

Happy Birthday, America!

Several area communities have celebrations planned for our nation's 250th birthday - see inside



Chase
Dukate

All-conference baseball players named

Ahead of her time Onsted veteran is related to famous Patriot



Deborah Sampson



Richard Hunt

Deborah Sampson served in the American Revolution under the name of Robert Shurtleff. She was wounded in the Battle of Tarrytown and given an honorable discharge. She is one of several key Revolutionary figures commemorated this year by the U.S. Postal Service.

By Michelle McLemore
Staff writer

The Declaration of Independence did something more than outline the reasons why the colonies felt it necessary to withdraw from England. It gave a command for all to be watchdogs of a large government potential to lose track of the value of its people. It stated: "But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, It is their [the people's] right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security."

It was, and is, a heavy responsibility. And though peace is almost always preferred, and people will endure much before being moved to serious action, citizens in 2026 may question, "What was in the heart of the average colonist and revolutionist?"

"What moved the Oneida indigenous nation to side with the rebels?"

"What motivated Deborah Sampson to take on the persona of Robert Shurtleff to enlist in the 4th Massachusetts Regiment?"

Onsted Alum Richard Hunt, a resident of Tecumseh and a

Vietnam War Veteran, was surprised to discover Sampson's life story, and that she is his fourth cousin, five times removed. While researching, Hunt learned about Sampson's early life of poverty, abandonment, indentured servitude, grit, self-education, and ambition to learn both men's and women's trades, including weaving, teaching, ploughing, raking hay, and mechanics. Her volunteerism as a soldier, inclusion in the Light Infantry Troop in the Hudson Valley, risky missions between 1782 and 1783, and twice treating her own battle wounds to preserve her secret identity earned her more respect from Hunt.

Between 1802 and 1803, she became the first woman traveling lecturer regarding the revolution, successfully sued the Massachusetts Legislature for all of her soldiers' back pay, and won an invalid pension of \$48 a year to help cover expenses for her and her family.

Sampson is one of several revolutionaries who is honored this year with their own postage stamp, and Hunt made sure to purchase and send one to each of his nephews and nieces.

Not every colonist was dyed in red, white, and blue at the start. Yet, they all embodied the still integral hope for the right to pursue happiness. That hope, that "inalienable right" brought many of the veterans west and several to this part of Michigan.

See *Local patriots* page 2

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TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2026

For country & community

Bringing the Big Bang to Brooklyn



Above: Joel Gresham, Desiree Fires, Chad Fires, Kenny Gauci, Joel Sandrik and Joe Ellison posed for a quick photo at the Brooklyn-Irish Hills Fireworks Committee meeting last week.

By Matt Schepeler

BOOM!
"Ohh!"
KAPOW!
"Ahh!"
KABAM!
"That was the best one yet!"

While we all have fond memories of fireworks on the Fourth of July, most residents are not aware of the time, effort and organization it takes to put on the fiery displays.

In fact, a group of volunteers has been working for the past year to bring what they believe will be an epic fireworks show and July 4 holiday to Brooklyn. The grassroots committee began meeting in July of 2025, and consists of Joel Gresham, Chad and Desiree Fires, Joe Ellison, Joel Sandrik, Kenny Gauci and others who clearly feel a love for both country and community.

Not only will they be putting on what they believe to be the largest fireworks display in the town's history – complete with an "extra grand" grand finale, they will be having food trucks at the show, a smash-a-car, entertainment, and more.

The show will also be put on as a backdrop to a brand new flag and pole recently installed at the Columbia Upper Elementary School courtesy of Camp Liberty.

The committee is also working with a parade committee spearheaded by Savanna Spindelmann of Savanna Rose Dance Studio. After the parade, there will be a classic car show, a scavenger hunt, and more.

Of course, all this will take money, cooperation and coordination.

"We had a target of raising \$40,000, and we made it last week," said Desiree Fires, who is acting secretary of the Brooklyn-Irish Hills Fireworks Committee.

"It has been a real community effort," noted Fires, who also pointed out that certain businesses like Irish Hills Collision and Service, which is sponsoring the fireworks, and TLC Community Credit Union, which is sponsoring the finale, have really stepped up to the plate.

Jeff Updike of Irish Hills Collision deflected praise when asked why he donated so much to the cause. "This community has been so good to us, and frankly, the real work is done by Joel (Gresham) and the committee. They do all the work. We are just happy to be able to help."

Other major sponsors include CR Motors (car show following parade), Brokerage House (downtown scavenger hunt immediately following the parade), ERA Reardon Realty (patriotic photos during and after parade) Jim's Collision (car smash), Mid Michigan DJ's (music at the fireworks) and Heart of the Lakes Church (dunk tank) and more.

Fires noted that it is important for residents to understand that no taxpayer dollars are being used to put on the event. "People need to know that we are not using any government money, no taxpayer money" said Fires. "It all comes from donations, and anything left over will be

See *Fireworks* page 4

Cambridge Township Political, business leader dies at 89

William "Bill" Gentner, a longtime business man and public servant in Cambridge Township, died Friday, June 26.



Gentner

Gentner grew up on the south shores of Wampplers Lake. He owned and operated Gentner Trucking and CTE Sand & Gravel.

He was proud of his service to the community, especially as chief of the Irish Hills fire Department. He served in a variety of capacities in public office, most notably as township supervisor.

Gentner loved to share his memories of attending Onsted High School and of how the community has changed over the years.

He was married to Marjorie, and the couple have four children.

A complete obituary appears on page 6.

Invasive species

Eagle point vessel check

Story and photos
By John Hummer
Editor

Members of the Jackson Flotilla of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Great Lakes District conducted free vessel safety checks this past Saturday at Eagle Point Marina on Clark Lake. Approximately 15 boaters took advantage of this free service to have their boats inspected.

If a vessel passed inspection, the owner was awarded a yearly decal to display on the vessel that will be recognized by law enforcement. Participants had the opportunity to learn about everything required without any concerns or worries about violations. They are just advised to address any issues brought up during the inspection to avoid future citations on the water.

"We look at different equipment on the boat to make sure that they not only meet the legal requirements on the water but also that they have the equipment to be safe on the water," stated Mark Cole, commander of Jackson Flotilla, Division 22, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Great Lakes District. The USCG Auxiliary members are all volunteers.

Items that were checked for

See *Vessel check* page 3

Flying high



A beautiful new flagpole and American flag were installed on the grounds of Columbia Upper Elementary School last Thursday. Camp Liberty, a nonprofit organization serving veterans and first responders based in Norvell Township, donated the flagpole to Columbia School District to honor all military personnel, veterans, and first responders just in time for the United States of America's 250th birthday and fireworks celebration taking place at the same location on the Fourth of July this Saturday. PHOTO COURTESY CAMP LIBERTY, INC.



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A bright future

Addison teen ranked #1 national analyst

Jered Wyant of Addison took home the national champion title for Auto Collision Damage Analysis in the Skills U.S.A. competition



Jered Wyant

**Story & Photos
By Michelle McLemore
Staff writer**
Addison's Jered Wyant, a recent graduate of Lenawee Christian High School, returned from Atlanta, Georgia as the national champion in Auto Collision Damage Analysis. The competition was sponsored by Skills U.S.A., which is a national workforce development organization for students.

Wyant took the Automotive Collision Repair class at the Lenawee Intermediate School District Tech Center for two years. He competed at the state level each time, and won both years. He shared, "When I went to nationals last year, I didn't place, but I feel the experience of knowing what to expect and how to go about it

from the previous year allowed me to have success this year." Wyant's goal was to place in the top 10 in the nation this year, and he was surprised when he was called to the stage. Recalling the national pronouncement, he noted, "It was such a wonderful experience, and I am so grateful for the opportunities that I have had." Jered is the son of Jeremy and Shelby Lyn Wyant. Jered initially had an interest in pursuing a future in architecture or culinary arts. However, mechanics have been part of his life as long as he can remember. He explained, "When I was a kid, I was really into Legos, and then I turned towards cars as I got older because of my family." There was no short supply

of family mentors and influences related to mechanics. Wyant recalls his grandfather, Gary Schultz of Onsted (who Wyant describes as a custom sheet metal fabricator), helping him replace both back sides of Wyant's first truck. He noted, "I spent a lot of time with him working on projects." His time with his grandpa helped him really get into the automotive world. Additionally, Wyant's father, Jeremy, and his grandfather, Jerry, got him interested in slot car racing early on. His grandfather was also the owner of Boogie Speedway in Jackson. Wyant also credits his LISD Tech Center teacher, Kortney Thumme as a major source of inspiration. He noted Thumme "was awe-

some." "He was very influential in my life in many ways and taught me many things." Wyant highly recommends the automotive class at the LISD Tech Center. "It's a perfect class for anyone with even a slight interest in automobiles. Even if you are not going into it [professionally], it's the perfect class for a year to learn how to do the basics. But if you

really love it, you can get a lot out of it. It's fun. You get to paint, too. There is a lot of creativity in there as well." Wyant will be moving to Mooresville, North Carolina to attend NTI for high performance automotive engineering. His dream is to work either for the Lexus GT3 Racing Team or Toyota World Rally Racing.

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LOCATED IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN GRASS

Local patriots remembered from page 1



The following list of Revolutionary War veterans was pulled from Lenawee County MIGenWeb, *Revolutionary War Patriots of South Central Michigan* by David Van Hoof and Linda Hass, FindaGrave, and cemetery forages by Linda and Hutch Hutchison of Grass Lake.

Champenois, William (1755-1834)
Born in NY. He enlisted in January 1777 under Captain Jonathan Paulding Horton's Company; then in 1780 he volunteered for Captain William Mosher's Company of Colonel James Hanuman's 1st Regiment, Westchester County, NY Militia, participating in battles and blockades. His regiment was reorganized as the "rangers," which specialized in irregular warfare and reconnaissance, raids, and general harrying of the enemy. He moved with his wife and son to Michigan in 1834. Buried in Rome Center Cemetery, Rome Township.

Darling, Joseph (1764 - 1844)
Private serving most likely in a Massachusetts regiment beginning in 1780. Journeyed to MI in 1832 with his father and brother. Buried first at old East Main Street Cemetery; moved to Woodland Cemetery sometime after 1893, to Sec. 33, Summit Township.

Haynes, David (1762-1844)
He served as a guide for soldiers garrisoned at his family's home in Pennsylvania. In 1778, he enlisted as a ranger under Col. James Murray for two years and four months. In

1781, he enlisted for three months in the Pennsylvania militia regiment, Lancaster Co, 9th Bn, 7th Class. He moved to Jackson County in 1837. He is buried in Jefferson Cemetery, Clarklake.

Hewitt, Henry (1763-1851)
At age 15, he enlisted for one year as a private to Captain William Whitney's Company of the Connecticut Line. He fought at the Battle of Newport. He re-enlisted for six months in the fall of 1779 in Capt. Richard Hewitt's Company of Colonel Willis's CT Regiment serving mostly as a sentry. Then he served another seven months in May 1780. In 1849, after his wife Phoebe died, he moved with son Charles to Tecumseh. Buried in Brookside Cemetery, Tecumseh.

Hoisington, Veline/Velina
In 1776, as a 14-year-old, he enlisted in Capt. Benjamin Waight's Co. as a waiter for his father, Major Joab Hoisington, regimental commander. After his father's death, he joined Col. Seth Warner and fought in the Battle of Bennington in New York, charging uphill against Hessian earthworks. He continued active duty for eight more months before his discharge. Then in March of 1781, a farmer hired Veline to serve in his place for 9 months, doing scouting work. In 1782, Veline finally enlisted as a Marine aboard the USS Dean. In 1840, he migrated with his family to Hillsdale and died in 1846. He is buried near Somerset though his gravesite is unknown.

Mosher, Jabez (1759-1851)
He was a private and served with the New York Militia in the Monmouth and Brandywine battles, among others. He was the father of B.G. Mosher of Brooklyn. He is buried at Mount Evergreen Cemetery, Jackson.

Osborn, Abraham (1747-1837)
He was born in Morristown, NJ. He enlisted and served in a New York regiment. He was buried in Cement City Cemetery.

Overacker, Adam (1761-1842)
He served in NY as a private. He is buried in Grass Lake East Cemetery.

Pratt, Edmund (1752-1842)
In 1776, he volunteered despite being exempt due to blindness in one eye. At 24, he served with Capt. Elija Scofield's Company of militiamen in Connecticut. Despite not receiving pay for his first tour, he volunteered again in 1777 with Capt. Timothy Starkey's Co. was involved in the Battle of Ridgefield, among others. He also volunteered for marine duty, was taken prisoner, and survived poisoned wine. After the war, approximately 1834, he and his wife moved to Somerset to be near their children. He is buried in an unknown grave on what used to be the Pratt family cemetery near Somerset.

Swartout, Thomas (1756-1848)
Born in Fishkill, NY. Served. Emigrated to Michigan. Buried in Cement City Cemetery.

Thurston, Daniel (1752-1850)
Born in Massachusetts, he served as a private and was at the burning of Buffalo, NY. He moved with his son Thomas to Leoni, Jackson County, with connections to Grass Lake. He was buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Waterloo.

Underwood, Samuel (1765-1864)
He was a corporal in Clark's Company, Massachusetts troops. He eventually moved to Michigan and is buried in Leoni Cemetery, Leoni Township.

Wisner, Jehiel Rev. (1762-1839)
He served 1779-1781. He first volunteered with Captain David McCambley's Co. of Colonel John Hathorn's 4th Regiment, Orange County militia in 1779. He served as a sentry at the Fishkill depot. Later he volunteered for one month's duty with Capt. John Myer's Co. of Col. Israel Shreve's Regiment NJ militia but then was drafted for six months with Capt. Cooper's Company of the same regiment that was protecting civilians and farmers from Tory refugee attacks in NYC. Other service included another six-month volunteer period in Captain Cooper's Company with Major Budd as commander. After the war, he became a Baptist minister. He came to MI with his wife, Susanna (Chandler) Wisner in 1832 from New York. He is buried on the family farm cemetery, near Tipton.

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160 S. Main Street, Brooklyn, MI 49230
Telephone (517) 592-2122 • Fax (517) 592-3241
Founded September 1, 1881

Matthew B. Schepeler
Publisher

John Hummer
Editor

Postage Paid at Brooklyn, MI 49230
SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$70 per year
E-mail address: news@theexponent.com
Web site: www.theexponent.com
Postmaster: Send address and change to:
The Exponent 160 S. Main Street, Brooklyn, MI 49230

Publication Day: Tuesday; Periodicals
Materials cannot be used without written permission of the publisher.

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Walkin’ at Watkins



PHOTO COURTESY JOSE ROMER, MICHIGAN SENATE DEMOCRATS
Senator Sue Shink, center, leads around 50 individuals on a “Walk and Talk” at Watkins Lake State Park.

Senator discusses environment near proposed Norvell aggregate mine site

Sen. Sue Shink (D-Northfield Twp.) recently joined community members at her third Walk and Talk event, held this year at the Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve. This event welcomed residents to walk one of the trails with the Senator and Ben Spiegel, Watkins Lake Unit Supervisor at the Michigan Dept. of Natu-

ral Resources (DNR). “I’m always excited to join constituents outside and enjoy the beautiful parks our district has to offer,” said Sen. Shink, Chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. “Learning about our state’s unique plants, wildlife, and ecosystems can help us all understand how important it is to

protect Michigan’s great outdoors.” During the event, residents voiced their concerns about environmental issues facing their community, particularly a proposed aggregate mine in Norvell Township that is planning to mine next to the park. Photo by Jose Romero, Michigan Senate Democrats.



Kim Cole, director of prevention for the Jackson Flotilla, Division 22, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Great Lakes District, reviews the requirements for fire extinguishers that must be on board all motorized vessels wit boat owner Linda DeBruler this past Saturday at the free vessel check event at Eagle Point Marina on Clark Lake.

Vessel
from page 1

included condition and accessibility of personal flotation devices (PFDs), operation of the navigation lights and sound equipment, cleanliness of the bilge, a mounted fire extinguisher, ventilation (blower), battery protection, registration and documentation for the vessel, and proper display of numbers.

“It was a perfect opportunity for our lake community to get more people involved with water safety,” said Jay Truchan, chief operating officer and executive director of Eagle Point Marina, Eagles Nest Restaurant & Enterprise Properties.

Mark and Marina McCall of Cement City had their Aqua Patio 22-foot pontoon inspected and were pleased with the service provided. “It helped us be well aware of things that we should have on board and to double-check everything to make sure we have everything accurately stowed and stored,” Marina McCall said. A couple things the McCalls learned is that they must always have a “throwable” (PFD life cushion) on board as well as an anchor. “We don’t use an anchor as much as other boats because we have sea legs,” Marina noted.

Regarding PFDs, Mark McCall added, “Life jackets must be quickly accessible. If you’re out on the water, they have to be out of the package.” Prior to the inspection, the McCalls had PFDs still in their original packages stowed under the hull of their boat. The stowing place was fine, but the PFDs had to be taken out of their packages.

They also highly recommend that kayakers get inspected. “Bright colors (for both the vessel and the operator) are good so you can be seen on the water,” Mark Cole said. “We love kayakers to stay closer to the shoreline. Travel in pairs so if there is an issue, you have a partner nearby to help out.” For those single kayakers, he recommends leaving a “float plan” with somebody who will know where the kayaker will be and the expected time of return. All kayakers should have a sticker (available from the USCG) with personal contact information written with a permanent marker affixed to the kayak in the event of an emergency.

He also recommended kayakers wear life jackets. “Once you’re on the water, it’s a little difficult to put it on. About 80% of drownings are people not wearing a life jacket.”

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Event Schedule

ADRIAN
Friday, July 3 –
5-8 p.m. – First Fridays – Downtown Stores and Vendors on street
8 p.m. – River Raisin Ragtime Revue Concert – First Presbyterian Church
Fireworks to follow concert – Comstock Park
Saturday, July 4 –
10 a.m. – Downtown Parade – Maumee St. to Monument Park
Wednesday, July 8 –
6 p.m. – Reading of the Declaration of Independence - Old Lenawee County Courthouse
Sunday, July 19 –
2 p.m. – Patriot Marker Dedication - Lenawee Historical Museum

BROOKLYN
Saturday, July 4 –
10 a.m. – Downtown Parade – 9:30 Lineup on Irwin St.
10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Car Show, Kid’s Scavenger Hunt, Patriotic Photos – Downtown
5 p.m. – Food Trucks, Music, Car Smash and Kid’s Area with Dunk Tank – Columbia Upper Elementary Field
Dusk – Fireworks

GRASS LAKE
Saturday, July 4 –
10 a.m. – Downtown Parade
Following Parade – Flag Raising and Chicken BBQ
Cardboard Boat Races – Lions Club
Dusk – Fireworks

MANCHESTER
Friday, July 3 –
3 p.m. – Carr Park Open and Food Vendors
6 p.m. – DJ and Beer Tent
~10 p.m. – Fireworks at Carr Park

ONSTED
Friday, July 3 –
10:30-11 a.m. – Village History Walking Tour
5-8 p.m. – Food Vendors and Car Show – Onsted Legion
7-11 p.m. – Jaded Soul Band – Onsted Legion
Saturday, July 4 –
11 a.m.-2 p.m. – Wooden Stone School Open
Noon – Onsted Luncheon, Float/Bike Judging, Lost Arts Demo and Indigenous Talk – Onsted Legion
1:30-4:30 p.m. Hubbard Auto Museum Open
4:30 and 5:30 p.m. Onsted History Walking Tour
Sunday, July 5 –
10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Visit Walker Tavern

Letter to the editor

Is the gravel mine inevitable?

Dear editor,

At the June 16 Norvell Township Board meeting, 16 area residents spoke out against the proposed Norvell-Levy gravel mine before a packed room of supporters. Speakers expressed concerns about environmental impacts, declining property values, and threats to health and safety. Each comment was met with applause, and together they built a compelling case against the mine.

Why should this project be stopped? Because this is a uniquely bad location for a large-scale gravel mine. The 625-acre operation would sit

next to Watkins Lake State Park & County Preserve, interjecting industrial extraction, crushing equipment, conveyor belts, dust and noise into a quiet recreational area. At the same time, gravel-hauling trucks would travel routes often already crowded with local traffic, cyclists, lake visitors, and families heading to Hayes State Park. This proposal is not simply about gravel extraction; it is about plopping an industrial operation into the middle of one of the most environmentally and recreationally valuable parts of the region.

Can this project be stopped? Yes. American Aggregates of Michigan (AAOM), a subsidiary of the Edw. C. Levy Company, has deep pockets and a stable of attorneys to push for industrial-scale gravel extraction in Norvell Township. But residents are engaged, informed, and increasingly organized.

So is the gravel mine inevitable? We say a resounding No!

Under Norvell Township's ordinance, AAOM must demonstrate that there would be "no very serious consequences" from this proposal. Residents are showing, with

credible evidence and expert-backed conclusions, that this project plainly crosses that threshold.

At the meeting, the Norvell Township Board listened respectfully to concerns about the proposed mine. Board members are our neighbors. They want what is best for the Township, and they have a responsibility to apply the Township's legal standards fairly and objectively. If this proposal fails to meet those standards, Norvell Township must not hesitate to deny the Norvell-Levy mine.

Cathy King
Brooklyn

Ready, aim...



Chris Bazick, archery instructor from Schupach's Sporting Goods, teaches young Casten Knaup how to aim a bow and arrow. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Camp Liberty holds summer fundraiser

It was a gorgeous day this past Saturday for Camp Liberty's Summer Fundraiser – Golf Outing and Family Fun Day – at Gauci Golf Resort in the Irish Hills.

Over 30 golfers attended the organization's first-ever golf outing, and many more took part in an array of family fun activities at Gauci Golf Resort.

"We're raising money for our events, activities, and programs this year for outdoor recreation for veterans and first responders and their families," said Melinda Schwyn, executive director for Camp Liberty. "Hopefully, it will grow each year." She added there were nine hole sponsors – one for each hole on the golf outing – as well as three-hole contest

sponsors.

The event also included archery lessons from Schupach's Sporting Goods, a mobile shooting gallery sponsored by Pheasants Forever, and a flyover provided by Craig Pearson, manager of the Brooklyn Airport, among other activities.

Fireworks from page 1

used next year."

Brooklyn has a rich history of shooting fireworks off on the Fourth of July. Rich Turner, the former owner of the Brooklyn Party Shoppe, took it upon himself to purchase the fiery projectiles, using money raised by the (then) Brooklyn-Irish Hills Chamber of Commerce. Turner had a group of volunteers that helped him set them off every year.

When Turner retired, responsibility for the show was taken over by Keith Kotsch, who was then the DPW superintendent for the Village of Brooklyn. This led to people questioning if taxpayer money was used to pay for the fireworks (it was not), but landed the village in hot water when an employee complained that leftover fireworks were being stored in the DPW garage next to lawn mowers and other gas-fired equipment, which created a fire and insurance hazard.

After the controversy, the fireworks tradition disappeared from Brooklyn altogether, leaving the village quiet on the Fourth of July, saddening some residents.

Terry Mahr, who was the previous Brooklyn president, worked hard to revive the tradition, but the effort failed to maintain momentum, and it once again became quiet in the village.

This year – the 250th birthday of our nation's founding – promises to be anything but quiet, as the Brooklyn-Irish Hills Fireworks Committee is once again ready to light up the sky.

"It is going to be a great show, an epic" said Joel Gresham, who heads the committee. "People need to come and check it out."

For a complete schedule of events, see page 3.

Doing business as

Excel Autoparts Import Ltd: 1129 Fox Road, Jackson (Importation and distribution of Auto Parts) Julio C. Diehl, owner;

Spidey Treats By Rome: 1207 West Michigan, Jackson (Treats, Snack Bags, Kids Parties) Nikeesha Pointer, owner;

Bugbee Insurance Group: 6465 Folks Road, Horton (Insurance Agency) Scott D. Bugbee, owner;

Covenant Tree Service: 917 Lowell Avenue, Jackson (Tree Service) Randy Jayne, owner;

Out Of The Box Productions: 855 Kennedy Street, Jackson (Entertainment Facilitators Via Musicals, Parties, Theatre) Annissa Williams-Summer, owner;

Out Of The Box Music School: 300 East Mansion Street, Jackson (Music School) Annissa Williams-Summer, owner.

Corrections



Grass Lake U.S. Air Force Veteran James Ducey is shown accepting a Flag of the United States from Congressman Tim Walberg as part of being honored as Walberg's Veteran of the Month for June. The story, which ran last week, had an incorrect outline.

Marie Lavene Marlett listed age was incorrect in last week's Death notices. Marlett was 95 years old.

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Customers can still drop off payments in person at the Brooklyn office at 160 S. Main St. during normal business hours, as well as to place and pick up orders, take out an ad, pick up a paper, or advise us of story opportunities.

All packages and deliveries should continue to be shipped to the Brooklyn office. The only change is that letters, bills, payments by mail, and other envelope mail should be sent to the Adrian office. Thanks!

THE GREAT AMERICAN CRAB RACES
Presented by M-R Builder

The Eagle's Nest at Clark Lake
July 9, 10, 11, 2026

Three great evenings of racing, plus kids races on Saturday Afternoon

THURSDAY
July 9
Sponsored By:

EAGLE'S NEST
Bar & Grill
CLARKLAKE, MICHIGAN

Race	Time	Sponsor
1	6:00	Eagle's Nest
2	6:15	Brooklyn Products
3	6:30	Brooklyn Products
4	6:45	Napoleon Lions
5	7:00	M-R Builder
6	7:15	Columbia/Napoleon Schools
7	7:30	Oh These Irish Hills!
8	7:45	Eineder Funeral Home
9	8:00	Quality Glass
10	8:15	Axis Golf
11	8:30	Clarklake Beach & Boat Club
12	8:45	The Exponent

FRIDAY
July 10
Sponsored By:

B&B
HARDWARE
Old fashioned personal service

Race	Time	Sponsor
1	6:00	Walton Insurance Group
2	6:15	Wilbee Transit Mix Co
3	6:30	Eagle's Nest Staff
4	6:45	Open
5	7:00	TransPharm Preclinical Solutions
6	7:15	Mid-America Machining
7	7:30	Hills' Heart of the Lakes Golf Course
8	7:45	R.W. Mercer
9	8:00	B&B Hardware
10	8:15	Brooklyn Big Boy
11	8:30	Napoleon Lawn & Leisure
12	8:45	Eineder Funeral Home

SATURDAY
July 11
Kids Race
Sponsored By:

Country Market

Race	Time	Sponsor
1	1:00	Columbia Athletics
2	1:15	State Farm Insurance/Dale Robert
3	1:30	A Plus Electric
4	1:45	Vermeulen Furniture
5	2:00	Bendele Construction
6	2:15	Country Market
7	2:30	Open
8	2:45	CR Motors
9	3:00	Raft-O-Rama
10	3:15	Open
11	3:30	Old Irish Mill
12	3:45	Lucero's
13	4:00	Lakefront Solutions
14	4:15	Monroe Dodge Superstore
15	4:30	Wilcox Lawn & Landscaping
Final	4:45	Stoyanna's

SATURDAY
July 12
Adult Race

Boater's Choice

Race	Time	Sponsor
1	6:00	Boater's Choice
2	6:15	Kiwanis Club of Brooklyn
3	6:30	SouthSide Super Deli
4	6:45	CR Motors
5	7:00	Kellogg DDS
6	7:15	Thompson, Parker, Beer & Lindsey
7	7:30	FiveOneSeven Salon & Spa
8	7:45	The Brokerage House
9	8:00	Aggie's Sports Bar
10	8:15	Open
11	8:30	Mark Prellipp Greenhouse & Mohr
12	8:45	Eineder Funeral Home

Semifinal 1
1 9:00 Atlas
2 9:10 Klavon's
3 9:20 Boyer's Tool & Die
Final
9:30 Krupa's Boat Mart

WATCH! RACE! CHEER!
***BUT DON'T POINT!!!**

SATURDAY KIDS RACES:
FIRST THREE WINNERS:
• Cash prize of \$100, \$150, and \$200

ADULT RACES: CASH PRIZES:
1st Place - \$599
2nd Place - \$350
3rd Place - \$200

SPONSORED BY
Tom Collins Memorial Spirit Trail,
Columbia Athletics,
Napoleon Athletic Boosters,
Napoleon Lions Club.
This is a joint venture "For the Kids."
Thank you to all our race
sponsors mentioned and a special
thank you to
**M-R Builder, The Exponent,
B&B Hardware,
Boater's Choice, Country Market
& Eagle's Nest**
for their continued support.

**** Hermit crabs may be taken home after Saturday night's races with proper "crab care" sheet.**

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT:
• CLARKLAKE BEACH & BOAT CLUB • BOAT HOUSE AT EAGLE POINT
• LUCEROS • OR JULY 9-11 AT EAGLE'S NEST

Norvell’s big question:

To police, or not to police?

By John Hummer Editor

The ongoing saga of having some type of law enforcement in Norvell Township was front and center on the agenda of the township’s June 15 board meeting. After a long discussion, no action was taken, but a lot of information was shared and gathered to help the township make a decision, possibly at their July board meeting.

Early this year, when Bill Sutherland was still township supervisor, the then-hired police chief, Jay Truchan, resigned, leaving the township without any hired or contracted law enforcer. Currently, the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office will send a deputy to the township only if necessary or for an emergency. The Michigan State Police will also respond to emergencies. But there is no regular police presence in the township, as has been the case since late 2024.

Upon Sutherland’s resignation as supervisor at the end of April, the problem is now under the leadership of new township supervisor Andrew Haystead.

Haystead provided a brief history of the department at the board meeting. The township had a police department through 2008 when a couple of millages to fund the department failed. In 2014, the township contracted with the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office with Truchan as the contracted deputy through October 2024, when the board decided to terminate the contract and moved ahead with creating a police department with Truchan as



Haystead

chief. Truchan spent most of 2025 and the first month of 2026 building the police department before he resigned.

Haystead reported that he asked Sheriff Schuette how much a new contract with the sheriff’s office would cost. He noted that for the first year, it would cost \$129,298. A five-year contract, by 2030, would gradually increase to \$145,516 annually. “It would be roughly \$700,000 in five years.

“A big problem that comes up quite often that we get complaints about is ordinances and zoning enforcement,” Haystead continued. “I spoke with Sheriff Schuette, and the county will not enforce our ordinances unless we have a contract with them,” adding that the township currently does not have a zoning/ordinance enforcement officer.

He noted that the township has already purchased a police vehicle and has most of the necessary equipment to run a police department.

Haystead spoke with neighboring Napoleon Township Supervisor Dan Wymer and their police chief, Duaine Pittman, who both happened to be attending the board meeting. “They would offer us support wherever we needed it, with the most important things being clerical support and secure evidence storage,” he stated, adding that for that type of support, they would charge around \$5,000 yearly.

Haystead also noted that police radios must be upgraded in 2027. “There is a method being proposed right now to cover the cost of radios,” he explained.

He noted that if the township has their own department, they get direct oversight of department operations. “We get to

select and appoint the officer. We can have a say in the patrol schedule. We’re not just going to have somebody out here Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Everybody knows, especially during the summer, that weekends are very important. I’ll say when Jay (Truchan) was here, we had good coverage.”

Haystead summarized the current situation with three options he felt the board had to consider moving forward with:

- Disband the department again, which will require a formal board resolution; rely on Jackson County Sheriff’s Office and Michigan State Police for emergency coverage; and take applications for a dedicated zoning enforcement officer, or
- Interview individuals who have applied for the chief position, or open the application process again; or
- Enter into a contract with the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office for a dedicated officer (40 hours/week) starting at \$129,298 with an increase in cost to \$145,516 in 2030.

“I would definitely want to open [the chief position] to other applicants as well,” said Township Clerk Sharon Pero. “And I don’t know that we can afford it.”

New board member Terri Curtis agreed on the need to open it up to more applicants. “It’s been a while since we looked at someone,” she said. “It’s always good just to see what resources you have. I also believe that it needs to be sustainable. If we decide to do something, we have to know that we can afford to do it.”

Township Treasurer Deserre Sauers also questioned the sustainability of the funding if the township goes with a police department. “I think it should

go on the ballot to see if the people are willing to pay for it before we invest more resources into going forward,” she stated. “We don’t even have current costs. I’m sure it will cost us \$125,000 a year to run our own. I’ll go for it –if the people are willing to pay, we support it. But I think the people need to have a say.”

Haystead noted that previous budget numbers (from late 2024) came in at plus or minus \$100,000 a year for the township to run its own police department.

“As you are all aware, the state shared revenue prediction is also dropping, Sauers noted. “And things are way more expensive now than they were two years ago – the cost of fuel, the cost of oil – everything has gone up. The car can be sold – we can say, ‘Hey, we made a mistake, and we can move forward. But we need to know we can support it – that’s just where I stand.”

Clerk Pero reiterated the need for a code enforcement officer. “If we’re going to hire a police chief, he’s got to delight in that being a large part of his job.”

Another concern brought up was the cost of the new radios that will be required in 2027. “The upgrades to the portable radios that we’ll be using in 2027 are right around \$8,000 a radio,” Napoleon’s Chief Pittman, present at the meeting, explained. “We are trying to get some state funding and also some federal money to try to help us offset those costs.”

Board consensus was that more work needs to be done on the current costs for restarting a police department. If the township were to put the police department question to a millage, Deputy Treasurer (and

former clerk) Garnet Francis said it’s almost too late to get it on a ballot in 2026 because ballot wording has to be approved by the county before it can go on a ballot. “Otherwise, you’ll either have to call in 2027 a special election you’ll have to pay for or wait till 2028,” she explained.

Per the Michigan Secretary of State website, the deadline for petitions to place a county or local ballot question on the November ballot to be filed with the applicable local or county clerk is July 28, 2026.

What Napoleon Township officials had to say

Chief Pittman offered his thoughts to the board on whether Napoleon Township would provide clerical support and evidence storage for a police department, noting that it depends on who Norvell would

hire. “That person may have their own ideas and may want to do their own evidence room; they may want to do a multitude of things and not involve us; but if they do want to, we want to open up that opportunity to make it available so that you can have your own department,” he explained. “You’re going to go through some growing pains.”

Pittman said he worked for Jackson County for 25 years and has been in Napoleon for around 20 years. “You have to decide – do you want Barney Fife (fictional deputy sheriff from “The Andy Griffith Show”), or do you want an officer that you can rely on who actually knows your people and cares about your concerns and what you’re doing?”

Obituary

Heather Michelle (Richardson) Rewiski

Heather Michelle Rewiski (nee Richardson), age 57, of Wheaton Ill., died on June 24, 2026, in Winfield, Ill., after a 7-year war with cancer of unknown primary.

Born and raised in the Onsted, Mich., area, Heather graduated from Onsted High School where she was on the cheerleading squad and actively participated in 4-H. As a lifelong equestrian she competed locally and at the national level on her award-winning horse, Otoe’s Motive, earning recognition as the Quarter Horse Queen for the State of Michigan. An accomplished concert goer and fashion trend setter at an early age, Heather was an avid Prince and Madonna fan before it was cool.

Heather graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in communications and a Master of Business Administration from Arizona State University. This foundation paved the path for an accomplished career as a senior executive in consumer-packaged goods. Over the years she built best in industry teams for global brands like Nestle, Purina, Sara Lee, Bel Brands Cheese, and Danone. Known as a results driven and empathetic leader, she took her greatest pride in developing individuals to achieve their highest potential. “You should always be open to opportunities that lead to career advancement” is an encouragement she often shared.

In Heather’s world, more important than any accomplishment at work was the time she spent with family. Especially her husband Mark and their children Carson and Cameron. She was the ‘Mom who did it all’ – moving from meetings in the board room to bake sales for the cross-country team and chaperoning long distance dance team trips with a grace that made every moment matter. And if anyone asked how she was able to accomplish all that she’d share a brief testi-



Heather Rewiski

monial for the power of Excel spreadsheets. (Whilst simultaneously cracking a tab on a small can of Coca-Cola.) She loved to travel and family trips to Disney, California, Arizona, Florida, New York City, and all points in between serve as a source of good memory.

A passionate photographer and creator of amazing photo book collections, it was rare to see her at a family event without her Canon Camera ready to capture the next memorable moment.

Her family and friends will miss her great sense of humor and gift of being present. When you talked with her, you felt that you were the most important person in the world, and you knew her interest in you was genuine.

An active member of the Gary United Methodist Church in Wheaton, Ill., Heather was fortified by the friendships and fellowship the church provided she and her family.

In 2019, when diagnosed with stage IV cancer, unknown primary and a prognosis of 6 months longevity, she attacked the disease with the same zeal and determination she employed to beat the competition for the brands she represented. Assembling a team of doctors and specialists from some of the best medical institutions in the world she actively participated as the conductor of the symphony of her treatment plans. For many years she remained one step ahead of the disease attacking her body. Her chronicle of her journey on the website ‘Caring Bridge’ – with her ever present theme of “Faith, Family, and Friends” -has inspired thousands and served as a motivator for other cancer patients facing similarly long odds.

Heather closed her last ‘Caring Bridge’ entry with a declaration of victory over cancer that’s indisputable. “I believe I am meant to be here. . . I have a lot to do. When I read the scans, I breathe and take it in. . . This too shall pass. Faith re-

moves Fear. God is with me! Until next time – Faith, Family, and Friends!” Her family rejoices knowing now not only is ‘God with her,’ but she is also with God.

She is survived by her husband, Mark Rewiski and children, Carson Rewiski of Los Angeles, Calif., and Cameron Rewiski, of Wheaton, Ill. Her mother, Patricia Richardson (Forest Haines) of Onsted, Mich., brother Jamie Richardson (Kate) of Mount Vernon, Ohio, and sister Hillary van der Zee (Rommert) of Evergreen, Colo., and many nieces and nephews who owe any skill they acquired in the board game ‘Monopoly’ to their Aunt Heather.

She was preceded in death by her father, Murray Richardson.

The family would like to especially thank the many doctors and care givers who became more than medical support – they became family. Especially the team at the Block Center in Skokie, Ill. and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. A visitation will be held at Gary United Methodist Church, 224 N. Main St., Wheaton, IL 60187, on Friday, July 10, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the memorial service at 11 a.m., with a “Celebration of Life” to follow.

Memorial contributions in Heather’s name can be made to the Mayo Clinic. Here are three ways to support the groundbreaking efforts of the Mayo Clinic team.

Online: Visit *Help Continue Heather’s Legacy* and complete the form.

-Select **“Dedicate my donation,”** choose **“In memory of,”** -Enter **“Heather Rewiski.”** -Leave the **“Other”** designation in place in the drop-down selection

-Then type in **“Oncology at Mayo Clinic Rochester- Dr. Fuentes.”** To notify the family, select “Send a card” and enter recipient details.

2 . P h o n e : Call 1-855-852-8129 to make a secure donation with a team member.

3. Mail: Send checks payable to Mayo Clinic, 200

First Street SW, Rochester, MN 55905. Include “In memory of Heather Rewiski for Oncology at Mayo Clinic Rochester” in the memo.

July 11th

Benefits our Charities

DOORS OPEN 3pm Music 4-6pm

Brayden LAPE

TICKETS \$35 in advance, \$40 at door

You saw him on The Voice Season 22, Now see him at the Irish Hills Eagles!

9500 Wampiers lake Rd Call Patty T for Tickets 517-206-3410 Tickets can also be purchased at the club and any Entertainment Committee member

Open to the Public All Ages Welcome Mini Bar open, MUST be 21 WITH ID. Autograph Session with Commemorative Ticket

Fireworks for your finances.

Make this your breakthrough season.

Ready to spark something new? Lock in a powerful CD rate, switch to Clearly Free Checking (and pick up a free gift* when you open your account), or let our courier service simplify your business deposits. When you bank with a locally owned institution like Bank Michigan, your financial wins light up the whole community.

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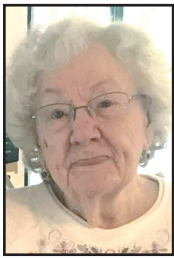
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Obituaries

T. Christine ‘Chris’ (Creech) Craft

T. Christine “Chris” Creech Craft, 98, of Brooklyn, passed away peacefully on June 5, 2026, with her beloved husband, William “Bill” Craft, by her side. They were just one month shy of celebrating 80 years of marriage, a remarkable testament to a lifetime of love and devotion.

Born December 5, 1927, in Owsley County, Kentucky, Chris was the youngest of eight children and the only daughter of the late Mirtie and James Creech. As a young woman, she left high school to help care for her seven brothers. At age 70, she fulfilled a lifelong goal by earning her GED, a milestone her family proudly celebrated.



Chris Craft

Chris lived with quiet strength, creativity, and deep devotion to family, embracing a life full of simple joys and lasting passions. A talented quilter and painter, her work was recognized at local shows and remains treasured in the homes of her children and grandchildren. She loved fishing and looked forward to annual trips to White Lake in Canada with Bill and family. Favorite adventures included seeing the giant sequoias in California and panning for gold in Alaska. She was known for her chicken and dumplings, homemade applesauce, and canned goods, family favorites no one has been able to replicate. She enjoyed reading Louis L'Amour novels with Bill, solving puzzles with friends, and playing Scrabble, Cornhole, and Bingo. A devoted Detroit Tigers fan, she rarely missed a televised game.

More than anything, Chris cherished her family. Her grandchildren will forever remember “summer camp” at Grandma and Grandpa’s house, filled with laughter, adventure, and unconditional love. After Bill’s retirement in 1988, they spent 23 years at Sechrist Lake in Indiana before returning to Michigan in 2011 to be closer to family. In recent years, they made their home at the Brooklyn Living Center. Chris is survived by her husband, William C. Craft; son Stephen Craft (Geryl) and their children, Stephen (Stephanie), Kevin (Vanessa), and Katelyn; daughter Pam Kapnick (Al)

and their son, Nathan (Amber). She was preceded in death by her son, Roger Craft, and is lovingly remembered by his wife, Rita, and children, Gabriel (Melissa), Brionne (Jodie), Rachel Bayes (Doug), Tyler, and Aric. Chris also leaves behind her growing family of great-grandchildren, along with many loving nieces and nephews.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the staff of Brooklyn Living Center and Hospice of Lenawee for their compassionate care and support. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Lenawee in Chris’s honor. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Bill was born on April 22, 1937, to Herbert and Dorothy (Willis) Gentner in Detroit, Mich. When Bill was just six months old, his family moved to the Irish Hills area. As he grew up, he planted his roots deep and never left his beloved Cambridge Township or the South Shore of Wampers Lake, except to spend the winter months in Ft. Myers, Fla. He is a proud 1955 graduate of Onsted High School. Bill married his loving wife, Marjorie (Marge) Hoffman, on February 27, 1960, at St. Joseph Shrine Catholic Church. Together, they raised their beautiful family and began a lifetime of service in the Irish Hills and surrounding areas.

Bill owned and operated Gentner Trucking for 55 years and was also an owner of CTE Sand & Gravel. He believed in giving back to his community through his civic work, public service, humanitarian assistance, or by using his business experience and leadership skills to help in any way he could. Bill is known most notably for being the Irish Hills Fire Chief and a proud member of the fire department for 35 years; serving on the Cambridge Township Board of Trustees and acting as Township Supervisor for 36 years collectively; serving on

the 911 Board; being a lifetime parishioner of St. Joseph Shrine Catholic Church where he served as an altar boy in his youth and Eucharistic Minister as an adult. He was a third Degree Knight of Columbus Council 6223, a member of the Elks Lodge-Adrian, Mich., and a lifetime member of the Michigan Fire Association. He was named an honorary sheriff of the Michigan Sheriffs Association and named Citizen of the Year by Kiwanis International.

Bill enjoyed watching sports, whether it was NASCAR races at Michigan International Speedway, Notre Dame, Michigan Football, or Michigan State Basketball. He also loved spending time with family and friends at his beloved South Shore, riding snowmobiles through the beautiful Irish Hills, or driving his boat around Wampers Lake.

Bill will be greatly missed by his loving wife of 66 years, Marge; his children, Robert (Denise) Gentner, Angela (Jim) Szewczul, David (Sara) Gentner, Tim (Melissa) Gentner; his grandchildren, Rachelle (Nick) Bell, Kaitlyn (fiancé, Grant Neblo) Gentner, David (Page) Gentner II, Ryan Gentner, Cassie (Drew) Andonian, Alysha Szewczul, Derick Gentner, Emily (Alex) Henning, Jessie Szewczul, Joshua Szewczul; his great-grandchildren, Audie, Barrett, Rilee, Ava, Alyvea, Tayte, Amelia, Forest, Jasper, Dakota, Greyson, Hera; his sister, Mary (Richard) Collom, many nieces and nephews, and his beloved dog, Lucy.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Norman Gentner and Joseph Gentner.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to Henry Ford Hospice Home in Jackson, the Cambridge Twp. Fire Department or Police Department. Please leave a message of comfort for Bill’s family or sign his guest book at www.EinederFuneralHomes.com.

Bill was preceded in death by his son, Martin Gavle, and his parents, Aaron and Mary. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Wounded Warrior Project, or Memorial contributions may be given to the family for future designation. Please leave a message of comfort for Thomas’ family or sign his guestbook at www.EinederFuneralHomes.com.

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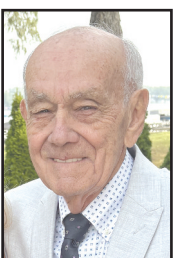
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William ‘Bill’ Gentner

William Robert “Bill” Gentner, 89, of Irish Hills, Mich., passed away peacefully on Friday, June 26, 2026, at Henry Ford Hospice Home in Jackson, surrounded by his loving family. His family and friends will gather from 3 to 8 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2026, at Eineder Funeral Homes — Brooklyn Chapel (137 S. Main St.). Bill’s Mass of Christian Burial will take place at noon, with visitation beginning at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph Shrine Catholic Church (8743 U.S. 12, Brooklyn); interment will immediately follow at St. Joseph Shrine Catholic Cemetery. Fr. Satheesh Alphonse, SDC, will serve as celebrant.



Bill Gentner

Bill was born on April 22, 1937, to Herbert and Dorothy (Willis) Gentner in Detroit, Mich. When Bill was just six months old, his family moved to the Irish Hills area. As he grew up, he planted his roots deep and never left his beloved Cambridge Township or the South Shore of Wampers Lake, except to spend the winter months in Ft. Myers, Fla. He is a proud 1955 graduate of Onsted High School. Bill married his loving wife, Marjorie (Marge) Hoffman, on February 27, 1960, at St. Joseph Shrine Catholic Church. Together, they raised their beautiful family and began a lifetime of service in the Irish Hills and surrounding areas.

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the 911 Board; being a lifetime parishioner of St. Joseph Shrine Catholic Church where he served as an altar boy in his youth and Eucharistic Minister as an adult. He was a third Degree Knight of Columbus Council 6223, a member of the Elks Lodge-Adrian, Mich., and a lifetime member of the Michigan Fire Association. He was named an honorary sheriff of the Michigan Sheriffs Association and named Citizen of the Year by Kiwanis International.

Bill enjoyed watching sports, whether it was NASCAR races at Michigan International Speedway, Notre Dame, Michigan Football, or Michigan State Basketball. He also loved spending time with family and friends at his beloved South Shore, riding snowmobiles through the beautiful Irish Hills, or driving his boat around Wampers Lake.

Bill will be greatly missed by his loving wife of 66 years, Marge; his children, Robert (Denise) Gentner, Angela (Jim) Szewczul, David (Sara) Gentner, Tim (Melissa) Gentner; his grandchildren, Rachelle (Nick) Bell, Kaitlyn (fiancé, Grant Neblo) Gentner, David (Page) Gentner II, Ryan Gentner, Cassie (Drew) Andonian, Alysha Szewczul, Derick Gentner, Emily (Alex) Henning, Jessie Szewczul, Joshua Szewczul; his great-grandchildren, Audie, Barrett, Rilee, Ava, Alyvea, Tayte, Amelia, Forest, Jasper, Dakota, Greyson, Hera; his sister, Mary (Richard) Collom, many nieces and nephews, and his beloved dog, Lucy.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Norman Gentner and Joseph Gentner.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to Henry Ford Hospice Home in Jackson, the Cambridge Twp. Fire Department or Police Department. Please leave a message of comfort for Bill’s family or sign his guest book at www.EinederFuneralHomes.com.

Bill was preceded in death by his son, Martin Gavle, and his parents, Aaron and Mary. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Wounded Warrior Project, or Memorial contributions may be given to the family for future designation. Please leave a message of comfort for Thomas’ family or sign his guestbook at www.EinederFuneralHomes.com.

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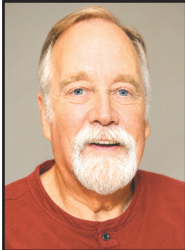
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Thomas Emmons Gavle

Thomas Emmons Gavle, 80, passed away on June 22, 2026.

Military Honors will take place at a later date.

Thomas was born on May 6, 1946, in Detroit, Michigan, to Aaron Marcellus Gavle and Mary Esther Emmons. Thomas remarried the love of his life, Dolores Antoinette Lewandowski,



Thomas Gavle

on November 8, 1986, at Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church. He graduated from Dearborn High School in 1964 and enlisted in the United States Army, and was a Bronze Star recipient. He went on to work for the Norfolk Southern Railway

(NS) for 30 years as a switchman. Thomas was a member of the Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church. He was an active member with the VVA in Detroit, Michigan, where he was heavily involved with PTSD services.

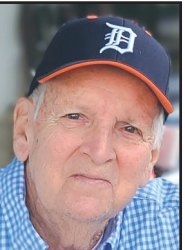
Thomas will be missed by his loving wife, Dolores “Lorie”; his stepson, Jeffrey Liss of Brooklyn; brother, Brad Gavle; niece Erin (Chris) Meile. He is

Terry Gene Hotz Sr.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Terrance (Terry) Gene Hotz Sr after battling a courageous but short, unexpected illness. He passed peacefully on March 6, 2026, in Troy, Michigan, with his two sons and their family by his side.

Terry was born on October 30, 1939, in Loogootee, Indiana, and later moved to Dearborn, Michigan. At a young age, Terry took to building and flying Control Line or U-Control model Airplanes with his dad. He was very proud of his skill and told many stories of his aerial victories. He won several competitions and was featured in publications for the Seventh International Olympic Games Model Aviation contest.

At the age of 17, Terry joined the United States Navy with his best friend and proudly served his country aboard the Destroyer USS Perdy as a machinist mate working in the engine room. During his time in the Navy, he participated in a four-month cruise in the Mediterranean, Red Sea, and Persian Gulf. Just before leaving the Navy, he participated in operations supporting the



Terry Hotz

Cuban Missile Crisis. Terry truly enjoyed and was proud of his time in the Navy and shared many humorous stories of his time on board the ship and the many ports of call he visited.

After leaving the Navy, he returned to Dearborn and met his wife, Carol Jean (Yacubac). They were married in 1962 and began building their life together.

For many years, Terry worked for Ford Motor Company in Dearborn as a sheet metal apprentice, but something was missing-lake life was calling his name. Terry and Carol were very fond of boating and being on the water, and in the 1970s, they bought a vacant lot on Lake Columbia in Brooklyn, Mich. It was then that he took a brief voluntary layoff from Ford and started building his dream home himself. Weekdays, he worked alone, then on weekends, his friends and sons helped (when his boys weren’t frolicking in the lake).

Several years later, after commuting to Dearborn, he decided to retire from Ford and bought the Amoco Gas Station

that formerly stood on the corner of Main and Chicago Streets in downtown Brooklyn. He was a very respected and trusted businessman and a loyal member of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. Terry had a charitable sole and if you couldn’t afford to buy gas or get your car repaired, he was known to say, “pay when you can”. In the mid 80’s, he earned his Real Estate/Brokers License and converted the gas station to a Reality World Allied Real Estate Office and achieved the Top Broker/Owner for the North Central Region in 1986.

Although Michigan and lake living were a wonderful place to raise a family, as empty nesters, it was time for adventure. Terry and Carol moved West near his military son Terry to Brookings, Oregon, buying a small home overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Soon it was time to move on to the warmer weather of Spring Hill, Florida, to the same community as several Michigan friends lived. They enjoyed golfing and gatherings with old and new friends. After 16 years of insane heat, it was then off to Lynchburg, Virginia, where they made many new friends and enjoyed drives along the scenic Skyline Drive

Pamela Kay Lamb

Pamela Kay Lamb, 77, passed away on June 22, 2026, after a long battle with complications from an autoimmune disorder.

Pam was born on March 6, 1949, in Tecumseh, Mich., to Walter Merle Lamb and Carmen Ona Pfaffinger. She was a loving mother, nana, sister, and dear friend whose presence brought much laughter, smiles, and good memories. Pam enjoyed trips to Lake Michigan to hunt for rocks on the beach with her secret club, the Rockhounds, and to other destinations in the Upper Peninsula and to Florida with her kids and grandkids.



Pamela Lamb

She had a standing luncheon with a close group of girlfriends, played pickleball when she was still able to, and made blankets and pillows for her grandchildren.

Pam was the kind of person who was easy to talk to and made those around her feel comfortable. She was the center of her family, always providing strength, advice, and support when needed. Pam had the wisdom of life experience and a quiet strength that never forgot what was most important. To her, that was always family.

Pamela will be missed by her children, Barry (BJ Lee,

Gregory (Erika) Lee, Kimberly Rickert, and Darrel (Jennifer) Lee; siblings, Sandy (Tim) Spicer, Angela Lamb, Beth (Jay) Clouse, Bruce (Linda) Calloway, Dawn (Ron) Jarrett, Brett Calloway, Brandon (Julie) Calloway, and grandchildren; Dustin (Aleisha) Lee, Danielle Lee, Bailey (Tyler) Hull, Jacob Rickert, Cole Rickert, and Leila Rickert; great grandchildren, Jameson Connelly, Molly Hull, and Leo Lee; and many beloved nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her mother, Carmen Coury, her father, Walter Lamb, and her brothers, Brian (Cindy) Calloway and Walter (Anita) Lamb.

Please join us in celebrating her life this Saturday morning,

Diane Rene Reichel

Diane Rene Reichel, age 66, of Addison, passed away on Monday, June 15, 2026, at Hospice of Northwest Ohio Ebeid Hospice Center, Sylvania, Ohio. She was born on November 11, 1959, in Belleville, the daughter of James E. and Darlynn (Rowlett) Reichel.



Diane Reichel

Diane graduated from Belleville High School in 1977. She worked for several years at Thompson Recycle as a pilot car driver for oversized loads and private contracting.

Diane loved listening to music, singing, and the simple pleasure of canoeing in rivers and streams.

Diane is survived by

two sons, Tim (Kaeleigh) Reichel and Dan (Marlania) Reichel, four grandchildren, Alyssa, Mikahyla, Jameison, and Lennox, a special adopted grandchild, TJ, three brothers, David Reichel, Keith (Andrea) Foote, and Leonard Whitacre, a sister, Dolly Thrift, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Ted Reichel.

Cremation has taken place.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Visionary violinist to perform July 9 at The Ashlar

By JACKIE KOCH
Meadowbrook Media

The violin is considered by many to be one of the most difficult instruments to learn and master. According to save-themusic.org, the fretless neck requires an exceptional ear for pitch and precise finger placement, and bowing involves sensitive pressure and control. “But when mastered, the violin becomes an extension of the soul. Its expressive range – from heartbreak to exhilaration – makes it one of the most soul-stirring instruments out there,” the website states.

Most people associate violinists with classical music, but Dixon of Dixon’s Violin has built a career on creating melodies through improvisation, performing for crowds from Michigan to South Africa since he had an awakening at the Burning Man festival in Nevada more than 20 years ago. He will perform for the first time in Tecumseh on Thursday, July 9, from 7-8:15 p.m. at The Ashlar, 700 Bishop Reed Drive.

Calling himself a “recovering geek,” Dixon, who grew up in Davison, graduated from the University of Michigan-Flint with a master’s degree in computer science. He was the assistant concertmaster of the University of Michigan-Flint Symphony and the assistant concertmaster of the Flint Youth Symphony, and spent nearly 20 years working on data visualization at tech startup companies.

“Then I had a life change. I kind of had my heart cracked open at a festival, and

that’s when I started shifting my focus,” he said. “Honestly, I went there because I thought it was just a big party and I was feeling a little blah in my life at the time. Work was going great, but otherwise I felt like I needed something to shake me up.”

During that experience in 2005 he realized how rigid his life had become. “I was really holding myself back. I was always in my head. I was very much ignoring my feelings, and it was just eye-opening,” said Dixon. “I saw people really expressing themselves and I was like, wow, I never do that and I should change. I should do that because it would feel much better. And when I started to do that, it just changed everything.”

A classical musician since he was 10, he began to experiment with his five-string electric violin and find a different sound, one that resonated with how he felt.

“I’d been playing music for 25 years. But when I started to really find my own sound and be able to express myself through music, I really fell in love with it, and that’s when I realized I had to quit the corporate world and do this full time,” he said.

He started by sitting in with various bands, and occasionally got a chance to take the stage on his own during a break. Eventually he struck out on his own. What he didn’t expect was to inspire people through his story.

“I was just starting to do my solo stuff and in between songs, I kind of offhandedly mentioned to the audience that I just

quit the corporate world and I’m now doing this full time. And the audience went nuts,” Dixon said. “Like, they applauded just as loud, if not louder, than for the songs I was playing. And that’s when I realized, oh, my words are important. I can inspire people not just from the notes, but also I can inspire them through my story.”

He designed a live looping system with effects that allow for a wide range of expression, creating a sound that would normally be possible only with multiple instruments. Besides inspiring audiences with his story, his music is deeply emotional. Dixon says he delights in the strong connections he has with people as a result of his performances.

“The foundation under all of this is inspiration. I want people to have a wow factor, to be deeply moved, and to come away with a completely different mindset for what they think is possible,” he said.

Dixon’s trajectory has included giving four TED talks and performances and over 10 years performing at Burning Man, as well as radio, TV and film appearances.

Only 275 tickets will be sold for the July 9 concert. Doors of The Ashlar will open at 6:30 p.m., and online ticket sales are available at DV20260709.eventbrite.com for \$32; \$12 for students; \$7 for children 12 and under (includes fees). If still available, tickets at the door the night of the event will be \$40.

For more information on Dixon’s Violin, visit dixonsviolin.com.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The international musician Dixon of Dixon’s Violin will make his first appearance in Tecumseh at The Ashlar on the evening of July 9.

Hot Air Jubilee offers balloons and more July 17-19

By JACKIE KOCH
Meadowbrook Media

Hot air balloons and family-friendly fun will be the theme of the annual Hot Air Jubilee (HAJ) to be held Friday through Sunday, July 17-19, at Ella Sharp Park, 2800 4th St., Jackson. The free weekend event will be just part of a week of hot air balloon flights by the Women’s National Championship (USWNC), with other Jubilee participants piloting their balloons on the weekend.

According to Angela Madden, chair of the HAJ committee, the event was started in 1983 by Jackson area balloon pilot Tony Hurst, who went to a balloon festival out of state with a couple of other local pilots. “They realized that they wanted to do something for the local Jackson community as well, and that is how the Hot Air Jubilee started. It was a small group of local balloon pilots who got together one weekend in July to just fly together,” said Madden. Forty-three years later, the tradition continues.

Since 2023, the Jubilee has hosted the U.S. Women’s National Championship. Those pilots have their competition flights on the days leading up to the weekend event, with an award ceremony on the launch field Saturday evening. They conclude the evening by doing a night glow flight as a celebratory farewell.

The Jubilee will also include a Jeep show where Jeep owners can bring their vehicles to show off, a classic car show, helicopter, Model T and balloon rides, and of course, a lot of balloon watching. “You get a great aerial view of the park and other parts of the surrounding Jackson area,” Madden said of the rides in the sky.

Add to that 23 food trucks on site, more than 60 craft and goods vendors, a family fun zone, carnival games for kids, inflatables, outdoor games and a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education tent.

“Ballooning is very science heavy, even though it is a very primitive form of aviation.

There is a lot of science that goes into it,” said Madden. “So we have experts, including a pilot that will be in the education tent to answer questions about ballooning. You can get right up and close and personal to various parts of a hot air balloon.”

The festival will open at 3 p.m. Friday, with an evening launch by HAJ pilots around 7 p.m. and a night glow launch at 9 p.m. Morning launches by both groups will take place Saturday starting at 6:30 a.m., the festival will open at 3 p.m., and the evening launch by HAJ pilots will commence at 7 p.m. The USWNC pilots will participate in their night glow launch at 9 p.m. following the Women’s National Championship Awards presentation and ceremony at 7 p.m. The festival will close both Friday and Saturday at 10 p.m.

HAJ balloon pilots will participate in one last morning launch on Sunday, July 19, from 7-7:30 a.m.

Madden has been the chair of the 11-member volunteer board for three years. She began volunteering as a crew member for the festival as a teenager, observing to verify pilots’ adherence to competition rules. After a while away, she returned to join the board. But she never left the sport, as she is a balloon pilot, herself.

“I think what I enjoy most about ballooning is the social aspect of hot air ballooning. It is teaching people about the sport. It is watching their faces light up when you can put a 70-foot-tall piece of fabric filled with air in front of them and turn a 12 to 18 million BTU burner on and they can hear it and they can feel the heat and it is just absolutely remarkable,” she said. “And then when you connect the dots and you can say you actually learned how this works in science class in middle school, that’s how primitive this technology is, and just to see the pure joy on people’s faces is really what I enjoy about ballooning in general.”

To learn more about the Jubilee, visit hotairjubilee.com.



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Hot air balloons and family-friendly fun will be featured at the Hot Air Jubilee in Jackson July 17 and 18.

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