DVD only).

In addition to overseas locations, Operation Paperback provides books to wounded warrior programs and veterans' hospitals located within the United States, as well as USO centers at United States airport transit points.

For those interested in making a donation to help with shipping costs of the books, contact Napoleon High School at 517-905-5704.

More than headstones



The Jackson Monument Works crew and a Whispering Woods Estates resident are very pleased following completion of the installation of this new large granite sign at the entrance of the subdivision. From left: Theresa Carriero, sales associate; Jason Stephens, monument builder; Matt Double, artist and shop foreman; Aaron Maurer, general manager and Jim Seitz of the Architectural Committee of Whispering Woods.

Jackson Monument Works does large civic projects as well

Large new entrance sign recently installed at Jackson subdivision

Story and photos
By John Hummer
Editor

Jackson Monument Works has served the Jackson area and beyond for 113 years, since 1910, and is mainly known by the public for producing and selling headstones and grave markers for loved ones in cemeteries. The business is owned by Chris St. John, the fourth generation to run the operation. His wife, Alicia, is the office manager.

However, there is another part of the business that may not be so well known. The company also produces much larger works of art for civic projects and civic memorials. JMW works with quarries all over the United States and the world to get the perfect colors and sizes of granite for their projects.

Last Thursday, the company installed a large mahogany granite entrance sign for the Whispering Woods Estates subdivision off Kibby Road near Dibble Elementary School in Jackson. JMW designed and engraved the 4,000-pound sign with a 1,000-pound base. The sign was fully funded by residents of the subdivision.

Aaron Maurer, general manager at JMW, does most of the design and layouts for the company. "If the guys (in the shop)

that make them need any help or direction, I help out with that as well," he said. "I've been on several of the civic projects that we've done – it's always a good time and we get to have a beautiful finished product to make people happy."

JMW artist and shop foreman Matt Double does the engraving and sandblasting on most of the company's projects.

The company also makes entrance signs and install columbariums (which house cremains) for cemeteries, including one at Clark Lake Cemetery. Recently they installed signs for Oak Grove and St. Mary's cemeteries in Manchester.

In addition, they have created pieces for statues in St. John's Cemetery in Jackson and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Michigan Center.

JMW also produced the victims of violent crimes memorials at Cascades Park in Jackson, fire and police memorials, and multiple war memorials.

Sales associate Theresa Carriero says about the JMW staff who does the work, "They take as much care with little tiny grass markers as they do with big monuments. They don't cut corners – they do everything right. Their craftsmanship is exceptional."



The first step of installing a large monument or sign is setting the base of it precisely on a foundation, as Jackson Monument Works employees do here for the Whispering Woods sign. "Does everybody still have their fingers?" quipped JMW employee Jason Stephens after laying the base on the foundation.

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Napoleon, Mi

Cleaning up our water

GREAT cleanup equals a cleaner Grand River

Saturday afternoon, 38 volunteers, including 22 Golden Knights Junior ROTC students from the Jackson Intermediate School District Career Center participated in the Grand River Environmental Action Team's (GREAT) 32nd Annual Grand River Cleanup. Bank walkers and canoeists removed 15 cubic yards of trash from over 4.6 miles of the Grand River from downtown Jackson to the Stone Gate subdivision on Lansing Avenue north of the city. Some of the items removed were beverage containers, sheets of styro-foam, tires, plastic containers, highway pylons, softballs and basketballs, and toys.



Dave Lukasik is ready to unload his solo canoe overloaded with trash. PHOTO BY JIM SEITZ



The 22 Golden Knights Jr. ROTC students of the Jackson Career Center line up for a picture ready to “charge the river” for their cleanup mission. PHOTO BY JACK RIPSTRA



Jim Seitz, left, and John Sleight prepare to unload overflowing trash from their tandem canoe. PHOTO COURTESY JIM SEITZ

Thefts . . . from page 1

According to state data, reported shoplifting incidents in the township more than doubled in the seven years before the pandemic, from 312 reports in 2012 to 663 in 2019. That number dropped to fewer than 500 reports in 2020.

While some of the sharp increase reflects a change in the way police enter data, it also reflects the impact of technological advances at stores, Boulton said. More and better security cameras mean store personnel can detect ongoing retail fraud while reviewing videos and catching the theft in real-time that they might otherwise have missed.

Many stores also employ loss prevention officers. In the past, stores often authorized their security workers to intercept thefts, speak to the offender, and send them on their way without informing the police.

Recently, however, increased aggression toward security workers has forced some stores to order their loss prevention officers who spot shoplifting to stand back and call the police, even in the case of a minor theft, Boulter said.

That decision can reflect violence experienced by a chain elsewhere in the country and does not necessarily mean stores have become more violent here, he clarified.

Stores eager to avoid financial loss — and resultant higher costs to the customer — try to make their security measures obvious, from mounted cameras to improved lighting.

“People want to come in, they want to shop, they want to get the best deal that they possibly can, and they want to go home,” Boulter said. “They’re not here to be assaulted or have their items stolen.”

About half of the people who

steal do so out of legitimate need, trying to feed and clothe their families, Boulter said.

The other half steal because it’s easy — and, he said, many of them steal with a shopping list, their eye on what they can sell to feed a drug habit.

While shoplifting is Blackman Township’s most-reported serious crime, non-retail larceny takes the top spot for the county, accounting for more than half of the serious crimes reported in 2022.

Larceny reports decreased steadily between 2013 and 2020, when they dipped dramatically before increasing again last year, although not to pre-COVID levels, according to state data.

While fewer in number, automotive theft reports have climbed dramatically in the county, nearly tripling between 2014, with 121 thefts, to 329 reports last year.

Vehicle theft reports include rentals not returned on time, which rental companies report as theft, Boulter said.

But they also include incidents when residents start their cars, head back into the house to grab a purse or cup of coffee, and “They come back out, and their car is gone,” he said.

Some stolen vehicles, whether taken from a driveway or not returned to a rental company, are “borrowed” to use in the commission of a crime. Boulter told of a recent stolen car used in a drive-by shooting at a house in the city and of a stolen cargo truck backed up in front of a local business, where thieves broke in, loaded stolen items into the truck and drove away.

Unlocked vehicles invite the easy steal and the easy grab of loose items, from coins to guns, Boulter said.

At the Napoleon Township Police Department, Deputy Chief Matthew Peters couldn’t agree more.

“I lock my car in a locked garage,” the officer said. “I don’t trust anybody to not steal anything.”

Larceny reports in the township took a nosedive in the past decade, from 40 in 2012 to 10 in 2020, before climbing to 24 last year. That data also reflects shoplifting incidents, Peters said.

He chalked up the downward larceny trend, in part, to an increase of officers on the road after the township OKed a millage in 2009. More patrol cars on local roads mean quicker response times and more solved cases, “and word gets around that we’re there,” Peters said.

The advent of the doorbell camera, now found on nearly every block, has been a boon to police trying to solve larcenies and proves an effective deterrent, he said. So, too, roadside cameras recently added to some Jackson County roads to snap pictures of license plates of passing vehicles.

While some say the road cameras constitute an unethical invasion of privacy, police have used them to quickly find and stop vehicles involved in crime, including stolen vehicles, Peters said. Recently, the cameras helped catch an offender now charged with home invasion for allegedly stealing \$30,000 in tools from a local contractor.

Until potential offenders call to report why they chose to not commit a crime, police can only speculate about what drives crime trends. In the meantime, their best bet is to spend as much time as possible remaining visible in the communities they serve, Peters said.

Police can also drive down crime numbers by making data readily available so residents can take steps to protect them-

selves, said Boulter, at Blackman Township.

The many local police agencies who publish data on their websites or distribute activity reports via social media or mailing lists hope people read them and decide to lock their doors, stopping one more theft, he said.

“We want our community to be safe,” Boulter said. “We want them to know what’s going on. And we definitely want them feeling comfortable coming here.”

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Fishing for championships



Jack Swihart, left, a senior at Lumen Christi High School, and Ryan Hamlin, right, a junior at Michigan Center High School, proudly display their Angler of the Year and champion plaques from the BASS Michigan Nation Youth Division competition. In the center is Gregg Quillin, BASS Nation High School tournament director for Michigan.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Local pair brings home angling top honors

By John Hummer
Editor

Two area high school students earned “Angler of the Year” honors at the final Michigan BASS Nation High School competition held at Lake St. Clair on Sept. 2-3.

Ryan Hamlin, a junior at Michigan Center High School, and Jack Swihart, a senior at Lumen Christi High School, took home the honors, as well as earning Michigan’s BASS High School Circuit Team Trail Champion honors on both days that weekend. There were 50

teams with over 100 anglers in the competition. To win all three awards is an amazing accomplishment.

The duo competed in lakes throughout Michigan over the summer, including Torch Lake, Manistee Lake, Higgins Lake, Muskegon Lake, and Lake St. Clair. All three awards were cumulative points from all of the tournaments up to the final one at Lake St. Clair.

Hamlin and Swihart developed their own team and obtained their own sponsors as neither of their schools has a fishing team.

The ‘Wooden’ Old Stone Schoolhouse named Schoolhouse of the Year, 2023

The Michigan One-room Schoolhouse Association is happy to announce that this year’s recipient of the Schoolhouse of the Year award is going to the ‘Wooden’ Old Stone School in Onsted, Lenawee County. It was built in 1850 on the same spot where a log school stood in 1837. It is one of the oldest in the state.

The Michigan One-room Schoolhouse Association is hosting a conference on Saturday, Sept. 30, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Onsted Elementary School, 10109 Slee Road, Onsted.

During the conference, a presentation of a short film created by the ‘Wooden’ Old Stone Schoolhouse Association will be shown.

The keynote speaker for the conference is Dr. John Geisler,

whose presentation “Native Trails and U.S. 12” will give an informative look at the pathways and highways in southern Michigan. Geisler’s presentation will cover early trails made by mastodons and early Native Americans, early Michigan roads, and the history of one particular road – the Great Sauk Trail - U.S. 12.

Lunch will be served. The program will include time for members to share their stories and network. A silent auction will be held, allowing attendees to bid on school-related items. Items for the auction are welcome.

After lunch, the Wooden Old Stone School (11992 Stephenson Road) will be open for a guided tour by Jackie Freeman and Joy Luck.



Crawling creatures:
Why some give us the “Heebie-Jeebies”

There’s an old slang expression we sometimes use whenever we become nervous or get in a state of fear or anxiety. It’s known as getting the *heebie-jeebies*. In nature, there seems to be an almost innate fear or anxiety whenever people see something that has fangs, is crawling, or leaves behind a slimy, nasty trail when it traverses. I was speaking to one of my ardent readers of my articles recently and she inquired about some specific creatures that leave a wet, slimy trail as they travel along; these creatures are snails. Some may wonder if they are beneficial. Below are some fun facts about these slow-moving members of the mollusk family.

Let’s start with the “slime” snails leave on the ground or perhaps against the walls of your house. Snails do this by producing what is known as a carbohydrate mucus and a hygroscopic protein, which actually absorbs moisture from the air. This helps the snail from getting dehydrated, aids in movement, and helps it adhere to surfaces such as the siding of your house. It acts both as a glue and a lubricant, but the snail slime also acts as a barrier to predators and even infections. If it gets too dry outside, snails can sleep up to three years until there is enough rain or moisture.

There are some species of snails, such as the Brown Garden Snail that will also use its slime as sort of a “Cupid’s arrow,” that injects what some scientists refer to as “love darts” that are fired into their mates. This transfers sperm-boosting secretions that can fertilize eggs. How do you know the difference between a male and a female snail? Well, you can’t-snails are hermaphrodites, meaning they have the reproductive organs of both sexes on them. Yep, no need for dating services for snails – all they need is to meet one another.

So, they may creep you out with their slow-moving, icky stuff trail, but they may be good for your garden. They will consume dead foliage and insects, and their waste will fertilize the soil. However, if you travel abroad such as South America, and

Africa, and in warmer states such as Hawaii, or in the Southern States such as Texas, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolinas you should not pick up snails. They can transfer parasites such as rat lungworms. This parasite can produce symptoms such as fever, fatigue, muscle pain, burning of the skin, and even seizures. It can be dangerous to dogs if they eat one of these infected snails. The good news is here in Michigan this parasite is not present, but if you want to deter snails from eating your garden plants place rough rocks or sand around them, they do not like to travel on this type of surface.

One of the most feared and hated crawling creatures around is the spider and they are very active in the fall, specifically jumping or wolf spiders. Let’s start with jumping spiders. These little guys are only 1/8 to 3/4 of an inch in size. Although they can bite, they are not venomous. They will run away from you, but they are incredible jumpers. They can jump fifty times their own size. That would be like a six-foot man jumping three hundred feet!

I will never forget one-afternoon several years ago when

I worked for Orkin Commercial Pest Control and pulled up to a gas station with my company car. When I got out of the car suddenly this lady ran up to me and started screaming “HELP! Orkin man, help me! PLEEEEEASE help me!” After I got her to calm down enough to try and figure out why she was so terrified she pointed to her car and begged me to “remove it.” I asked her “Remove WHAT?!” She replied frantically “The spider!” I smiled warmly and reassured her that spiders in Michigan are mostly shy and will not bite unless provoked, but she stated she would NOT get back into her car unless this demonic horror was removed.

I walked over to her car while she sheepishly followed behind me. I opened her car door to see if I could locate the spider and told her I would remove it and let it go across the street in a field. I bent over and started inspecting the seats when all of a sudden, she screamed into my ear “THERE HE IS! I see him?! He is on the steering wheel!” I grabbed a piece of paper towel, and slowly reached for the jumping spider but right before I went to grab it the spider jumped as if he was Superman

over my shoulder and just past the shrieking face of the lady standing behind me. The spider was gone and so was the lady-she ran away like Usain Bolt.

Finally, one of the most feared of all spiders in Michigan is the hairy-looking wolf spider. They are the largest species of spiders in Michigan, growing up to 1.2 inches in size. They are fast and they can cover two feet in one second. I think one of the things that freaks people out about this spider is that the female, after laying and hatching her eggs, will carry the babies on her back for about a week. One time this lady who stepped on a wolf spider in her kitchen was mortified when after she stepped on it, dozens of these baby spiders poured out and crawled over the kitchen floor. She too, ran away like an Olympic runner. To reduce the number of spiders in your house, reduce the number of ants, pill bugs, boxelder bugs, etc. because spiders eat live prey. They also hate the color light blue. Biologists think this may be because they are nocturnal hunters and when they see a “sky-blue” background it may appear to the spider as the sky above. Thus, they may feel that they could be seen by the spider’s predators.

There are several things you can do to reduce the number of spiders in your home: Cut back the vegetation from your house about three feet and put down stone, not mulch. Spiders love to hide amongst the rocks and will ambush prey out there instead of in your house. Place glue boards along the walls of your basement or on each side of your entry doorways. You can spray water with ten drops of peppermint, lavender, or cinnamon oil around each door. If you spot them, you can spray them with equal parts of white vinegar and water. Vinegar contains acetic acid which burns them on contact.

Yep, sometimes things that crawl on the ground make us feel uneasy. It may even scare us, or we become disgusted. Luckily, snails are slow, spiders are predictable and (bite my tongue) winter is coming. You might get cold, but at least it could cut down on the “heebie-jeebies.”



Exponent high school sports schedule
Sept. 11 – Sept. 20

Football			
Sept. 15	Columbia Central at Addison	7 p.m.	
	Grass Lake at East Jackson	7 p.m.	
	Manchester at Napoleon	7 p.m.	
	Dundee at Onsted	7 p.m.	
Volleyball			
Sept. 12	Hanover-Horton at Addison	6:30	
	Columbia Central at Michigan Center	6:30 p.m.	
	Grass Lake at Jonesville	7 p.m.	
	Napoleon at Leslie	6:30 p.m.	
	Onsted at Dundee	7 p.m.	
Sept. 16	Spring Arbor Invitational	8 a.m.	
	Addison, Grass Lake at Onsted Invitational	9 a.m.	
Sept. 19	Columbia Central at Grass Lake	6:30 p.m.	
	Addison at East Jackson	6:30 p.m.	
	Manchester at Napoleon	6:30 p.m.	
	Hudson at Onsted	6:30 p.m.	
Cross Country			
Sept. 12	Napoleon at Leslie Invitational	5 p.m.	
	LCAA at Hillsdale	5 p.m.	
Sept. 15	Columbia Central, Grass Lake, Onsted at MSU		
	Invitational TBD		
Sept. 19	Addison, Columbia Central at Hanover-Horton	5 p.m.	
	Grass Lake, East Jackson at Leslie	5 p.m.	
	Onsted at Blissfield (Gerber)	5 p.m.	
Boys Soccer			
Sept. 11	Columbia Central at Michigan Center	5:30 p.m.	
	Grass Lake at Leslie	5:30 p.m.	
	Onsted at Clinton	5:30 p.m.	
Sept. 13	Columbia Central at Grass Lake	7 p.m.	
Sept. 16	Onsted at Maple Valley Inv.	TBA	
Sept. 18	Jonesville at Columbia Central	5:30 p.m.	
	Grass Lake at Michigan Center	5:30 p.m.	
	Blissfield at Onsted	5:30 p.m.	
Sept. 20	Columbia Central at Leslie	5:30 p.m.	
	Grass Lake at Manchester	7 p.m.	
Girls Golf			
Sept. 11	Cascades Jamboree (Sharp Park)	2 p.m.	
	LCAA at Concord (Concord Hills)	3:30 p.m.	
Sept. 13	LCAA at Hudson (Evergreen)	3:30 p.m.	
Sept. 14	Cascades Jamboree (Lakeland)	2 p.m.	
Sept. 18	Napoleon at Onsted Inv. (Devils Lake)	9 a.m.	
Sept. 19	Cascades Jamboree (Calderone)	1 p.m.	
Sept. 20	Cascades Jamboree (Grande)	3 p.m.	
	LCAA at Madison (Wolf Creek)	3:30 p.m.	
Boys Tennis			
Sept. 12	Hillsdale at Columbia Central	4 p.m.	
Sept. 14	Northwest at Columbia Central	4 p.m.	
Sept. 16	Columbia Central at Lumen Christi	8:30 a.m.	

Cross country

Conference meets to begin in
cross country this week

Story and photo by
Jeff Steers
Exponent special writer

The conference seasons start this week for most teams in the Brooklyn Exponent area. Teams spent last week at a number of early bird invitationals and other invitationals around the state. Here is a look at the results from area teams.

Girls Cross Country
Columbia Central at Hudson: Melyssa McJennett finished 23rd for Columbia Central in 15:34 in the Hudson Early Bird Invitational – a two-mile run.

Springport Invitational: Onsted High School finished second to Hanover-Horton, 59-47, and Grass Lake was third with 65 points. Emmry Ross of Onsted won the event in 18 minutes, 32 seconds. Adeline Stormont of Grass Lake placed seventh (22:51), teammate Grace Bullock was eighth (22:55), Raegan Brosamer of Onsted placed 10th (23:18), and teammate Allie England finished 12th (23:26).

Addison at Homer Invitational: The Panthers finished fourth as a team with 108 points. Stephanie Hernandez of Addison placed fourth overall in 20:49 and teammate Kendalyn Perry finished 18th (23:00). Columbia Central failed to post a team score, but Melyssa McJennett finished 21st in 23:48.

Hanover-Horton, Napoleon at Bath Invitational: Napoleon High School finished fifth as a team with 115 points as Lauren McLain finished 15th with a time of 23:30. Hanover-Horton won another invitational scoring a miniscule 23 points at Bath. Olivia Perrine won the event in 20:12, teammate Sophia Reynolds was second, Julianna Debozy-Crawford placed fourth in 21:37, and Brynlee Swihart was fifth in 22:02 for the Comets.

Grass Lake at Rambling Rock Invitational: Grass Lake finished 16th with 360 points at Willow Metropark. Elise Bullock finished 54th in 21:59 for the Warriors.

Boys Cross Country
Columbia Central at Hudson: Columbia Central High School finished second at the Hudson



Onsted High School runner Emmry Ross was ahead of the pack by more than two minutes at the Springport Invitational last week at Springport High School.

Early Bird Invitational – a two-mile run. Hillsdale Academy finished first with 31 points and CCHS scored 77. Jack Gorton finished fourth individually at 11 minutes, 15 seconds and teammate Wyatt Vowell finished 10th in 11:27.

Columbia Central at Homer Invitational: Columbia Central High School finished second (74) as a team, Jackson Christian was seventh (163), and Michigan Center placed ninth (200) at Homer. Wyatt Vowell placed second (17:26), Jack Gorton was ninth (17:58), and Owen Lambarth was 10th (18:01).

Hanover-Horton, Napoleon at Bath Invitational: Hanover-Horton won the event with 29 points and Napoleon finished third scoring 91. Landen Boulis won the event in 16:41, Evan Shepherd was second in 16:49, Owen Brown placed ninth in 17:42 for Hanover-Horton. Kyler Pequet finished 10th for Napoleon with a time of 17:50.

Grass Lake at Rambling Rock Invitational: Grass Lake placed 18th as a team with 539 points.

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Student-athlete of the week



Grass Lake High School soccer player Kolton Heidrich watches a play develop during a game last week against Hillsdale.

Heidrich shows versatility in Warriors' soccer win

Story and photo by
Jeff Steers
Exponent special writer

Heading into a game last week Grass Lake High School soccer player Kolton Heidrich had scored nine goals in only five soccer games for the Warriors this season.

But the senior forward found himself in an unusual position against Hillsdale ... on the defensive side of the ball.

Heidrich showed his versatility as a soccer player by playing defense for the Warriors after defensive stalwart Sal Vitale suffered a head injury early in the game against the Hornets.

Heidrich said he was familiar with the position.

"I played defense as a freshman and sophomore," he said. "It was for the good of the team."

Heidrich was injured for most of his junior season with a cracked pelvis bone and tendinitis. "I got hit in the pelvis bone and I pulled my hip flexor," he said. "It has taken nearly a year to recover."

Heidrich has scored hat tricks twice during the early season and is one of the top

scorers with nine goals in six games.

The Warriors are 5-1 this season, looking to get back on track after advancing to the district finals two years ago with 13 wins.

Heidrich was a member of that team that lost to Hillsdale Academy in the district final. Grass Lake defeated Lumen Christi and Lenawee Christian in advancing to the district finals in 2021.

"Everyone on that team wanted that (district title in 2021)," he recalled. "We had lost to Hillsdale Academy in the previous year."

Heidrich said he may consider playing college soccer in the right situation. He would like to study computer engineering. The senior holds a grade point average of 3.8 at Grass Lake High School.

Heidrich competes in soccer and powerlifting at Grass Lake and appreciates the fact that he was welcomed into the school as a freshman.

"Sports helps you socialize with everyone on your team and in school," Heidrich said. "I think it brings the team together ... especially the freshmen."

Obituary

Geraldine 'Gerry' Sitarz

Geraldine "Gerry" Sitarz, 91, passed away on September 5, 2023. A private family service for Gerry will be held. Burial will take place at St. Hedwig's in Detroit, Mich.

Gerry was born on March 12, 1932, in Detroit, Mich., to Stanley and Helen (Borowski) Kozlowski. Gerry married the love of her life, Richard Sitarz, Sr. in 1950 in Detroit, Mich. They were married until his passing in 2005. She and her husband ran Shawnee Shores Construction in Brooklyn for many years. After retirement, Gerry loved to knit hats and scarves for infants and children. She donated them to hospitals, churches and police departments to share with any infant or child in need. She also loved to cook, especially Polish food. She was a collector of antiques and enjoyed watching football, hockey and NASCAR in her spare time. Gerry enjoyed



'Gerry' Sitarz

spending time with her great-grandchildren, Avery and Braely Flanders.

Gerry will be missed by her son, Rick (Cathy) Sitarz; a brother, Robert (Donna) Kozlowski; a sister-in-law, Christine Kozlowski; grandchildren, Michael Sitarz, Courtney (Jason Flanders) Sitarz, James Sitarz, Victoria Seffernick, Daniel Sitarz; eight great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Richard, Sr.; sons, Cary, Mark and Tim Sitarz; daughter-in-law, Pam Sitarz; brothers, Stanley Kozlowski and Ernie Kozlowski; and a sister, Lorraine Serrault.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Hospice of Lenawee or a hospice organization of your choice. Please leave a message of comfort for Gerry's family or sign her guestbook at www.EinederFuneralHomes.com.



Bill Bivins

Memorial service for Bill Bivins scheduled

Join the Bill Bivins family to celebrate the life of Bill on Saturday, Sept. 16 at Grace Church, 2692 Dettman Road, Jackson, at 1 p.m.

Timothy 'Papa' Schrank

Timothy Randall Schrank, "Papa," the Man, the Myth, the Legend, 71, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family. Tim was born on March 15, 1952, in Detroit, Mich., to William and Priscilla (Santos) Schrank. He was a proud graduate of Albion College. He married the love of his life, Michelle, on December 13, 2008, in Jackson, Mich. He will be remembered as a man who was dedicated to his wife, children, and grandchil-



Timothy Schrank

dren. Tim worked in grocery retail for many years at Kroger and Busch's and owned his own store, Family Foodland. Tim had a tremendous knowledge and love of sports, especially the Detroit Lions and the Detroit Red Wings. He had a wonderful sense of humor which was known to his family and many friends. He loved dogs, and reading and was a history buff.

Tim will be missed by his wife, Michelle; his children, Amy (Ben)

Curtiss of Arizona, Eric (Michelle) Schrank of Gibraltar, Mich., Janette (Eric) Blatz of Arizona, Ryan (Rebekah) Mohney of Manchester, Mich.; one sister; three brothers; thirteen grandchildren; and many close friends and co-workers. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Edmund Schrank; and a son, Corey.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Cascades Humane Society, Jackson, Mich. The family would also like to thank Henry Ford Hospice for their wonderful care. Please leave a message of comfort for Tim's family or sign his guestbook at www.EinederFuneralHomes.com.

Death notices

Cierra Sowle, Jackson County clerk, reports the following recently recorded deaths:

David Henry Carlson Sr., 84, Jackson;
Wanda Lee Robinson-Goble, 83, Sheridan Township;
Carolyn Jean Holt, 76, Jackson;
Ruth Beulah Weiman, 104, Pulaski Township;
Walter Edward Briggs III, 65, Jackson;
Roseann Elizabeth Abbey, 76, Jackson;
Sylvia Jane Nichols, 59, Henrietta Township;
Ronald Wayne Schwade, 55, Jackson;
Cecil David Chaffin, 57, Jackson;
Gary Louis Udovich, 62, Blackman Township;
Barbara Jean Duncan, 69, Jackson;
Marilyn Virginia Kinser, 92, Leoni Township;
Jeremy Lee Webb, 46, Leoni Township;
Betty Faye Davis, 77, Jackson;
Myrtle Elizabeth Large, 94, Jackson;

Garland Lee Chapman, 79, Litchfield;
Tayveon Dion Andrew, 19, Jackson;
Donald Dwight Rogers, 69, Jackson;
William Henry Bivins, 81, Columbia Township;
Judy Scarlett Gaitan, 81, Cambridge Township;
Lawrence Phillip Cook, 77, Jackson;
Frank Smith, 67, Reading;
Regina Walker, 95, Brooklyn;
Kathleen Marie Potter-Maddin, 72, Jackson;
Kevin Troy Jones, 62, Brooklyn;
Timothy John Fitzgerald, 62, Parma;
David Patrick Soutar, 30, Jackson;
Mary Magdalena Barnhill, 85, Rives Junction;
Ann Marie Jermeay, 65, Jackson;
Dean Kay Pelham, 89, Jackson;
Tommy Dale McCue, 72, Jonesville;

Aloysius Lua Brassil, 87, Jackson;
Lawrence Danie Kurzynowski, 73, Jackson;
John Edward Dingee Sr., 85, Jackson;
Stella Eileen Williams, 87, Concord Township;
Brenda Joyce Loucks, 73, Spring Arbor Township;
Leo A Lammers III, 68, Blackman Township;
Ruby Lee Bailey, 90, Blackman Township;
Brenda Jean Weese, 64, Jackson;
Geraldine Jeannette Sitarz, 91, Columbia Township;
Mack Kenneth Mulvaney, 71, Summit Township;
Edwin Jean Henry, 60, Jackson;
Kim Kevin Eader, 68, Leoni Township;
Linda Carol Prosis, 66, Springport Township;
Gene Autry Self, 78, Blackman Township

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While working as a 9/11 first responder, Melissa Doser learned that it's OK to lean on others in times of need.

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