

Norvell mine



FoWL Vice President Laura Watkins Koelewijn helped with a presentation about Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve before a capacity crowd at the last Norvell Township regular board meeting in June.

He answered the call
Long time fire
fighter retires



Columbia Charter Township firefighter Lt. Wayne Marta manned the pump on the bitter cold morning on January, 2025 to help battle a house fire at Clarklake.

By Scott Cota
Fire chief,
Columbia Charter
Township

Today marks the end of an extraordinary chapter in the history of The Columbia Charter Township Fire Department as Lieutenant Wayne Marta retires after 35 years of dedicated service.

On behalf of Columbia Charter Township, we would like to express our deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation for Lt. Marta's unwavering commitment to our fire department, our firefighters, and the community we are privileged to serve.

For more than three decades, Wayne has answered the call without hesitation. He has served with professionalism, integrity, and compassion through countless emergencies, long nights, difficult decisions, and moments that demanded courage and selflessness. His dedication has helped shape the department into what it is today, while his leadership has guided and mentored generations of firefighters who have had the privilege of serving alongside him.

A career in the fire service is one of sacrifice – not only for the firefighter, but also for their family. Thirty-five years of missed holidays, interrupted family gatherings, sleepless nights, and countless hours spent protecting others represents a commitment that deserves our highest respect. Wayne has given that commitment willingly, placing the safety and well-being of our residents above himself time and time again. The Columbia Charter Township community has been safer because of his service, stronger because of his leadership, and better because of his character. His legacy will not only be measured by the years he served, but by the lives he touched, the firefighters he mentored, and the example he set every day by leading with humility, dedication, and honor.

As Lieutenant Marta begins this well-earned retirement, we wish him and his family many years of good health, happiness, and the opportunity to enjoy the rewards of a remarkable career. While he will certainly be missed around the station, his impact on this department will remain for many years to come. Please join us in thanking Lieutenant Wayne Marta for 35 years of faithful service, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to the Columbia Charter Township Fire Department and the citizens of our community.



End of an era

Rerouting river is uncovering history, officially bringing to an end Henry Ford's dream of hydro-powered manufacturing.



Above: Workers dig around what they believe to be an old dam or spillway as they prepare to reroute the river Raisin around the dam constructed by the Ford Motor Company in 1938. Photo by Matt Schepeler.

Story, photos by Matt Schepeler

After years of studies, meetings, and obtaining the necessary permits surrounding the fate of the Old Irish Mill dam, aka the Brooklyn Dam, heavy equipment began moving dirt last week, forever altering the landscape and bringing to an official end Henry Ford's vision of water-powered manufacturing in Brooklyn.

Motorists driving by the Old Irish Mill will notice a stark difference, now that the hill or "bowl" has been partially removed.

The rerouting of the river is just part of a larger project titled the *Upper River Raisin Watershed Restoration and Connectivity Project*. The overall project also incorporates two other projects, including the Nooney Dam Fish Passage Project, on Vineyard Lake, as well as replacing the Mill Street bridge.

"We are anticipating no more than two months to do the (rerouting around the dam portion) – have it wrapped up by the beginning of September at the latest," stated Chris Freiburger, coordinator for the project with Niswander Environmental.

Freiburger also said discussions are taking place with adjacent property owners and plans are being finalized for a natural rock arch rapids for fish passage below Nooney Dam, the outlet of Vineyard Lake. "We're not going to touch the dam – it's the lake level control structure for Vineyard Lake," he said. "The rapids will extend about 80 feet downstream from the dam. Fish will actually be able to swim to get over the top of the dam. Once they get past that dam, it opens up 44 miles of river and 14 lakes upstream."

Freiburger said that part of the project is slated for completion in 2027.

See *River restoration* page 2



Village of Brooklyn Manager Matt Swartzlander, left, Riley Lecka of Wildlands Construction, and Dennis Spittler, Village of Brooklyn DPW Supervisor, discuss the ongoing construction project at the former mill pond site.

Onsted
village
positions
filled



Sumpter



Davis

Meet the
new people
serving
Onsted
residents



Lovins

Story & Photos
By Michelle McLemore
Staff writer

New hires began during July at the Onsted Village Office while five Council seats are up for election in November. Interested parties in any of the positions must register as a candidate by no later than July 21. The positions on the ballot include President, a two-year trustee, and three four-year trustee positions.

The newest employees shared the following.

Nicole Sumpter
Position: Clerk
Home: Napoleon

Helpful experiences: "Throughout my career, I've had the opportunity to develop strong communication, organization, and problem-solving skills that will help me succeed in this position. I've worked in roles that required me to serve the public, collaborate with others, and adapt to new challenges, all of which have prepared me to step into this role with confidence."

Looking forward to: "Building relationships with residents, helping improve village services, and being involved in projects that benefit the community. I'm excited to continue learning, growing in my role, and doing my part to help make Onsted a great place to live, work, and visit."

Additionally: "I look forward to meeting each resident and being able to provide kind, caring service you deserve."

Sherry Lovins
Position: Treasurer
Home: Onsted

Helpful Experiences: "My background and experience are in finance. Most recently I acted as the controller for a large international plastics manufacturing firm handling both finance and human Resources."

Looking forward to: "Working with the Onsted Village residents and doing whatever I can to help those in our community."

Additionally: "We moved to Onsted many years ago. We love living here and are very happy to call it home."

Wraiya Davis
Position: Government Intern
Home: "I am not a resident of the village, but I have attended Onsted Schools my entire life, so I have always felt connected to the Onsted community."

Helpful Experiences: "I have been a member of Onsted's Youth in Government club since eighth grade and have served as a delegation leader since my sophomore year. During the 2024 presidential election, I worked as an election poll worker for Cambridge Township and plan to do so again for the upcoming elections."

See *Onsted* page 2



Riley Lecka, a heavy equipment operator for Wildlands Construction, points out the hand-hewed log that was used as part of a dam or spillway before 1938. Note the notches in the top of the log, which likely had something to do with controlling the water levels.

River Restoration from page 1

In conjunction with the Upper River Raisin (URR) project, the replacement of the Mill Street bridge in front of the Old Irish Mill is slated to begin in February of 2027.

Of course, one never knows what they will find when they start digging, and one of the things the construction crew has turned up appears to be the old dam located just west of the existing concrete dam ford constructed in 1938.

In the historical book 'Round the Square, author Guilford Rothfuss highlights the Brooklyn waste gates, which were removed when Ford had his better idea. Apparently there had been three dams, or waste gates before. One was destroyed by a washout in 1908 but reconstructed. Before those, "no one knows when [the previous] one was built."

Incidentally, Niswander Environmental officials say the

River Raisin has more than 60 dams on it (including some small ones), hence the 44-mile limit on the amount of habitat opened up to aquatic organisms.

"One of the reasons [for receiving federal funding to help with the project] was to restore some federally threatened mussel habitat," said Todd Losee, president of Niswander Environmental. "We didn't find any federally threatened mus-

sels, but we did find some state-threatened mussels. We are trying to restore and make more of that type of habitat." In the early phases of the project, some mussels were moved to upstream locations to protect them from construction work. "The mussels that we moved are going to stay where they're at now. We'll be watching that and hopefully get some more established."

Program 'A blooming success'

Village announces winners of 2026 Adopt-A-Planter Program



Lifelong Brooklyn resident Betsy Currie and her granddaughter, Ally, were the overall winners of the 2026 Brooklyn Adopt-A-Planter Program for their work beautifying the garden areas outside the Weatherwax Park restrooms.

By John Hummer
Editor

You may have noticed the beautiful planters and garden areas filled with flowers in the Village of Brooklyn. Those come with a lot of hard work and as a true community effort under the village's Adopt-

A-Planter Program.

A summer tradition since 2009, the Adopt-A-Planter Program is a way for the community to get involved in Brooklyn's beautification and make Main Street more welcoming to residents and visitors. This year, the

community sponsored 27 planters. Participants donated flowers and planted them along Main Street in late May. Sponsors are encouraged to maintain the planters while the Village's Department of Public Works provides regular waterings.

The Village of Brooklyn is now recognizing the residents, businesses and organizations that have brightened up Main Street under the program for all to enjoy. Following judging that took place on Monday, June 29, the village has announced the winners of the 2026 Adopt-A-Planter Program. Due to the high number of impressive entries and variety of planter shapes, judges decided to award a first place best overall winner and recognize the top three selections for both circular and rectangular planters.

First Place Best Overall
Betsy Currie and Grand-

daughter Ally

Top 3: Circular Planters
ERA Reardon Realty
Heart O' The Lakes
Women's Club
Village Peddler Gift Shoppe

Top 3: Rectangular Planters
Girl Scout Troop #60387
Donna Howland
Swiss Swirl Ice Cream

Overall winner Besty Currie adopted the garden areas outside the Weatherwax Park restrooms with her 6-year-old granddaughter, Ally. Currie, a lifelong Brooklyn resident, has been adopting planters for the past four summers and is thankful for this award.

"It's really amazing," said Currie. "We were going with a whimsical look, something that would appeal to kids as well as adults with lots of color."

They will get their names engraved on the official Adopt-A-Planter trophy, which includes the names of past winners, and get to hold the trophy for one year. The Village of Brooklyn thanks the other residents, businesses and organizations that adopted planters this year:

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Lakeside Custom Printing
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Edward Jones Financial Advisors
Dawn Burmeister
Patrone's Day Spa
Pinetree Antique Mall
Carol Moran
Sweet Caroline's Clothing Boutique
Shady's Tap Room
Abie Baldwin & Taylor Ave
The Morris Smith Agency
Val Herr
The Fugate Family
Angel's Floral Creations
Skiff Lake Bible Church
Terri Staub Clark
Lutheran Church of the Lakes

Onsted from page 1

Last summer, I interned at the Lenawee County Courthouse, specifically in the Juvenile and Probate Court. Those experiences, along with my willingness to learn and strong communication skills, have prepared me for this role."

Looking forward to: "I am passionate about politics and public policy. When I learned that Onsted's superintendent had recommended me for the position, I was excited for the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in local government and serve my community."

Additionally: "Although I am still in high school, I am eager to learn and contribute. I am grateful to Mr. Royce and the Village Council for this opportunity. I am excited to serve the community while gaining valuable experience."

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‘Not in the Irish Hills’

Irish Hills Concerned Citizens continues to push opposition to mine



FoWL Vice President Laura Watkins Koelewijn tag-teamed a presentation about Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve with President Spencer Kellum (shown in photo below) before a capacity crowd at the last Norvell Township regular board meeting in June.

“The fact is that this is Norvell Township’s decision to make, and it is one of the most important decisions this community could face for generations.”

Emily Jade Foley
Irish Hills Concerned Citizens

Story and photos
By John Hummer
Editor

Sixteen area residents, many that are members of the Irish Hills Concerned Citizens (IHCC) group, came prepared with specific reasons they presented to the Norvell Township board at their June meeting why they oppose the multi-hundred-acre gravel mine being proposed in then township. The mine is being proposed by American Aggregates of Michigan, one of 59 subsidiaries of the Edward C. Levy Company (also called the Levy Group of Companies), based in Dearborn. The mining activity proposed is in the heart of Norvell Township adjacent to Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve.

IHCC President Sybil Kolon noted that there are at least 609 properties that could be affected by the gravel mine. IHCC member Marty Godin spoke on the petition drive the group has spearheaded opposing the mine. He said over 850 signed petitions were received by the township board meeting. The purpose of the IHCC petition drive is to demonstrate broad public opposition to the proposed mine and to show local officials and the wider community how many residents and property owners are concerned about the project and its potential impacts.

IHCC Vice President Andy Buchsbaum presented the board with a map of what would be the most likely affected properties within a mile radius of the proposed gravel mine site and/or within a quarter mile of the proposed haul routes.

Other members focused on haul routes and truck traffic concerns; potential damage to Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve; water use and water table impacts; the pristine prairie fens, birds, and threatened species whose habitat in the area could be negatively impacted; safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, and motor vehicles; truck noise; road and air quality impacted by large volumes of truck traffic; the resulting decrease in property values if the mine goes in; and the loss of rural character (of which the township master

plan says should be preserved).

Summary of gravel mine proposal decision

IHCC board member Emily Jade Foley then provided a summary of the pending decision that the township board may likely face yet this calendar year as well as a summary of the other IHCC speakers that spoke before her during public comment. Her words are printed in their entirety (with some minor editing) here:

“There is a narrative that Levy (the parent mining company) wants this [board] to believe – that this mine is inevitable – that there is no hope in stopping it because the company has too much money, too many lawyers, and the products they sell are too valuable. But that narrative is not supported by the law. The fact is that this is Norvell Township’s decision to make and it is one of the most important decisions this community could face for generations.

As you consider this decision, I encourage you to look at the future land use map hanging on the wall. It shows a community built around preserved natural spaces, agriculture, and low density residential living with very little industrial land use. That is not accidental. It reflects the future this community envisioned for itself through its master plan.

Tonight you’ve heard evidence showing just how many normal residents would be affected by the proposed mine. The impact map demonstrates that a substantial portion of the township would experience the effects of this mine every single day...Taken individually, each of these concerns (noted above) deserve careful consideration. Taken together, these concerns paint a clear picture: This is an extraordinarily poor location for a mine.

The 850 [residents] who signed petitions opposing this proposal are not asking you to deny this application simply because we don’t like it. They’re asking you to apply the standards that already exist in Norvell Township’s ordinance and in Michigan law. Under Article 7 of the township’s zoning ordinance, a



mining permit must be denied if very serious consequences would result. Those consequences include impacts on existing land uses, property values, traffic, safety, and other identifiable health, safety, and welfare interests as a community.

The master plan is designed to reflect those interests. It is your duty to weigh the evidence, apply the laws, and make the decision that best protects the health, safety, welfare, and the long term vision of normal Township. The future of this community is not predetermined. It is in your hands.”

Other Norvell Township board business

In other business, the board held a public hearing for its 2026-2027 budget then adopted a resolution that

adopts the township budget. The board also approved its 2026 tax rate request to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners at 0.7310 (from 0.9831 after the Headlee Rollback); adopted a resolution approving the rate of \$21.50 per hour for the positions of deputy clerk, deputy treasurer, and office manager/permitting clerk, effective July 1, 2026 as part of the adopted township budget; adopted a resolution approving the rate of \$75.00 (increased from \$65.00) per inspection for the electrical, mechanical, and plumbing inspectors, effective July 1, 2026 as part of the adopted township budget; and adopted a resolution increasing the Vineyard Lake Sewer District rates, effective July 1, 2026 as stated in the resolution.



IHCC Vice President Andy Buchsbaum spoke about the most likely affected properties of the proposed gravel mine site and/or within a quarter mile of the proposed haul routes.

Shaw on board

Somerset Township supervisor appointed to Michigan Townships Association Board of Directors

From staff reports

Somerset Township Supervisor Tim Shaw has been appointed to the Michigan Townships Association (MTA) Board of Directors, as director of MTA District 24, which encompasses Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties. Serving Michigan’s 1,240 townships, MTA is the largest municipal association in the state and one of the largest in the nation.

The MTA Board helps to guide the association in serving, safeguarding and strengthening Michigan township government, and Shaw said he looks forward to “keeping townships’ interests moving forward,” of his new leadership role.

“Local control is vital to protect. I believe in what MTA stands for, and the accomplishments that I have seen in recent years.”

Shaw has been township supervisor for a decade. He served as chief of Addison Fire & EMS, in Addison Township (Oakland Co.) for 30 years, and was also a school board member for 10 years.

“Schools and public safety are two of the most important parts of our lives. With my background in public service, I will be able to share insights on key topics in this area,” he said.

FoWL to host bike and hike stewardship workday Sunday

The Friends of Watkins Lake State Park (FoWL) and Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Department are teaming up to host a summer bike and hike volunteer workday focused on phragmites assessment and treatment.

Weather permitting, this workday will take place at Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve Sunday, July 26 from 1-3 p.m. Participants will meet at the Watkins Lake State Park trail-head. The goal of the workday is largely to connect people of all ages and interests at a rare and beautiful local expanse of grassland habitat restored by Washtenaw County and Ducks Unlimited through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Volunteers will assess and inventory existing and emerging phragmites populations at this location. The workday is being facilitated with support from the Jackson-Lenawee-Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (JLW-CISMA) group and Stewardship Network. Comfortable work pants and work gloves are encouraged. Worktools and extra gloves will be provided in addition to energizing snacks and water. Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve is located at 14801 Arnold Road, Brooklyn. No RSVP required, and notices of weather related postponement will be posted at protectingwatkinslake.org or on the Friends of Watkins Lake Facebook account.

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Having a ball!



Beth Anderson of Jackson brought her twin 4-year-old boys, Brooks and Harvey, to the Grass Lake Traffic Jam last Friday. The boys each obtained a soccer beach ball at the event. PHOTO BY JOHN HUMMER

Letter to the editor
Congress is a silent partner in ongoing corruption

Dear editor,

On July 4, we celebrated our country's independence. On July 3, we received, at our secure Clarklake post office box, absentee mail ballots safely processed and delivered from the Columbia Township offices. What a gift. American flags and decorations are everywhere. People have time off work to celebrate life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Yet we worry as we see our Constitution that guarantees these rights swept away piece by piece via "Executive Powers".

During a Department of Justice hearing in June 2026 regarding stopping the unauthorized \$400 million White House ballroom project, a lawyer for the Justice Department told the court, "Even if the president wanted to 'bulldoze' the Statue of Liberty, no one could stop him".

Jackson Citizen Patriot, June 14, 2026, the article "Congress is a silent partner in Trump's astonishing corruption" spoke to Trump family enrichment and the Republican silence. Mr. Trump reported he earned \$2.2 BILLION in personal gains in the first year of this term, while his one big, beautiful bill made cuts to food assistance, health care, education programs, and student loans and gave tax breaks to the wealthy. The Republican Congress who rarely works yet is paid and receives their benefits, passed the bill with zero Democratic support.

Mr. Trump is a temporary resident in our White House, spending our tax dollars on his self-centered projects and demeaning to the office spectacles such a bloody cage fights on our White House lawn. He will move out much richer, and we will be left with debt and damage.

The unauthorized war in Iran rages on with questionably qualified peace negotiators, Witkoff (a real estate developer and golf partner of Mr. Trump) and Mr. Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, a businessman and investor. Maybe nice guys, but experienced peacemakers?

We pray our armed service people put in harm's way solely by Mr. Trump are kept safe as he flies about in the gift jet from the royal family of Qatar that cost US taxpayers just under \$400 million to upgrade and belongs to him, not us.

Constance O'Connor
Clarklake

Guest editorial

Public notices under threat
Michigan's public notice requirements help hold elected (and non-elected) officials accountable

By Bruce Rolfe

At a time when public trust in our government is at a historic low, transparency has never been more important. Decisions made by our elected officials have an impact on the lives of our families, friends, neighbors, and communities. That is why we must protect — and not weaken — policies in Michigan that require information about government actions to be published online and in print by our local newspapers.

Some state lawmakers are considering removing public and legal notice requirements in Michigan. At a time when our state ranks among the worst in the United States for government transparency, this is a terrible idea that should be rejected.

Public notices provide access to information needed to participate in community decision-making, including election information and notices of public meetings on topics that could impact our everyday lives. They provide information about tax proposals, zoning changes, new ordinances and other actions that could affect local communities. Along with the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act, public notices are an essential part of ensuring the public can see what their elected officials are doing.

Our local newspapers remain the best place to publish public notices because they're a trusted, independent third party. They provide a permanent, time stamped record of government activity that can't be removed, edited, manipulated or lost somewhere on a government website. Local newspapers are also providing access to notices on their websites and on the website Michigan Public Notices, which gives 24/7 access of notices to the public for free.

Whether it's a change in zoning laws, a budget hearing, notice of bids or ordinance updates, publication of these notices provides verifiable proof and a public record that residents received proper notice and that elected leaders followed the law.

Newspapers are also accessible. Local Michigan newspapers big and small reach thousands of households and can also be found at public libraries and various other public spaces. They don't depend on a person's ability to access the internet, a smartphone or a government website.

Public notice requirements in Michigan allow local communities to help ensure the people elected to serve are acting in the public's interest rather than for personal or political gain.

Our state lawmakers

should focus on improving transparency, not making it worse. Government works best when residents can inspect and see the ways important decisions are made and how public funds are

spent. Through transparency and public notice requirements, officials are held more accountable to those they are elected to serve, and the public can access information that affects their lives.

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Columbia Charter Township fire report

July 2
Fire: Hayes Road;
Rescue: West Mill Pond Drive; Fire: Riverside Road/Peterson Road; Fire: Irwin Street/Peterson Road; Fire: Irwin Street; Rescue: North Drive; Fire: Monroe Pike; Fire: Dearmyer Road/Cement City Road; Fire: Case Road (2); Fire: Cannes Circle; Fire: North Lake Road/York Road; Rescue: North Grand Pointe Drive; Fire: Jefferson Road/Sandy Beach Drive; Fire: Clark Lake Road/Crego Road; Fire: Cement City Road; Fire: Clark Lake Road; Fire: Riviera Drive; Fire: Sandy Beach Drive; Fire: Jefferson Road; Fire: White Road/Hyde Road; Fire: North Shore Drive; Fire: Case Road/Wolf Road;
July 4
Rescue: Lakeview Drive; Fire: Dearmyer Road/Taylor Road; Fire: School Street; Fire: Nottingham Drive; Rescue: Camelot Court;
July 5
Fire: North Grand Pointe Drive; Fire: Hilltop Court; Fire: Oakwood Beach Drive (2); Rescue: Reed Road; Fire: Cass Road/Wolf Lake Road; Fire: Sandy Beach Drive/Jefferson Road; Rescue: Eagle Point Drive; Rescue: Claremont Circle;
July 6
Fire: Nottingham Drive; Rescue: Wolf Lake Road;
July 7
Rescue: Water Road/Wolf Lake Road;
Street; Rescue: South Mill Street; Rescue: North Lake Road; Rescue: Camelot Court; Rescue: Boyce Drive;
July 8
Rescue: Sherman Street; Rescue: Ocean Beach Road;
July 9
Fire: Somerset Drive; Rescue: Marshall Street; Rescue: Ernest Street; Rescue: North Shore Drive;
July 10
Assist Other Agency (Fire): Wetherby Road/South Meridian Road; Rescue: Constitution Avenue; Rescue: Ocean Beach Drive;
July 11
Rescue: Monroe Pike (3); Rescue: Hyde Road; Fire: Wamplers Lake Road; Rescue: Palo Alto Drive (2); Rescue: Wesch Road;
July 12
Rescue: Jefferson Road; Rescue: Hawthorne Drive;
July 13
Rescue: South Main; Rescue: Crego Road;
July 14
Rescue: Palo Alto Drive; Fire: Wamplers Lake Road/Audell Drive; Fire: Cement City Road/Kelley Road; Rescue: North Grand Pointe Drive; Rescue: Constitution Avenue; Rescue: Castlewood Drive;
July 15
Rescue: Cannes Drive; Rescue: North Main Street;

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End of an era

District to hang onto land - for now - after razing building



The former Ackerson Lake High School was reduced to rubble last week. Oscar Herrera of Handy Excavating LLC used the backhoe to raze the former high school.



Patrick Dillon

**Story and photos
By John Hummer
Editor**

An icon of the past of Napoleon Community Schools is no longer. Ackerson Lake School, later referred to as Ackerson Lake High School when it was no longer used by lower grades, is being demolished. Crews began work on the demolition project on Friday, July 10.

"It's been slated for demolition for over a year," stated Patrick Dillon, Napoleon Community Schools superintendent. He noted the cost of the demolition is \$105,200, which was the lowest of five bids submitted for the project. Workers say the project, including complete removal of the building and all the cement sidewalks on the school grounds, will take about a month.

When asked about the future of the property, Dillon said, "Right now there is not a specific plan. The first order of business is to get rid of the building because it was not usable. Given the age of the building, there were a lot of materials in there that needed to be abated."

Once all the materials abatement took place, the building slowly started to get knocked down with heavy equipment by Handy Excavating LLC out of Quincy.

"The school board and the district will make some plans moving forward from there once we have a better picture of what we're doing," noted Dillon. "As of right now, there are no definitive plans. This is the first step – to get that outdated building – that nothing can be done with – out of there, and level the turf so the next steps can be figured out and we do what's best for our district."

Dillon added that as of right

now, the district intends to continue owning the property as it is the home cross country course for the district. Community youth leagues also currently utilize that space.

The Ackerson Lake school building was constructed in 1957 to serve as the district's high school. By the 1961-62 school year, the school had already been repurposed for junior high grades, and the high school program was moved and housed in a new building, the current Napoleon High School building. The Ackerson Lake school building later served as an alternative high school offering flexible, personalized learning.

Due to budget reasons and the condition of the Ackerson Lake school building, at the start of the 2023-24 school year the alternative high school program moved into the village area of Napoleon in a building that previously housed a bank and real estate office and was renamed Ackerson High School. It is now within a half mile of the district's main campus.

Dillon shared other bond projects currently underway around the district. New playground equipment for the elementary school, roof work at both the elementary and middle schools, a new cafeteria in the courtyard at the elementary school, a new bus loop and parking area in front of the high school, and a new track at the high school are among the highlights. "After football season we'll get started with the concession stand," he said.

Clark wins 19th Match Play golf championship

Photo, story by Jeff Steers
Exponent special writer

It was a busy late spring and early summer for Jackson area golfer Andrea Clark. But time spent not include a lot of golf.

Clark, shown in the photo at right, turned that around this week winning the Jackson County Womens Golf Association's Match Play Championship at Sharp Park Golf Course Friday.

She defeated Ashley Bearden 3&2 in the Red Division final. It is believed to be her 19th win in the Match Play Championship format.

Anne Faucher won the consolation final with a 1up win over Kittyanne Latocki Friday.

Clark was busy with the end of the school year at Grass Lake High School and spending two weeks in Scotland. She put her nose to the

grindstone last week on the practice range.

"I spent a lot of time last week trying to get my game back in shape and it definitely paid off this week," Clark said. "I hit my driver really well."

Clark and Bearden went back and forth on the front nine with Clark pulling ahead by one hole with a birdie on No. 7. Both players birdied No. 10 after hitting the green with their drives.

She maintained that 1 up lead but through No. 13 extended it with a birdie on No. 14 and a par on No. 15. The two players parred No. 16 to close out the match.

The Match Play Championship final was the first for Bearden who has dominated play in her first year on the JCWGA.

In the consolation final, Faucher made a 5 footer for



par on No. 16 to maintain her two-hole lead heading into 17. Latocki was not done chipping in the par 4 to pull within one.

Both players parred the last hole giving Faucher the win.

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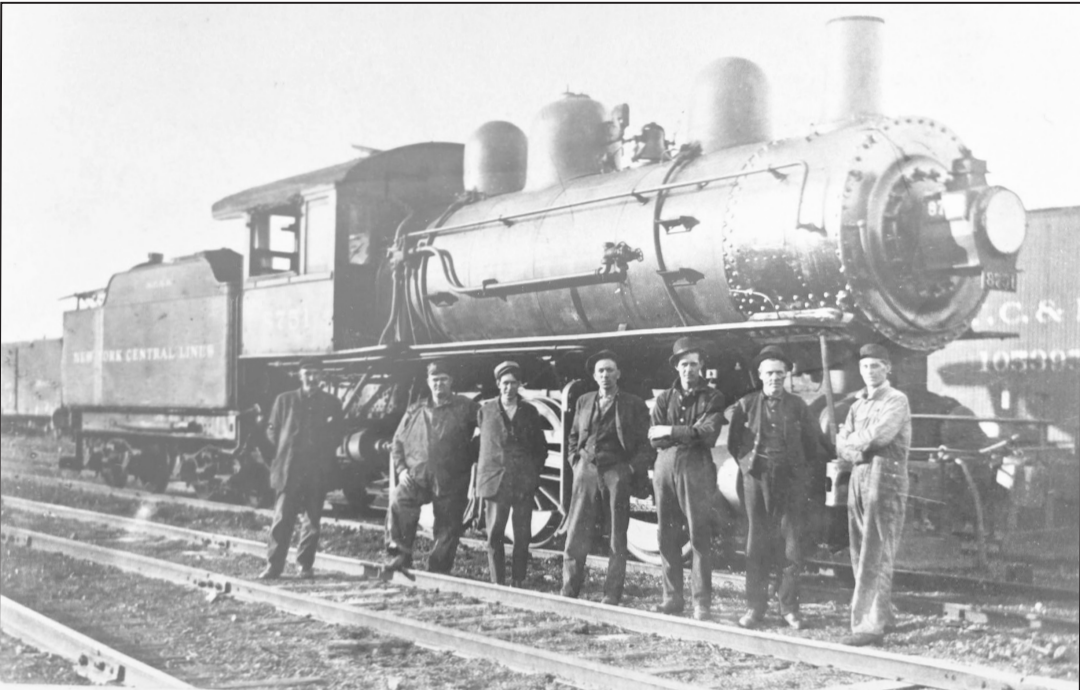


AGGIES

SPORTS BAR

Napoleon, Mi

Trains, skills, and ailments



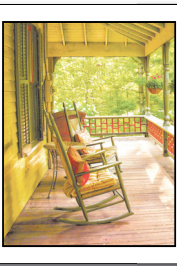
Howard Tracy identified these men as the “Switchgang crew of Engine 8751 of the New York Central Line possibly used in Jackson or “Central City” as it was called in 1911. Postcard, photos courtesy of Carolyn Spencer.



Attic & Hearth

~A Look Back~

By Michelle McLemore



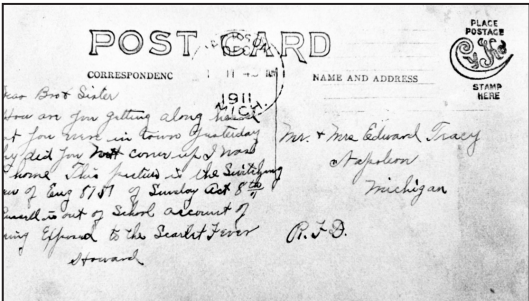


Edward Burdette “Jack” Tracy
b. 1886, d. 1936
Napoleon



Howard Tracy, b. 1877, d. 1933,
Jackson, MI.

Family letters preserve history



Howard Tracy, born in 1877, wrote this note to his brother Edward while Howard, his wife Louise (Culver) formerly of Napoleon, and son Russell lived in Jackson during 1911.

Howard was a former Michian reservist, as well as a veteran of the Spanish-American war in the 21st Michigan Volunteers. He lived for awhile in Napoleon and Grass Lake before settling his family in Jackson.

Transcript of post card:

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Tracy
Napoleon, MI

Dear Bro & Sister,
How are you getting along yesterday. Why did you not come up I was at home This pictured is the Switchgang crew of Eng 8751 of Sunday Act 8th/11 Russell is out of school account of being exposed to the Scarlet Fever
Howard

In researching the engine, it was most likely used as a switcher to roll stock and link up freight train cars staying almost exclusively in the Jackson rail yard. Online research suggests as a 0-6-0 yard switcher, it may have weighed 150,000 to 165,000 pounds not including the coal car.

The boiler pressure was estimated to be between 180 to 200 psi. Such an engine was designed for low-speed pulling power, so had roughly 51 to 52 inch drive wheel diameter.

Though labeled NY Central, the Michigan Central was a large subsidiary and may have carried the name but followed Michigan assignments.

Crewmen had a hard day, guiding cars for line assembly, manually pulling switches for lane changes, inspecting cars and tracks for safety, fixing anything that was in their realm to fix, and avoiding getting smooched, maimed, or killed.

1911 was also a big year for the railway in Jackson. That year a new 40-stall roundhouse was built by Michigan Central Railroad on Elm Avenue. It was tore down in 1984.

If you have photos, scrap-books, postcards, or other historical items that may be shared, we would love to see them. Contact The Exponent office to arrange a time or email unique photos with any information you have about the content to exponews@the-exponent.com. In the subject line, please note for “Attic & Hearth” or “For Michelle” and include your name and contact information in the message.

Scouts wanted!
Grass Lake scout troop is recruiting new members

Grass Lake and Chelsea Scouting America Troop 476G is recruiting new members – youth ages 10-18 – both boys and girls.

Boy Scouts of America has now become Scouting America under the premise that girls and boys are stronger together – every youth, every voice, every adventure. The new troop and organization is a place where all are welcome – a place where every person is supported, valued, and inspired to be their best.

Scouting America helps young people grow in six main categories:

- Adventure: Explore the outdoors and try new things.
- Friendship: Build lasting connections.
- Leadership: Learn skills and lead with confidence.
- Service: Make a difference in your community.
- Outdoors: Camp, hike, and embrace adventure.
- Character: Build integrity, confidence, and responsibility.

To sign up, for more information, and to find a schedule of upcoming events and meetings, visit troopwebhost.org/Troop476Chelsea/Index.htm. You may also email Katelyn McClanahan at troop476g@gmail.com.

Knutson notches ace

On July 9, Jesse Knutson made a hole-in-one at the Devil’s Lake Golf Course on hole 2, a par 3. The yardage was 114. He used a gap wedge. The witnesses were Cody Knutson, Shawn Howard, and Tim Korecki.



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Tuesday 9am-5pm

A timely recognition



Sara Sollars, left, President of Onsted Chamber of Commerce, presented Cathy and Terry Wobrock a clock acknowledging their 30 years running TC Hardware In Onsted. The presentation occurred at the July 14 Chamber meeting held at the The Mill. Terry Wobrock commented, “Thank you to the Chamber and everyone. We wouldn’t have made it here without you.” Photo by Michelle McLemore



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- Lunch Buffet (Dine-in only)

*\$2 Delivery within ~1 mile of B.C. Pizza.
\$10 order min.



WELLWISE SERVICE AREA AGENCY ON AGING

LEGAL NOTICE51

WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging is announcing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for funding to support services funded by the Older American's Act to older adults and caregivers in Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee Counties. Services funded for Fiscal Years 2027-2029 will begin October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2029.

Funding is available for the following services: Caregiver Education, Caregiver Training, Congregate Meals, Health Promotion, Homemaker, Personal Care, Home Delivered Meals, Information and Assistance, Legal Assistance, Long Term Care Ombudsman, In-Home Respite, Senior Center Operations, Unmet Needs, and Transportation.

Proposals are due August 14, 2026, at 4:30 PM. Request for Proposal application can be found at the WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging Website at www.wellwiseservices.org

For questions, please contact Nichole Baker, Chief Services Officer, at (517)592-1974 or Nichole.baker@wellwiseservices.org

ROLLIN TOWNSHIP MINUTES

Rollin Township
Monthly Board Meeting
July 8, 202651

-Supervisor Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Members present were Supervisor Clark, Treasurer Willett, Clerk David and Trustees Combs and Burch. A quorum was reached.

- Motion by Willett and supported by Clark to approve agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

- Motion by Combs supported by Willett to approve the minutes of June 10, 2026. All ayes, motion carried.

-Motion by Willett and supported by Combs to approve the disbursements as presented, with the addition of a \$350 invoice from the lawyer that was received late. Roll call: Willett-yes, Combs-yes, Burch-yes, David-yes, And Clark-yes. Motion carried.

-Motion by Clark and supported by Combs to approve Treasurer's report subject to audit. Roll call: Willett-yes, Burch-yes, Combs-yes, and David-yes, Clark-yes. Motion carried. The Treasurer stated that the funds in the "ARPA" account have been rolled into the General Funds Checking account as approved last month.

-Correspondence: none.

-County Commission Report: The Commission will transfer to evening meetings; Contracts for County police support have been granted to Rollin, Woodstock and Riga

-Citizens' Comments: None

Committee Reports (consent agenda)

-Planning Commission: No meeting; rescheduled to July 9

-Appeals: No meeting

-Assessor: Continuing annual property inspections; July Board of Review is 7/21/2026 at 1:00 p.m.

-Inspections:
• Building Inspector - 30
• Mechanical-1
• Plumbing -8
• Electrical -15
• Zoning – 5
• Violations - 6

-Cemetery- During the month there were 4 grave sales, one full burial in Green's Cemetery, and one burial in Rollin Friends cemetery. Six foundations are scheduled to be poured this week.

-Fire Department: There were 106 calls; the department is taking a "look back" on the payroll for the past two years to identify any payroll changes, due to a policy issue identified by the outside consultant. The Board approved setting the training center up as a separate department. The vehicle use policy was approved. Contacting Hillsdale County regarding mutual aid to Reading. Interviews are being scheduled for the Treasurer position. Agreed to renew ESO software.

-Supervisor's Report: Described the process being followed to communicate the fire millage renewal proposal, which is on the ballot in August

-Park: No report

- Rollin/Woodstock & Posey Lake Sanitary Drain Board/Posey Lake Improvement – No meetings for the drain districts. The Posey Improvement Board reviewed procedures for communicating to the public the times and types of weed treatment. Discussed the 2025-6 vegetation treatment. The budget is in good shape. Have started to review the budget/funding for the Seeley by-pass. They will further discuss this at the Drain Commission meeting 7/23, 2026

-Motion by Willett and supported by Burch to accept the consent agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

Old Business

1. Received bid from Brookwood Landscape & Nursery, Inc. to spray weeds and remove dead plantings at the Veteran Memorial in Green's Cemetery for \$950. Other bids were sought but none received. Motion by Willett, supported by Combs to accept the bid. Roll call- Willett, yes; Burch, yes; Combs, yes; David, yes; Clark yes. Motion carried.

2. Two bids were received to repair the fence at Rollin Center Cemetery. One bid was for \$700, and the second bid was for \$750. Motion by Willett to accept the bid for \$700 from A-1 Fence, supported by Burch. Roll call: Willett, yes; Burch, yes; Combs, yes; David, yes; Clark yes; motion carried.

New Business

1. Plans were presented for the Devils and Round Lake Auto Show on August 8, 2026, from 9am to 2 pm. The plan packet included a site plan, including information on security, parking, traffic control, medical facilities, bathrooms and drinking water, insurance documentation, volunteers and clean-up plan. Motion made by Combs, supported by Willett to approve the Auto Show. All voted aye, motion carried.

2. The Graves family presented a request to close the access at Oak-shade. After discussion, the township board took no action.

3. MA resident requested the Board to approve a dock/platform to be installed at Toledo Avenue. This topic had been discussed previously with no action. The board again did not take action to approve this request.

4. A proposal was presented to the board to hire Scott Hunt as sexton, to dig graves and install foundations. Motion made by David, supported by Combs to hire Scott Hunt and pay him according to the presented price scale. Roll call: Willett, yes; Burch, yes, Combs, yes, David yes, and Clark, yes; Motion carried.

5.Patty Clark submitted a proposal to increase certain charges for cemetery activity as they hadn't been keeping up with current costs. She proposed new charges to be as follows: Cemetery Lot costs for resident, \$300, and non-resident \$500. Foundation costs will increase to \$.75 per square inch, up from \$.70; Full burial - regular season, Monday through Friday - \$800; Weekends and holidays -\$900; Winter burials - Monday-Friday \$1,000, Winter weekends and holidays \$1100; disinterment- \$1500; Less than 36-hours notice – add \$150; Arriving after 3:00 p.m., add \$50. All burial rates include admin fees. Motion by Willett to approve new prices, effective immediately, supported by Combs. Roll Call: Willett, yes; Burch, yes; Combs, yes, David, yes; Clark, yes. Motion carried.

Board comments:
The township is very busy in multiple areas this month, especially related to the election, quarterly sewer bills, tax collection.

Two companies have been asked to come in and give estimates for our front door

Citizen Comments:
None

Supervisor Clark adjourned the meeting at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Irma David,
Rollin Township Clerk

Norvell trustee appointed

By John Hummer
Editor

The Norvell Township board unanimously appointed Zack Panak as a trustee on the township board at a July 6 special meeting. Panak will fill the vacancy left with the June 2 passing of former trustee Paul Francis. The township board in now fully-seated for the first time since former township supervisor Bill Sutherland resigned at the end of April. Panak had applied for a trustee position in June when Haystead's position became available upon him being appointed as the new township supervisor to fill Sutherland's shoes. However, Terri Curtis was appointed to fill that first trustee vacancy. Panak applied for the second vacant trustee position and is now on the board. Panak grew up on the west side of Jackson County and graduated from Western High School in 2006. Following high school, he attended Trine University in Angola, Ind. and earned a bachelor's in civil engineering degree. After college, Panak worked in both manufacturing and automotive engineering. He worked for two years in Indianapolis for a steel fabricating company and since then in Michigan, primarily for Tenneco – six years in engineering and six years in procurement. "I am currently a cost manager for all of our



Panak

North American products," he noted. In 2014, Panak moved to Norvell. He and his wife bought the house she grew up in. "The kids are getting involved in school activities and I've become a lot more interested in what happens here in our township," Panak stated. Their children are 16, 10, and 7. "When the opportunity came up to serve as a trustee, I saw it as a chance to give back as the kids are getting more involved," he explained. "Rather than having opinions about township issues, I wanted to be part of the process to help make the decisions and benefit our community. "I want the residents to know that I'm approachable," he continued. "I welcome questions, concerns, and different viewpoints. My education and career has given me a data-driven mindset where I'm able to make decisions and serve the community in their best interests, based on the facts and data that are in front of us rather than opinions. I'm definitely honored with the opportunity and I appreciate the board for putting their trust in me." Norvell Township Supervisor Andrew Haystead said he felt Panak's work background would be an asset to the township. "With the issues facing us right now, I think he's going to be a really good addition to the board."

There is a lot going on, if you know where to look!

It's YOUR Business

By Cindy Hubbell, President/CEO
Irish Hills Regional Chamber of Commerce
517-592-8907 • www.irishhills.com



Join the **Village of Brooklyn** on Thursday, July 23 for an evening of music, art, local vendors and more. Art in the Park will take place every fourth Thursday until September from 5 to 9 pm. The Irish Hills Regional Chamber will be holding **Chamber Connections** during the July event. Stop by anytime and network with your business community while enjoying music, booths, food and more.

The **Home Builders Association of Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee** are hosting a Car Show and Family Fun Night on Thursday, July 23 from 5 to 8 pm at their office, 1815 E. High Street in Jackson. Admission is free. Contact Patrick at pat@hbjmi.com with any questions.

Camp Killarney is holding a Family Summer Retreat Friday, July 24 through Sunday July 26. This family-oriented Bible Retreat is \$30 per person and includes snacks, all meals and all materials. Go to killarneycamp.org for more information and to register.

The **Beach Bar** is holding an 80th Anniversary Alumni Night on Saturday, July 25 from 5:30 to 9:30 pm. Whether you worked there for one summer or for many years, stop by and celebrate. Look back at old photos, enjoy FREE pizza in the banquet room, special giveaways, and dance the night away. Be sure to wear your vintage shirts.

The **Brooklyn Living Center** will be hosting the Great American Food Truck on Tuesday, July 28 from 4 to 7 pm with entertainment by Kevin Nichols. There will be tables set up inside and outside.

WINOS (Women in Need of Shopping) will be taking place at **Cherry Creek Cellars** on Sunday, July 26 from noon to 6 pm. Enjoy local vendors, drink specials, live music, food trucks, giveaways and more. Go to cherrycreekwine.com for more information.

Savanna Rose Dance Studio is holding a 2-Day Try It Class on July 28 and 30. Go to savannarosedancestudio.com for more information and to register.

Check out our community calendar at IrishHills.com for a list of happenings going on in and around the Irish Hills.

Manitou Beach Farmers and Crafter's Market takes place in **Manitou Beach Village** on Devils Lake every Saturday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm throughout the summer. Questions for booth space, email mbcrafters-mart@gmail.com or call 419-377-5653

Check out the Irish Hills community calendar at IrishHills.com to find tons of events going on in and around the Irish Hills, including bike nights, live music, classes, family fun events, craft shows and more!

Columbia Charter Township police report

July 2 Fire: Hayes Road; Rescue: West Mill Pond Drive; Fire: Riverside Road/Peterson Road; Fire: Irwin Street/Peterson Road; Fire: Irwin Street; Rescue: North Drive; Fire: Monroe Pike; Fire: Dearmyer Road/ Cement City Road; Fire: Case Road (2); Fire: Cannes Circle; Fire: North Lake Road/York Road; Rescue: North Grand Pointe Drive; Fire: Jefferson Road/Sandy Beach Drive; Fire: Clark Lake Road/Crego Road; Fire: Cement City Road; Fire: Clark Lake Road; Fire: Riviera Drive; Fire: Sandy Beach Drive; Fire: Jefferson Road; Fire: White Road/Hyde Road; Fire: North Shore Drive; Fire: Case Road/Wolf Lake Road;	July 4 Rescue: Lakeview Drive; Fire: Dearmyer Road/Taylor Road; Fire: School Street; Fire: Nottingham Drive; Rescue: Camelot Court;	July 8 Rescue: Sherman Street; Rescue: Ocean Beach Road;	July 12 Rescue: Jefferson Road; Rescue: Hawthorne Drive;
July 5 Fire: North Grand Pointe Drive; Fire: Hilltop Court; Fire: Oakwood Beach Drive (2); Rescue: Reed Road; Fire: Cass Road/Wolf Lake Road; Fire: Sandy Beach Drive/Jefferson Road; Rescue: Eagle Point Drive; Rescue: Claremont Circle;	July 6 Fire: Nottingham Drive; Rescue: Wolf Lake Road;	July 9 Fire: Somerset Drive; Rescue: Marshall Street; Rescue: Ernest Street; Rescue: North Shore Drive;	July 13 Rescue: South Main; Rescue: Crego Road;
July 7 Rescue: Water Street; Rescue: South Mill Street; Rescue: North Lake Road; Rescue: Camelot Court; Rescue: Boyce Drive;	July 10 Assist Other Agency (Fire): Wetherby Road/South Meridian Road; Rescue: Constitution Avenue; Rescue: Ocean Beach Drive;	July 11 Rescue: Monroe Pike (3); Rescue: Hyde Road; Fire: Wamplers Lake Road; Rescue: Palo Alto Drive (2); Rescue: Wesch Road;	July 14 Rescue: Palo Alto Drive; Fire: Wamplers Lake Road/Audell Drive; Fire: Cement City Road/Kelley Road; Rescue: North Grand Pointe Drive; Rescue: Constitution Avenue; Rescue: Castlewood Drive;
		July 15 Rescue: Cannes Drive; Rescue: North Main Street;	

Get out of the house!
Music, art in the park happening in Brooklyn, Michigan Center

Officials are kicking off a new season of Music in the Park at the Leoni Township park, 570 5th Street, Michigan Center, on July 23, August 6, and 20 starting at 6 p.m.

The Village of Brooklyn will also be hosting their Art in the Park at Weatherwax Park July 23 beginning at 5 p.m.

Both venues will have music, vendors, food and more. residents are invited to bring lawn chair and visit with their neighbors during the hometown events.

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Obituaries

Charles Douglas Holland

 Charles Douglas Holland, affectionately known as "Doug" or "Joe" to family and friends, was born on June 7, 1938, in Brooklyn, Mich., to Leslie ("Joe") and Jennie Faye Holland.

Doug graduated from Brooklyn High School in 1956 and continued his education at Jackson Junior College and Lansing Community College. He proudly served his country in the United States Armed Forces. Following his military service, he built a long career in telecommunications, working first for Southern Telephone and Telco, and ultimately retiring from Frontier Communications after many years of dedicated service.

In 1969, Doug married the love of his life, Martha (Sue)



Doug Holland

and proudly became a father to her three young sons, Mark, Warren, and Bryan. Together, they built a wonderful life on the shores of Wampplers Lake, where Doug became a familiar face both on the water and throughout Wampplers Heights Drive. He embraced lake life to the fullest, whether he was fishing, cruising the lake on his pontoon, or enjoying snowmobile rides during the winter months. He loved the outdoors and could often be found taking his beloved dogs on a "hike" or exploring the neighborhood in his Ranger.

Doug never met a stranger. He loved spending time with the fellas at his weekly "Tuesday Meetings," where the

group solved the world's problems, or stopping by the American Legion to do what he jokingly called "telling lies." Whether you knew him as Doug, Joe, or one of the many other nicknames he collected over the years, you could always count on him to stop for a conversation. He especially enjoyed visiting with the ladies.

Doug was preceded in death by his parents and by his beloved wife of more than 50 years, Martha (Sue) Suzanne.

He is lovingly remembered by his sons, Mark (Darlene) Mead, Warren (Peggy) Mead, and Bryan (Kim) Mead; his grandchildren, Jason (Hilary) Mead, Taylor Mead, Boston Mead, Harmony (Devin) Jagger, Carson (Kelsey) Mead, Zachary (Victoria) Taylor, Hannah (Dustin) Vognilid, and Hayden Dosser;

and his cherished great-grandchildren, Jovyn, Lila, Violet, Claire, Cal, Walker, Chandler, Roman, and Baby Jagger, who is expected soon. He also leaves behind many extended family members and countless friends who will miss his humor, kindness, and gift for conversation.

Visitation will be held at Eineder Funeral Home in Brooklyn, Mich., on Friday, July 24, from 10 am until 12 pm, with a memorial service and military honors beginning at 12 pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Wilber-Bartlett American Legion Post 315 Honor Guard, whose service meant so much to Doug and his family.

Summer sightings



Brooklyn area photographer Lynn Okenka recently caught this Baltimore checkerspot butterfly on a butterfly weed.



This osprey was redirecting a hawk's attention from its nest on top of pole at the side of Hand Hwy between Sheeler and M-50. Photo by Michelle McLemore.

Kim Wireman

Kim Wireman, 63, of Brooklyn, passed away on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at Henry Ford Hospital Jackson. Kim's family and friends will gather Friday, July 24, 2026, from 4 pm to 8 pm at Eineder Funeral Homes – Brooklyn Chapel.



Kim Wireman

She was born on April 18, 1963, in Flint, Mich., to Gerald and Sharon (Dickinson) Beauchamp. Kim married the love of her life, "He-Man" Woodford Wireman in Brooklyn, Mich. Together they built a beautiful marriage filled with love, laughter, friendship, and unwavering devotion. She will be remembered

for her straight forward personality. Kim was a Davison High School graduate, class of 1981, and Baker College graduate with a Bachelor's Degree. Kim's greatest passion was her family. Her home was always open, and she loved bringing everyone together for gatherings filled with laughter, wonderful meals, and memories that will last a lifetime. She found peace by the lake, loved traveling with those she held dear, and embraced every adventure with enthusiasm.

Kim never met a stranger. She had an extraordinary gift for making everyone feel wel-

comed, valued, and loved. Her generous heart, warm smile, contagious laugh, and unwavering optimism left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate to know her. She believed there was always a way, and never accepted "you can't!" as an answer. Kim will be remembered for her strength, kindness, compassion, and the unconditional love she gave so freely.

Kim is survived by her husband of 19 years, Woody; her children, Jeremy (Christine) Brown, Jason Brown, Joshua Beauchamp, step children, Dana (Vince) McDowell and Brad (Kelly) Beauchamp; her mother, Sharon (Jordan) Crowley; sisters, Cheryl

(Mark) Keeley, Mary Hutchins, and Amiee Beauchamp; grandchildren, Braylyn, Sophie, Mylee, Jordan, Austin, Davison, Michael, Amber, Emma, Sam, Erin and Maddie; and many cherished nieces and nephews, extended family members and dear friends. She is preceded in death by her father, Gerald, and daughter, Cory Beauchamp.

Memorial contributions may be given to the family for future designation. Please leave a message of comfort for Kim's family or sign her guestbook at www.Eineder-FuneralHomes.com.

Penny June Bibbins

Penny June Bibbins, age 70, passed away peacefully on June 18, 2026. Penny was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend whose kindness, strength, and unwavering love for her family touched the lives of everyone who knew her.



Penny Bibbins

Penny found joy in life's simple pleasures. She loved spending time gardening, working crossword puzzles and Sudoku, and trying her luck at casino games. She enjoyed fishing, boating, and canoeing, finding peace and happiness on the water and in nature. Penny also took great pride in canning fruits and vegetables, sharing her homemade creations with family and friends.

Above all, Penny's greatest joy was her family. She was a loving and dedicated mother who always put the needs of others before her own. She was the heart of her family, always ready with kind words and a helping hand. Her strength, compassion, and selfless nature will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

For more than 50 years, Penny dedicated her life to customer service in the Brooklyn community. She became a familiar and cherished face to countless residents, building lasting friendships through her warm personality, caring heart, and genuine concern for others. Her beautiful smile and kindness brightened the days of everyone she met, and she had a remarkable gift for making people feel welcomed, valued, and appreciated.

Penny was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Leonard and Jean Yother, and her two cherished sons, Chad Lee Stahl and Blake Leonard Bibbins.

She is survived by her loving husband of 38 years, Bradley Forrest Bibbins; her children, Jessica Elizabeth Stahl (Dustin Laharrague), Bradley Forrest Bibbins II (Victoria), and Brook Darroll Bibbins; her brother, Walter (Diane) Yother; along with her grandchildren, extended family members, and many dear friends who will forever cherish her memory and

carry her legacy forward.

Though our hearts are heavy with sorrow, we find comfort in the many memories Penny created and the love she shared throughout her life. Her legacy of kindness, devotion, and unconditional love will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

In accordance with Penny's wishes, cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Michigan Center Eagles, 302 Fifth Street, Michigan Center, Mich. Family and friends are invited to join us in celebrating Penny's life, sharing memories, laughter, and the love she brought to so many lives.

Penny June Bibbins will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Her life was a blessing, her memory a treasure. She was loved beyond words and will be missed beyond measure.

Please leave a message of comfort for Penny's family or sign her guestbook at www.EinederFuneralHomes.com.

Cascades Family Night

Residents are invited to make Wednesdays the highlight of the week with Family Nights at Cascades Park, 1401 South Brown Street, Jackson, on July 22, 29, and August 5.

There will be extended splash pad hours, live music, character appearances, and plenty of activities to keep everyone smiling. When the evening winds down, gather and end the night with the Grand Light Show at the Cascades Falls. It's the perfect mid-week activity! For additional information, visit experiencejackson.com.

A Stellar Day in Jackson

Explore the wonders of the universe right in your own community during A Stellar Day in Jackson, a free celebration of astronomy taking place Wednesday, August 12, from noon to 5 p.m. with special night time observing at Jackson College Astronomical Observatory from 9 pm to 2 a.m. Guests are encouraged to visit all three participating locations: Jackson College Astronomical Observatory, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson; Ella Sharp Museum, 3225 4th Street, Jackson; and Dahlem Center, 7117 South Jackson Road, Jackson. For additional information, visit experiencejackson.com.

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EXPONENT Classifieds

THE EXPONENT • TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026 • PAGE 9

AUCTION

AUCTION, July 25 – 10 am Onsted 10091 Bryan Hwy, AUCTION

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49x3

STORAGE UNIT AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026 @ 4:00 PM AT E&B STORAGE LLC, 445 MANITOU RD. MANITOU BEACH, MI 49253. THE UNDERSIGNED, E&B STORAGE LLC OF MANITOU BEACH, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION BY COMPETITIVE BID, THE PERSONAL PROPERTY THERETOFORE STORED WITH THE UNDERSIGNED BY:

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VALID PHOTO IDENTIFICATION WILL BE REQUIRED TO BID. CASH ONLY WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR PAYMENT. THERE WILL BE A MINIMUM STARTING BID. ALL ITEMS MUST BE REMOVED AND UNIT CLEANED OUT THE DAY OF SALE.

50X2

GARAGE SALE

Rescheduled due to smoke, 335 Tiffany Street, Brooklyn, Mich. July 23, 24, and 25 from 9 to 5. Furniture, home decor, kids' books, holiday clothes, lots of new stuff.

WORK WANTED

Work Wanted: Concrete flat work, driveways, barns, patios, etc. Large or small accepted. Call 517-499-1869

tfn

HELP WANTED

Administrative assistant needed at local funeral home serving three locations. Looking for professional part-time administrator who has a minimum of four years of administrative experience, computer literacy is necessary, willingness to learn, be a team player, people oriented, must be able to multitask and prioritize tasks. No calls, please submit resumes to: Jeff@EinederFuneralHomes.com

tf

HELP WANTED

Senior Female looking for someone to drive to the doctor when necessary. About two times a month. Will pay. If interested, or for additional information, contact Karen at 517-522-8341.

CARPENTRY WORK

Semi-retired carpenter – doors, windows, kitchens, bathrooms, plumbing repairs, light electrical and fall cleanups, tree and brush removal. Call 517-937-3571 to schedule your spring project. 20TF

FOR SALE

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF SALE

50X2

Cambridge Township is offering for sale a 2020 John Deere Z950R zero-turn mower with a 60" deck with approximately 1,100 hours of use. The township is requiring sealed bids for this sale with a minimum bid of \$4,999.00. Bids shall be mailed to: Cambridge Township, Box 417, Onsted, Michigan 49265 to the attention of the Township Clerk, or may be delivered to the township hall at 9990 W. M-50, Onsted, Michigan. Envelopes are to be marked "bid for mower" and must be returned to the township by Wednesday, August 12, 2026 by 4:00 P.M.

The mower may be viewed at the Maple Shade Cemetery on Slee Road in Onsted (across from the school). You may contact the cemetery sexton with questions at 517-605-0359.

Bids will be opened at the township board meeting on August 12, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

Rick W. Richardson
Cambridge Township Clerk

ROLLIN TOWNSHIP

PUBLIC NOTICE

51

Notice is hereby given that the Public Accuracy Test for the August 4, 2026 Primary Election for Rollin Township has been scheduled for August 23, 2026 at 9:30 A.M. in the Rollin Township Hall, 730 Manitou Road, Manitou Beach, MI 49253.

The Public Accuracy test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and tabulators that will be used to tabulate the ballots of the election have been prepared in accordance with law.

Irma David
Rollin Township Clerk

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

51X2

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 6:30 pm, the Liberty Township Board of Trustees will host a public hearing regarding the approval of the 2025-2026 Master Plan. The Liberty Planning Commission has approved the plan and recommends the Board of Trustees do so as well. The plan may be found on the township web site, libertytw.us or in the township office. The meeting will be held at the Liberty Township Hall, 101 W. Liberty Rd., Clarklake, MI.

Debbie Jacobson,
Liberty Township Clerk

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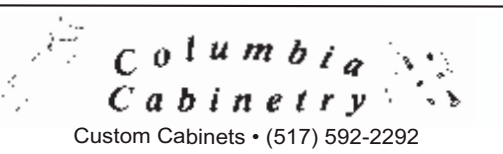
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OUTDOOR LIVING

The 'Cuteness Response' is a real deal!

While young animals can be cute as a button, they can also be destructive, and even deadly, in certain circumstances



Photo courtesy Smithsonian National Zoo

When you think about babies, whether you're talking about human or baby animals, the first thing we often do as humans is recognize how darn cute they are. With wildlife babies, we also adore them, especially baby mammals and birds.

Why do we do react this way? Believe it or not it is so deeply rooted and primal in ourselves that we cannot help ourselves.

When we are born, we are born with big heads and big eyes. When we spot a wide-eyed baby, blood rushes to our mid-brain, part of the pleasure center of our brains, and a flood of dopamine is released, one of the hormones produced when we fall in love.

Psychologists call this "the cuteness response," which is also evident when we see baby animals, and none of us are immune to it.

Back in February 1972, President Nixon and First Lady Patricia Nixon visited China. The first lady mentioned to Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai about her fondness for Giant Pandas. She loved how cute they were! In response, as a gesture of good faith, Premier Enlai gifted two Giant Pandas to the American people. On April 16, 1972 two Pandas, a male Hsing-Hsing and female Ling-Ling, arrived at

the Smithsonian Zoo. Millions visited them. There was even a video of a baby panda that sneezed and the response created more than 200 million views online!

In the wild, Giant Pandas have black and white coats so they will blend in to the background of snow and/or brush. The large black area around the eyes makes them look more menacing, looking larger than they are to other animals, yet we see them as just adorable.

I must admit that when I see baby birds or animals, I get all gooey. Back when I was 15 years old, I discovered a woodchuck den on our property. Soon after, a woodchuck was spotted in our garden. Realizing woodchucks can devastate a garden, we had to do something. I remember spotting an ad for a live trap in the back of an Outdoor Life magazine, so I ordered a live trap. We baited it with apples and in a couple of days, I caught a baby woodchuck that had emerged from its den exploring its surroundings. When I discovered it I ran inside my house and yelled with excitement: "Dad! Mom! I caught a woodchuck!"

However, when we walked out to the trap to see it, there was the mother sitting outside the trap. It obviously was trying to help its baby. That's when my mom's nurturing nature kicked in and said "We HAVE TO let that little baby go. It wants its momma!"

My dad and I explained that this little woodchuck would create havoc in our garden, but momma overruled us, so we released it. That was a mistake. A week later my mom spotted a baby woodchuck in her garden and it had taken a bite out of EVERY ONE of the cucumbers in her garden. Mumsie was not happy!

We then put up a fence around several rows of string beans, which kept the adult mother out, but one early Saturday morning my mom witnessed a baby woodchuck crawling all over from inside the fence! When she investigated the damage, it had devoured three out of five rows of beans! After that, my mom declared war on all woodchucks.



Photo courtesy Forgotten Souls Rescue and Rehab

Above: Young raccoons are definitely cute, but can be destructive. At left, pandas have black and white coats so they will blend into the background of snow and/or brush.

Raccoons are another animal that looks very cute, especially the babies.

Recently I discovered that something was stealing the grape jelly that I put out for Baltimore Orioles. I was putting out the jelly just before going to bed, so at daybreak I could enjoy watching the orioles through my front window while I sipped my coffee. The jelly was suspended on a shepherd's hook and had predator cones so squirrels couldn't get the jelly. I decided to set up my trail camera and I caught the culprit on camera that was stealing my grape jelly; a baby raccoon. An adult wasn't able to climb the shepherd hook easily, but this little acrobat was able to figure it out. Now I put out the jelly after daybreak.

I admit baby raccoons are cute, but raccoons can be very destructive. A friend of mine had one get in his garage, and it caused damage to the wood in the rafters, which were covered in urine and feces.

Raccoons also carry a roundworm, Bayisascaris procyonis, which is a dangerous parasite that sheds millions of microscopic eggs in their feces.

Dogs can also serve as hosts for the adult worms and also shed these worm eggs in their feces. People can get infected by accidentally ingesting contaminated soil (usually small children) or by hand-to-mouth contact. Larval migration in people's bodies can lead to severe neurological damage, blindness and even death.

Raccoons also carry rabies. Still think they are cute?

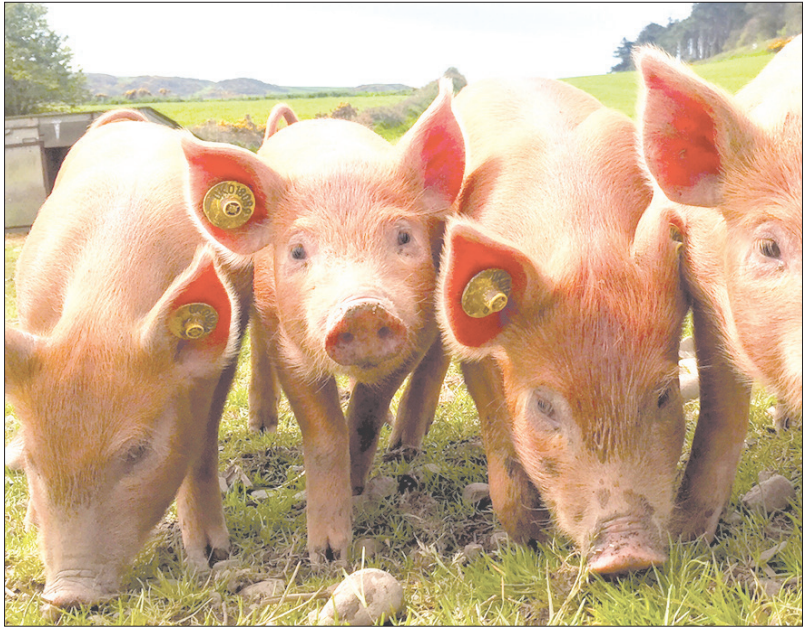
Deer, especially fawns, are downright adorable with their big eyes and those big floppy ears. I had a fawn eat ALL-I mean every one, of the flowers off my tomato plants in one night. Deer, including fawns, carry ticks that carry Lyme disease.

Don't get me wrong, these problems are not common, but we must realize that no matter how cute these babies might be, they can also be a pain-in-the-you-know-what.

I do have to admit though, even with all their challenges, I too suffer from the "cuteness response!"



Photo by Cort Schepeler



Metro Creative Graphics

Above, left: Cort Schepeler snapped this photo of a fawn left alone on his farm. Above right, even pigs generate the "Cuteness Response" when they are young!

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'There's a real need'

Columbia food program has people lined up for groceries



Eastyn Gerlach, a sophomore at Napoleon High School, was one of the students happily helping with food distribution at the Columbia schools' summer food program distribution day last Wednesday at Columbia Elementary School.



Logan Mazur, a ninth grader at Napoleon High School, used his youth muscle power to carry milk from the refrigerator to the food distribution point at the Columbia schools' summer food program distribution day last Wednesday at Columbia Elementary School.



This small but dedicated group handled food organization and distribution to hundreds of hungry families last Wednesday during Columbia schools' summer food program distribution day at Columbia Elementary School. From left: Laiken Mazur, Logan Mazur, Pam Hurlburt, district food services director; Jessie Pellegrini, staff head cook; Shonda Shirey, assistant cook; Tylee Shirey, and Eastyn Gerlach.

**Story and photos
By John Hummer
Editor**

With the vast number of families and individuals in the area in need of extra support during these challenging times, pressure on local food pantries – including the Brooklyn Food Pantry – has increased many-fold the last few years.

Now school districts around the area have stepped up to help these

struggling families during the summer when children do not receive meals at school. Columbia School District is no exception as it began participating in a new program called Sun Meals (To-Go) this summer.

The program takes place every Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. with distribution of food at Columbia Elementary School. The program began on June 17 and runs through July 29.

The program operates drive-thru style where residents can just pull up and the Columbia Schools distribution team loads meals into their vehicles. Every weekly bundle comes packed with nutritious food to keep kids fueled and healthy all week long.

"You get seven days' worth of breakfast and lunch in bags, and you get half gallons of milk for seven days," explained Pam Hulburt, Co-

lumbia School District food services director.

All children under the age of 18 are eligible to receive meals and no district enrollment is required. It is open to the entire community. There is no paperwork, sign-ups, or pre-registration required.

"Pam has done a great job of getting this program going very quickly and she is the one who brought the idea to the district," said Superintendent Jim Baker. "We could not be happier over how well it has been received."

During the Wednesday, July 8 distribution, Hulburt stated that 360 families were served and they ran out at 6:40 p.m. "So, we're trying to bump it up a little bit each week, but I'm kind of limited on space and storage here," she said. "Next year, I plan on doing it at the high school, so I can provide more. And that way, I won't run out, and I'll have enough for everybody."

Hulbert noted that their capacity for storage is around 375 meal bags, including milk, at the elementary school. "I have to make sure I can safely store it," she stated. "So, hopefully, next year at the high school. It will be much easier to handle larger quantities. It's something that, being a new food service director, I wanted to offer to the community, because I believe that it's a great opportunity."

The SUN Meals (To-Go) program in Michigan is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Nutrition Services. It is part of the federal Summer Food Service Program (SUN Meals) and is designed to reduce summer hunger while supporting Michigan's education and wellness goals.

Death notices

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

Daniel Irving Hurst, 62, Blackman Township;
Michael Joseph Stone, 60, Blackman Township;
Stanley Gerard Drenwo, 76, Napoleon Township;
Martin Richard Edwards, 67, Rives Junction;
Thomas Nelson Shedd, 76, Jackson;
Robert Ray Foulk, 81, Jackson;
Robert Steeve Kestle, 79, Blackman Township;
Don E. Tippin, 87, Blackman Township;
Julie Meredith Kucel, 82, Jackson;
Jane Wilhelmina Marz, 90, Summit Township;
Stantavice Deaclearance Wray, 21, Jackson;
Melody Lou Chapman, 66, Spring Arbor Township;
Auzy James Oliver, 75, Blackman Township;
Ann Marie Acker, 87, Summit Township;
Christine Ann Abbey, 77, Summit Township;
Donna Rae Raymond, 90, Grass Lake;
Benjamin Tracy Shaffer, 60, Jackson;
Charles Delbert Harget, 55, Blackman Township;
Herbert Wesley Bacon, 81, Jackson;
Linda Jean Guminski, 76, Summit Township;
Albert George Krieger, 93, Jackson;
Charles Ronald Dingess, 93, Jackson;
Marlene Carol Janiuk, 81, Jackson;
David Robert Moss, 85, Blackman Township;
Barbara Jean Shafer, 74, Jackson;
Martin Anthony Suwinski, 66, Napoleon Township;
Forrest Junior Klinger, 93, Blackman Township;
Sandra Gene Croyle, 89, Blackman Township;
Shirley Ann Hines, 88, Jackson;
Miladore Margaret Trumble, 93, Spring Arbor Township;
Philip Lee Bishop, 65, Jackson;
Sherrie Lynn Campbell, 60, Jackson;
Edwin Henry Grajek, 83, Blackman Township;
Roger David Thome, 86, Summit Township;
John Alfred Savage, 96, Blackman Township;
Curtis Raymond Frick, 87, Blackman Township;
Donna Mildred Reiter, 100, Jackson;
Lynette Louise Vannest, 68, Blackman Township;
Joseph Andrew Williams 61, Napoleon Township;
Dana Jo-Mary Allan, 70, Jackson;
Donna Jean Marshall, 68, Jackson;
Celia Payne, 77, Jackson;
Chiki Arthur Stull, 92, Blackman Township;

Marriages

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

Austin Wade Adams, Rives Junction, and Chloe Jade Malone, Cameron, NC;
Scott Alan Brodbeck, Katy TX, and Amy Lynne Detering, Houston TX;
Ashley Marie Taylor, Concord, and Devon Charles Reuther, Concord;
Willard Eugene Ellis, Rives Junction, and Malina Marie Shultz, Rives Junction;
Joshua Craig Spindelman, Brooklyn, and Grace Evelyn Willoughby, Jackson;
Elaina Rose Walker, Ann Arbor, and Brock Robert Harms, Michigan Center;
Ryan Scott McCormick, Jackson, and Nicole Lynn Potter, Jackson;
Brittany Sierra Rumler, Jackson, and Robert Anthony Varney, Jackson;
Duke Lee, Ann Arbor, and Samantha Marie Kofflin, Jackson;
Hailey Rose Urbane, Grand Rapids, and Brady Joseph Yokom, Parma;
Brooke Elizabeth Miller, Pleasant Lake, and Jarred Anthony Pickell, Pleasant Lake;
Corrin Jane Ridley, Parma, and Brett Logan Miller, Concord;
Rebecca Leann Wick, Jackson, and Garrett Allen Dunn, Jackson;
Quinn Leah Fischman, Jackson, and Gregory James Edkins, Los Angeles, CA;
Riddick Daniel-James Sutherland, Jackson, and Hope Lynn Brangman, Jackson;
Katelyn Elizabeth Clanton, Spring Arbor, and Theodore Spencer Stowe, Spring Arbor;
April Lynn Buckles, Jackson, and Robert Charles Allen, Jackson;

Doing business as

Allan Lawn Care: 1590 Navajo Road, Jackson (Lawn Care)
Kenneth Robert Allan, owner;
All-American Seal Coating: 7393 Wellman Road, Parma (Asphalt Maintenance) Nathaniel Bail, owner;
Pens By Daryl: 3128 Kibby Road, Jackson (Making Pens and Other Hobby items) Daryl Fleet, owner;
Mia & Papa's Lawn Mowing: 238 Oakgrove Ave, Jackson (Lawn Care) Tracie Lee Hawkins, owner;
Vestige Haven: 1624 E. Michigan Ave, Jackson (Retail) Adam Awolfe, owner;
Shadow Boxed Legends: 7781 Cooper Road, Rives Junction (Selling hand-made collectible wall art) Wendy Hoornstra, owner;
Salyer's Autobody: 8752 Portage Lake Road (Paint and Bodywork) Gavin Salyer, owner;
FUNG! FINDER:1624 E. Michigan Ave, Jackson (Adaptive and Entheogenic Access Center) Adam Awolfe, owner;
Drachens Hair Studio: 2103 West Washington Ave, Jackson (Hair Salon) Jayvionte M. King, owner
Manke A & M Services: 3900 Olvet Drive, Jackson (Consulting and a food Truck) Lloyd Arthur Manke, owner;

