

Hunting crib shared



Above: Gary Eastridge gave us a look at his hunting crib, which contains trophies from years of hunting. See inside.

Car pulls in front of bike
Man dies at scene
of Austin Road
motorcycle crash

By John Hummer
Editor

A 49-year-old Canton man died on Tuesday, June 29, when an eastbound car turned left in front of his westbound motorcycle at the intersection of Austin Road and Sharon Valley Road in Manchester Township. The crash occurred at approximately 6:30 pm.

According to preliminary reports by the Michigan State Police Brighton Post, the victim was riding a 2023 Harley-Davidson. The collision happened when a 68-year-old Addison woman, driving a 2010 Buick Lucerne and traveling eastbound on Austin Road, failed to yield while attempting a left turn onto Sharon Valley Road.

The impact ejected the motorcyclist, who was pronounced dead at the scene. The woman driving the Buick suffered serious injuries and was transported to Henry Ford Jackson Hospital, where she was listed in stable condition and expected to survive.

Authorities state that it is unknown if alcohol or drugs were a factor in the crash, and the incident remains under active investigation by Michigan State Police.

Police reminds motorists that motorcycles are out in greater numbers during the summer months. Both motorists and motorcyclists must remain vigilant, especially when approaching intersections. Drivers should always take an extra moment to look twice for motorcycles before turning or entering an intersection.

Allegation:
Man, woman try to
lure child into car

By John Hummer
Editor

A suspicious situation that occurred at Clark Lake Beach & Boat Club on the evening of July 4 is no longer a threat to the community, Columbia Township Police say.

On Saturday, July 4, at approximately 7 p.m., the Columbia Charter Township Police Department investigated a suspicious situation complaint at the Clark Lake Beach and Boat Club located on Grand Blvd. on Clark Lake. Officers learned that two unknown individuals approached a child at the club. During the contact between the child and the unidentified man and woman, an effort was allegedly made by the suspects to lure the child into the suspect vehicle. The child, nor the parents, had no knowledge as to the identity of the suspects. The effort to entice the child into the vehicle was unsuccessful and the child is safe. The suspects fled the area in an unknown direction from the club. Since then, they were found, interviewed, and cooperated with police.

In a recent update, police say the individuals of interest have been identified and interviewed, the investigation will be completed, and the police report will be forwarded to the Jackson County prosecutor for review.

A social media post by the Clark Lake Beach & Boat Club indicates they have been in constant contact with local and state law enforcement, reviewing camera footage of the incident.

The club's board will be having an emergency meeting to discuss stricter guest and gate procedures and stated they will share the results of that meeting as soon as final decisions are made. "In the meantime and more than likely moving forward, it will be mandatory to present your ID at the gate and all guests' IDs and vehicle information will be documented," the post says.



Photos by Paul Snyder

Exponent area all-conference softball players named for LCAA, Cascades conferences

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EXPONENT

A MEADOWBROOK MEDIA NEWSPAPER

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TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026

A parade that asks...
What kind of
town are we?

If a parade offers a snapshot of a community, Brooklyn is a skosh bit weird, a lot eclectic, a touch conservative, a little bit country and a whole lot of fun.



God, guns, protests and patriots...What a parade Brooklyn put on, and what a great community in which to live!

Opinion
By Matt Schepeler

I love Brooklyn. It is a great place to live. After all, the town has four seasons, is surrounded by rolling hills and lakes, and is a lovely place to live.

It is within striking distance of Adrian, Jackson, Ann Arbor, Lansing and even Detroit or Chicago, if you are craving some really good pizza or a major league ballgame.

But it is the people that make it the best, and we have all sorts of them.

We have lake people, farm people, sportsmen and women, conservatives and liberals.

We have religious folks, agnostics, and atheists.

We have a hard working middle class, hard-working small business owners, and more than a few academics.

We have poets and welders, tree-huggers and developers. Our citizenry includes retired autoworkers, wrench-bending mechanics and plenty of real estate agents eager to sell you something; We have doctors and lawyers and blue collar factory workers rubbing elbows at the grocery store and bending elbows at Shady's, right along with school teachers, retail workers and fast food workers.

So when someone asks me to describe Brooklyn, what I say may change with the wind, not because I can't make my mind up, but because we live in a, well, a complicated community.

There was a time I would say "We are an agricultural community" and another time I would swear we were a "conservative Christian community". Now it is not so simple to pigeon-hole our little berg into something so easy to describe.

See If parades could talk page 2



'This is a very
unpleasant ordeal'
Cyclosporiasis
outbreak hits
Brooklyn, area

Health officials say no specific produce grower, supplier, or produce type has been identified as the source of the outbreak

From staff reports

Health officials have reported that cyclosporiasis cases are being reported in the Village of Brooklyn as well as in Lenawee and parts of Jackson County.

Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal illness caused by the Cyclospora parasite. People can become infected by consuming food or water that contains the parasite.

Experiencing the disease can be a miserable affair, especially if those experiencing symptoms don't get checked right away, and the parasite is allowed to multiply uninhibited.

As of July 4, 2026, no specific produce grower/supplier, or specific produce type has been identified as the source of the outbreak.

Cyclospora infects the small intestine (bowel) and usually causes frequent, watery and explosive diarrhea. The time between being exposed and becoming sick is usually about one week, but can range from two days to two weeks or more. Untreated, the illness may last from a few days to more than a month. Symptoms may go away and then return.

Cyclosporiasis is not usually life-threatening, but dehydration from frequent bouts of diarrhea can cause severe illness, particularly among younger or older people and those who have weakened immune systems.

Previous outbreaks

The following foods have been specifically linked to previous Cyclospora outbreaks in the United States and Canada:

- Bagged salad mixes and kits (pre-cut lettuce blends with romaine, iceberg, red cabbage, carrots)
- Fresh cilantro (coriander leaves)
- Fresh basil
- Snow peas
- Green onions (scallions)

This does not mean any of these vegetables are the cause of this outbreak.

Given the large and increasing number of cases in Michigan, MDHHS recommends that establishments in Southeast Michigan who are preparing, processing, or serving raw produce, including restaurants and other commercial kitchens, take the following steps to reduce risks of exposure:

- Lettuce/leafy greens: Buy whole heads of lettuce (rather than prewashed, bagged lettuce or salad mixes), throw away the outer 2-3 layers of leaves and wash the inner leaves under running water. For leafy greens that can be cooked, cooking is the safest option.
- Cilantro, basil: Wash thoroughly under running water, separating the leaves. Safest when cooked.
- Green onions: Trim the root end and remove the outer layer, wash thoroughly under running water. Safest when cooked.
- Raspberries: Their bumpy surface makes them especially hard to clean; the parasite can hide in the tiny crevices. Safest when cooked (pies, jams etc.). Consider frozen raspberries as an alternative (freezing may reduce but does not guarantee elimination of the parasite).
- Snow peas: Wash under running water and rub the surface. Safest when cooked.

These recommendations are particularly important for people who have a higher risk of dehydration or weakened immune systems such as patients on chemotherapy,

See Cyclosporiasis page 3

July 4 festivities

76 trombones led the big parade!

Brooklyn’s Independence Day parade is one for the ages



Okay, there were not 76 trombones in the big parade, but it was a great parade in Brooklyn just the same. Clockwise, from left: Members of the Jackson College summer band camp performed; A young lady waves an American flag in the parade; Sybil Kolon marched in opposition to a proposed gravel mine operation; TED Campground partied down the road and a drummer enjoyed banging his drums.



If parades could talk . . . continued from page 1

This came to mind on July 4 as I was watching the parade.

The parade was, in my mind, the best parade I can remember in this town in my 64 years of life, and it was so much fun to watch because it offered a snapshot of who we have become. Watching it, us old timers could see how the community has changed from an agricultural center that had a hard time putting together a 5-minute parade in the past to a vibrant place to live with a lot of big ideas and new energy that, like it or not, is shaping the future.

Leading off the parade was the American Legion, representing all the veterans who served, and they received a great round of applause.

Behind them things got interesting. It included:

A lady pulling a wagon full of Bernese-doodles for sale. Behind her was a float from a local bank, followed by a walking slice of pizza encouraging parade watchers to get a piece of pie at B.C. Pizza after the show. To me, these folks represented capitalism at its finest, taking advantage of the crowd and a chance to advertise their wares. Unfortunately, the Bernese-doodles cost around \$500, which probably isn't a bad price, but the bank wasn't handing any cash out of their window as it floated on by. Then...

Clifford Yeider rode through on a 1936 red Farmall, representing our agricultural roots; A walking tree, representing a local effort to stop a proposed gravel mine on Horning Road waved to the crowd as it lumbered past;

A float boldly proclaiming "God Bless America" sponsored by the First Baptist Church in Brooklyn made their declaration loud and proud. Gotta love those Baptists!

A Trump protester or, if you lean the other direction, someone suffering from T.D.S., made their feelings known about the president as they marched past. Someone leaned over and said to me "this isn't the place for that," but I had to disagree. Our country was founded on sticking it to the man. What better place to protest political types than an Independence Day parade?

On the back of the Baptists' float, by the way, Betsy Ross could be seen stitching an American flag together, presumably for George Washington to display when he crossed the Delaware River on that freezing night later in 1776 as he led the Continental Army to glory.

Skating behind Betsy were the Irish Hills Bombshells, one of which denoted herself as a "She-Her" on her team shirt, just in case you had questions.

Members of the Jackson College summer band camp played loudly and sounded fantastic...clearly enjoying themselves.

A young contingent of dancers from Savanna Rose Dance Studio (Savanna herself was in charge of the parade) whooped it up at her encouragement.

In between all this was an

army of jeeps decorated in red, white and blue, happy people driving golf carts, ATVs, and bicycles waving to the crowd, grandmas decked out in the stars and stripes, and even a cute little baby held up in an open car window staring blankly at the crowd, not knowing whether to spit up or smile, while their proud parents beamed from inside the cab.

I loved it. I loved every second of it...even the parts that made me roll my eyes a little.

In fact, that was what made it so interesting.

Alas, when the parade had passed by, there was only one conclusion to reach as to "who we are" now as a community.

The truth is, no one can claim to have the corner on our town. Not the libs, not the conservatives, not the sun-tanned tourists or the hippies or the geezers or the newbies.

It is an "us" town. It is our town.

Isn't that how "One nation, indivisible" was meant to be played out, in the first place?

While there is always something to complain about and criticisms to be made, in the end, you have to love it...not just our country, but our community.

Freedom remains a work in progress, sure, but Brooklyn is a living snapshot of how it is supposed to work.

We are all lucky to live here.

Special thanks to Paul Snyder

For the past two weeks we have featured photos of all-conference athletes from the Exponent circulation area.

All of the photographs were taken by Paul Snyder, who attends hundreds of games over the course of a school year. He also gathered the information.

We appreciate Snyder's hard work in attending so many games during fall, winter and spring sports. If you see him out and about, let him know that you appreciate his efforts as well.

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The
Exponent
Volume 144 Number 49 ACCOUNT NO. USPS 793-460
160 S. Main Street, Brooklyn, MI 49230
Telephone (517) 592-2122 • Fax (517) 592-3241
Founded September 1, 1881
Matthew B. Schepeler John Hummer
Publisher 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
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That was a doozey!



Above: These poplar trees at Swain Memorial Park in Brooklyn blew over when a severe thunderstorm blew through the Irish Hills on July 3. To lend scale, the large root ball was approximately 10 feet tall.

Storm flips pontoons, blows over trees and knocks out power over holiday weekend

By Matt Schepeler

On July 3, after a week of unusually high temperatures, residents could tell a storm was coming. They knew it was going to be a big one when western skies turned deep purple, then nearly black as the day turned into night as clouds darkened the sun. When the front finally it, wind pushed water sideways as it dumped — by some measurements — almost two and a half inches of water in a 30 minute window. The storm left fallen trees, capsized boats and many residents without power for much of the weekend. In Brooklyn, officials noted that the park has been closed until damage can be cleaned up. Trees crashed into new playground equipment, and the extent of the damage has yet to be calculated. The good news was no one was hurt, and while the power outage was inconvenient, it was also an excuse to spend time on area lakes.



At right: While this tree appears to have been struck by lightning, our bet is that it blew apart by the fierce winds that hit Brooklyn.

Columbia Charter Township police report

June 20
Personal Welfare: North Main Street; Nottingham Drive; Hewitt Road; **Property Security:** Hyde Road (2); **Peace Officer:** County Line Road; **Malicious Destruction of Prop:** Monroe Pike; **Assist other agency:** Charmin PL, Napoleon Township; **Loud Music:** Marshall Street; Saint Clair Circle; Woodland Drive;

June 21
Assist other agency: South Brooklyn Road/Austin Road, Napoleon Township; **General Non-Criminal:** Feller Drive; **Personal Welfare:** Irwin Street; Hyde Road; Cement City; **Property Security:** Hyde Road (2); **Alarm:** Wesch Road; South Main Street; **Peace Officer:** North Lake Road; **Loud Music:** Marshall Street; **Animal Complaint:** North Constitution Avenue;

June 22
Property Security: Hyde Road (2); **Accident:** Brooklyn Road; **Inspect Vehicle:** Case Road; **Suspicious Situation:** Monroe Pike; East Mill Pond Drive/School Street; **Missing Person:** South Main Street/Wamplers Lake Road; **Personal Welfare:** North Main Street; **Domestic:** Monroe Pike; **Assist other agency:** East Main Street;

June 23
General Non-Criminal: North Shore Drive; Hyde Road; **Personal Welfare:** North Main Street; North Shore Drive; **Ordinance Violation:** Lakeview Drive;

June 24
Animal Complaint: Perrin Street, Woodstock Township; **Field Contact:** South Meridian Road/Jefferson Road; **Property Security:** Hyde Road (2); **Conservation:** North Lake Road; **Suspicious Situation:** North Shore Drive; **Accident:** Jefferson Road/Eagle Point Road; **Assault:** Hewitt Road; **Domestic:** School Street; **Personal Welfare:** Hyde Road; **Larceny:** Cement City Road; **Assist other agency:** Breda Drive, Napoleon Township;

June 25
Property Security: North Shore Drive; Hyde Road (2); **Abandoned Vehicle:** School Street; **Disorderly:** Daugherty Road; Reed Road; Spicer Drive; **Trespassing:** Reed Road (2); **Accident:** South Main Street/Irwin Street; North Main Street; **Larceny:** Brooklyn Road; **Animal Complaint:** Potter Avenue; **Peace Officer:** School Street;

June 26
Property Security: Jefferson Road; Hyde Road (2); **Alarm:** M-50; **General Non-Criminal:** Hyde Road; **Suspicious Situation:** East Lowry Street; **Domestic:** Michigan Street; Irwin Street;

June 27
Property Security: Hyde Road (2); **Suspicious Situation:** Wamplers Lake Road;

Accident: Reed Road; **Parking:** Hyde Road; North Street/Lions Lane (2); **Domestic:** Reed Road; **Malicious Destruction of Prop:** North Street/Lions Lane; **General Non-Criminal:** Jefferson Road; **Disorderly:** Hewitt Road; **Personal Welfare:** Jefferson Road/Sandy Beach Drive; **Operating While Intoxicated:** Hewitt Road/Diversy Drive;

June 28
Parole Violation: Jefferson Road; **General Non-Criminal:** Constitution Avenue; Hayes Road; **Malicious Destruction of Prop:** Lions Lane; **Parking:** Hyde Road (3); **Disorderly:** Eagle Point Drive; Hewitt Road; Hyde Road/Vining Street; **Personal Welfare:** Elizabeth Court; South Main Street; **Property Security:** Hyde Road;

June 29
Traffic Hazard: Riverside Road/Peterson Road; **Property Security:** Hyde Road (2); Cannes Circle; **Suspicious Situation:** Alameda Court; **General Non-Criminal:** South King Street;

June 30
Assist other agency: Stony Lake Road, Napoleon Township; **Property Security:** Hyde Road (2); Cement City Road; **Suspicious Situation:** Castlewood Drive; Lakeview Drive; **Found Property:** Jefferson Road; **Parking:** Hyde Road;

Personal Welfare: Cement City Road; Bennington Lane; **General Non-Criminal:** Hill Court; **Assist medical:** Keast Drive; **Loud Music:** Ambler Drive;

July 1
Warrants: Jefferson Road (2); **Personal Welfare:** Jefferson Road; South Meridian Road; **Property Security:** Hyde Road (2); **General Non-Criminal:** Grand Boulevard; Eagle Point Drive; Hill Court; **Larceny:** Jefferson Road; **Transports:** Michigan Street (2); **Suspicious Situation:** Michigan Street; **Inspect Vehicle:** Irwin Street; **Disorderly:** Ocean Beach Road; **Loud Music:** Perrin Street, Woodstock Township; **Accident:** Jefferson Road/Keast Drive;

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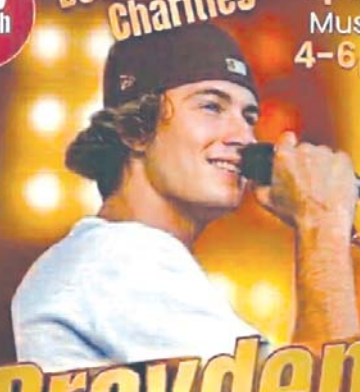
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Cyclosporiasis . . . from page 1

organ transplant recipients, infants and young children and elderly people.

General Rules to Reduce Your Risk

- Cook when you can. Heating food to 158°F (70°C) or higher kills Cyclospora.
- Wash all fresh produce under clean running water, even if you plan to peel it.

Reminders about routine food safety practices

- Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling or preparing food.
- Scrub firm fruits and vegeta-

bles, such as melons and cucumbers, with a clean produce brush.

- Cut away any damaged or bruised areas on fruits and vegetables before preparing and eating.
- Wash and sanitize utensils and surfaces before and after handling food. Wash and sanitize display cases and refrigerators where fresh produce is stored.
- Wash and sanitize cutting boards, surfaces and utensils used to prepare, serve or store fresh produce.
- Refrigerate cut, peeled, or cooked fruits and vegetables

as soon as possible.

If you do become ill

People experiencing gastrointestinal illness, such as sudden and ongoing diarrhea, are encouraged to contact their health care provider and reach out to their local health department. Cyclosporiasis is treated with antibiotics along with rest and drinking plenty of fluids to maintain hydration. Additional information is available at cdc.gov/cyclosporiasis.

No cell tower for you!

Cell tower shot down by township ZBA



Above, from left: Representing Verizon Wireless and TAG Towers was Amy Rodriguez who outlined the application for the variance for the proposed cell tower at the corner of Jefferson and Hayes roads; Dan Crane, attorney from Jonathan R. Crane, PC in Rochester, Mich. represented TAG Towers in trying to convince the Columbia Township ZBA to approve the cell tower variance; Brittany Stein, building, planning and zoning manager for Columbia Charter Township, presented her staff recommendation to the ZBA for denying the cell tower variance; Zoning Board of Appeals Chairperson Hollis Jeffreys led a marathon ZBA meeting that lasted nearly two-and-a-half hours last Thursday, much of the time consumed by the cell tower variance deliberations.

Tower meets opposition as people speak out

Story and photos
By John Hummer
Editor

The Columbia Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously voted last Thursday to deny a variance to permit a new 194-foot wireless communications (cell) tower on an approximate 1.2-acre vacant parcel at the corner of Jefferson and Hayes roads. The tower was proposed by former owner of Clark Lake Golf Course & Restaurant (2008-2020), Domenick Forgione, who owns the property at that intersection, and telecommunications company TAG Towers, an agent of Verizon Wireless for this proposal.

The choices for the ZBA were either to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the request. The ZBA could have also tabled or postponed the request pending additional information. Brittany Stein, building, planning and zoning manager, presented her staff report to the ZBA and recommended denial of the wireless tower variance.

The tower was proposed to be setback 67.5 feet from the west front property line and setback 109 feet from the east rear property line. The Columbia Charter Township Zoning Ordinance requires a 100-foot setback from all property lines and a 200-foot setback from all properties zoned for single-family or two-family dwellings.

The Columbia Charter Township Hall meeting room was filled to capacity on the eve of the holiday weekend as around 15 township residents spoke during the public hearing portion of the meeting against the proposal. No members of the public spoke in favor of erecting the cell tower.

ZBA Chairperson Hollis Jeffreys noted that 20 people sent in written comments on the proposal, 17 of which were against it and three for it. One of the written comments against the proposal was from St. Rita Church, directly across the street from the proposed wireless tower.

Applicant presentation

At the start of the public hearing, the applicant and his agents were invited to describe the project. Property owner/applclicant Domenick Forgione deferred to his representatives at the meeting. Representing Verizon Wireless and TAG Towers was Amy Rodriguez, a project manager and zoning agent at TeleCAD Wireless, who outlined the application for the variance.

"Verizon engineers identified that there was a need to improve service in gaps in coverage the area," Rodriguez stated, noting that Verizon is on most of the towers in the surrounding area, the nearest one being two-and-a-half miles from the proposed location. She said the engineers re-

viewed the other tower locations and decided they could not co-locate on any of the other surrounding towers without creating permanent gaps in coverage or interference with other towers nearby.

"So, then we changed the search to looking for a location to build a tower," Rodriguez said. "We contacted approximately 10 property owners; some of them owned multiple parcels." She noted that discussions were held with the most recent co-owner of Clark Lake Golf Course & Restaurant, Mike McHugh, who decided not to pursue a wireless tower project.

"Then we were talking with Mr. Forgione and we ended on his parcel," she stated. "That worked for the engineers, so we are requesting a setback variance due to the shape of the parcel and some of the items that [attorney] Mr. Crane will discuss with you. That was the only viable option with an interested property owner, so that is why we are at that corner and it also connects to the existing network. It's not going to cause interference with the existing towers in the area."

Rodriguez noted that maps were provided to the ZBA showing how coverage would increase in the area with the proposed tower. She added that the Federal Aviation Administration indicated that no lights would be required at the top of the tower.

Rodriguez said Verizon would be the anchor tenant of the tower with three other carriers to limit the need for any additional towers in the area. "This will be a benefit to the community," she stated. "It will improve service to the community members, visitors coming in and being on the lakes and enjoying their community."

Attorney Dan Crane with Jonathan R. Crane, PC out of Rochester, Mich., representing the applicant, then went through the seven standards that must be considered by the ZBA when making a decision on a variance that are part of the Columbia Charter Township Zoning Ordinance, and why his company felt the application met the standards.

Staff recommendation

Relative to the standards for variances in the township zoning ordinance, some (not all) of the key arguments in Stein's recommendation for denial, included:

- There other nearby properties which may be better suitable for a new Wireless Communications Facility without the need for variances.
- The proposed cell tower may not be in harmony with the purpose of the zoning ordinance including the intent of the AG zoning district. This cell tower may impact public health, safety and welfare in general and vehicular and

pedestrian circulation, due to the extent of the proposed structure. Installation of a new wireless communications facility should meet all requirements of the zoning ordinance.

• Although there may be a need for a Cell Tower to be installed in this central area of the Township, the proposed Cell Tower may cause negative effects on surrounding property and property values and could negatively impact future development and use of neighboring property. The Cell Tower will cause a significant change and lasting impact on the surrounding landscape affecting the primary goals and objectives of the township master plan creating a residential and inland lake community.

Public comments

Key among the public comments provided at the meeting were a poor location given its proximity to nearby homes and across the street from St. Rita Church, the visual impact of the tower, the potential health impacts of the tower, and the fact that it does not fit with the intent of the master plan on the proposed parcel.

"You want to put a cell tower on the corner of Hayes and Jefferson across from St. Rita Church — 120 feet from the columbarium, a peaceful, quiet area," said resident Jim Dutton. "Hundreds and thousands of people go in and out of that church and parking lot. Residents [live] right next to the [proposed] cell tower. It doesn't seem like that would be a smart idea. Cell towers have cooling fans, constant hums. They say that this one is not going to be tall enough where they need a flashing light — that means the potential radiation is going to be lower. That means radiation will be constantly flowing through that area, low to the ground, and more of a health hazard...Common sense will tell me that for a small community, that isn't needed there in that location."

Judy Bivins owns the neighboring property, has been a resident of the area for 22 years, and is a precinct delegate for Columbia Charter Township. "I am less than 100 feet from my property line to where that tower [would] be," she said. The church is closer than that." Bivins said she provided a scientific report to the township on cell towers. "It compares areas where towers are as opposed to areas with no towers. The health issues are insurmountable in one area compared to the other." She also provided a realtor's report claiming how hard it is to sell a property in areas where there is a cell tower present...I want to ask all of you: Would anybody actually want to have a house next to a cell tower?"

St. Rita parishioner Kathleen Thorrez noted, "We have galas and festivities we host and

sometimes a band in that parking lot — they won't have a band in that parking lot any longer. People know and have that sense that anything around a radiation tower, those 5G towers, creates a lot of concern."

"When dealing with a church, demonstrate the regard, concern, and respect of knocking on the church's door and let them know what you're up to," stated resident Pat Collins. "To think that 400 families in this situation where, frankly, you're trying to put a round peg in a square hole, I can't think of a worse place in the township to put this thing... And given the fact that St. Rita is 120 feet away and is the final resting place — these people all deserve better — whether they're interred or if they're there visiting their loved ones."

"One more thing," Collins continued. "I cannot believe an organization would want to put a 200-foot tower where they have 100 feet to deal with. From a risk management standpoint, I've never heard anything more crazy."

ZBA decision

In forming their decision, the ZBA deliberated quietly amongst themselves and were unable to be heard by the public, other than their final motion to deny the proposal based on the applicant not meeting six of the seven standards for variances in the township zoning ordinance.

To appeal a decision by the ZBA, an applicant may file suit with Jackson County Circuit Court. Calls to the applicant's attorney were not returned in an effort to find out if they plan to appeal the decision in court.

In other business

In other business, the ZBA unanimously approved an amended variance application for a new 21,955 square-foot parking lot to add 42 parking spaces onsite at Heart O' The Lakes Church on Jefferson Road.

The ZBA also tabled a variance application from Patrick and Amie Pelham to permit an addition to the existing single-story single-family dwelling on an approximately 12,545 square-foot parcel.

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Friends of Watkins Lake State Park hold meeting



From left: FoWL President Spencer Kellum provided a recap of the organization’s first year at the annual meeting; FoWL member Sarah Cripe presented on the activities of the organization’s Education Committee; FoWL Vice President Laura Watkins Koelewijn led the annual meeting attendees in a game of trivia about Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve. PHOTOS BY JOHN HUMMER

Successful first year included many events and workdays for state park, county preserve

**By John Hummer
Editor**

The Friends of Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve (FoWL) held their first annual meeting June 26 at the park under beautiful sunny skies.

FoWL President Spencer Kellum kicked off the meeting with a welcome and recognitions. He thanked the Michigan Department of Natural Resources staff, FoWL board members, volunteers and committee members, and the group’s many valued partners for all their accomplishments in their first year of existence.

The organization officially launched with a membership meeting on Aug. 24, 2025, at the park and elected the first FoWL board of directors. From there, the board went on to develop the group’s mission, vision, and values. The group received a start-up grant from the Jackson Community Foundation.

FoWL’s mission reads: “The Friends of Watkins Lake State Park aspires to provide stewardship, education, and advocacy to foster appreciation for Watkins Lake State Park and help sustain its attributes into the future.”

The group’s vision reads: “A sustained refuge supported and stewarded by a community of friends, where wild occupants thrive, history is brought alive, and where passive recreational use and educational opportunities can be fostered.”

FoWL developed its FY26 Workplan in September of 2025, received 501(c)(3) status in November 2025, and is currently nearing completion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State of Michigan.

FoWL Treasurer Wayne Appleyard then discussed the activities conducted by the group’s Stewardship Committee. The organization hosted three volunteer stewardship events in the past year with 65 volunteers attending across the three workdays. A total of 202 volunteer hours were tallied for stewardship workdays and ecosystem monitoring activities.

The workdays focused primarily on removing invasive species such as autumn olive and Japanese honeysuckle. In total, the group removed or treated a few thousand pounds of invasive plants.

The Stewardship Committee also conducted water control management planning, developed a phragmites (an invasive plant) adaptive management framework, conducted butterfly surveys and monitoring and passive audio recordings of invasive species, and installed two wood duck houses.

Sarah Cripe presented on FoWL’s Education Committee. The committee hosted several educational events, partnering with the Jackson District Library Brooklyn Branch, Wondergarten, Merry Threads, the Talebearer bookstore, and Angel’s Floral Creations, and others.

Attendees at Lantern Walk and Earth Day events exceeded 125 collectively, while dozens enjoyed a three-week Story Walk series. The story walks focused on the story of Harriet Tubman and local history involving Royal Watkins’ heroic actions on land that is now Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve.

FoWL’s Advocacy Committee highlights included helping to host two fundraising events and a presentation about the park to Norvell

Township board and residents. Through this committee’s efforts, FoWL also secured significant funds for potential acquisition opportunities in the vicinity of the park. Committee members are also in the process of conducting a park user survey.

To round out the annual meeting with something fun, FoWL Vice President Laura Watkins Koelewijn led attendees in a game of trivia about the park and its inhabitants.

A brief business meeting followed where the current officers were reelected to another year term: Spencer Kellum, president; Laura Watkins Koelewijn, vice president; Sylvia Kay, secretary; and Wayne Appleyard, treasurer. President Kellum also reviewed the organization’s first year finances.

What is next for FoWL?

FoWL’s tentative workplan for 2026 includes increasing advocacy efforts, continuing to attract diverse park users, celebrating the park’s 10th anniversary in October 2026, and working with the state and county to assess needs as identified in the park man-

agement plan. One idea they will be discussing is a possible Dark Sky Preserve designation.

Upcoming FoWL events
(See www.protecting-watkinslake.org/meetings-and-events)

- July 19 – Phragmites Monitoring Workday
- Weekly walks – Sundays at 3 p.m.
- October (date TBA) – 10th

Anniversary Celebration

- Art Walk (date TBA)
- Fun Run (date TBA)

For more information on Friends of Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve, visit protecting-watkinslake.org, email friends@watkinslake.org, or find them on Facebook at [WatkinsLakeSPCP](https://www.facebook.com/WatkinsLakeSPCP).

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July 9
Sponsored By:

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:

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	Wilcox Lawn & Landscaping
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:

Race	Time	Sponsor
1	1:00	Columbia Central 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	Monroe Dodge Superstore
11	3:30	Old Irish Mill
12	3:45	Lucero’s
13	4:00	Lakefront Solutions
14	4:15	Village Peddler Gift Shoppe
15	4:30	Open
Final	4:45	Stoyanna’s

SATURDAY
July 11
Adult Race

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 Preilipp Greenhouse & Mohr
12	8:45	Eineder Funeral Home
Semifinal 1	9:00	Atlas
2	9:10	Klavon’s
3	9:20	Boyer’s Tool & Die
Final	9:30	Krupa’s Boat Mart

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- 3rd Place - \$200

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for their continued support.

**** Hermit crabs may be taken home after Saturday night’s races with proper “crab care” sheet.**

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Obituary

Faye Anne Moore

Faye Anne Moore, 85, Jackson, Mich. (formerly Napoleon Twp) passed away peacefully on June 20, 2026, at 2 am following a courageous battle with dementia.

Faye was born on March 6, 1941, in Hillsdale, Mich., to Herman and Laura Margaret (Reynolds) Dietz. A dedicated and accomplished professional, she enjoyed a long, successful career and ultimately retired as the branch Vice President of Standard Federal Bank. She was on



Faye Moore

the Board of Fair Housing, The Board of Realtors, and Jackson Business.

The caregivers at Brightside Memory Care treated her with dignity and compassion. They appreciated her sense of humor, and she looked at them as an extension of her own family.

She was an avid reader, an enthusiastic gardener, enjoyed genealogy, and spent many happy hours on the golf course several times a week.

She is celebrated and lov-

ingly remembered by her children: Deena Banner, of St. Petersburg, Fla., Devin Baker, of Ann Arbor, Mich. Sister, Terry (Jerry) Mergler of Pleasant Lake, Mich.; grandchildren, Autumn Grossman, Joshua Banner, Emily Baker; great-grandchild, Alex Harm, nieces: Debbie (Dan) Burch, Cindy (Don) Gambrell, Sarah (Keith) Pund, Todd (Laura) Miller, Kevin (Laura) Miller. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, C.J. Moore; sister, Donna Miller, of Hillsdale, Mich.; and many extended family members and close friends.

There will be a Celebration of Life held for Faye at 1:30 pm on Friday, July 10, 2026, at Eineder Funeral Homes – Michigan Center Chapel (820 5th St, Michigan Center). Family and friends are invited to gather between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm at the funeral home with a light lunch. Pastor Glenn Russell will officiate the celebration of life service.

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

Death notices

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

Joan Carol Bumpus, 87, Stockbridge; Constance Diana Hobde, 93, Jackson; Ann Marie Meade, 85, Sandstone Township; Jerry James Sweeney, 86, Grass Lake; Nelson Wayne Hawkins, 50, Blackman Township; Christopher Keith Hardt, 71, Blackman Township; Jeanette Grace Hall, 92, Kentwood; Tammy Mae Callender, 65, Jackson; Sammy Laverne King, 83, Hanover; Joan Mary O'Neill, 88, Jackson; Bonnie John-Murray, 79, Napoleon Township; Emerson W. Clemons, 89, Jackson; Thomas Emmons Galve, 80, Columbia Township; Michael Smar Jr., 71, Blackman Township; Allan Frank Meyer, 90, Blackman Township; Cheryl Ann Lanphear, 64, Jackson; Ronald James Coplin, 76, Rives Township; Bibbins Penny June, 70, Brooklyn; Sharon Kay Zakrzewski, 81, Spring Arbor Township; Tonya Lynne Johns, 61, Hillsdale; Marjorie Louise Gork, 75, Jackson; Victoria May Wolski, 85, Sandstone Township; Claudi Weiher, 58, Leoni Township; Paralee Bowman, 84, Jackson; Robert William Futrell, 76, Summit Township; Donald Ralph Nowery, 88, Springport Township; Joan Elaine Peterson, 88, Blackman Township; Robert McKnight Rowell, 77, Jackson; James Brian Mcelhone, 63, Summit Township; Janice Anne Gazlay, 76, Jackson; William Robert Gentner, 89, Cambridge Township; Michael Ray Ham, 73, Jackson; Hope Flores, 97, Jackson; Faye Anne Moore, 85, Jackson; Miladore Margaret Trumble, 93, Parma; Lucinda Anne Zimmerman, 88, Blackman Township; Larry Duane Martin, 79, Blackman Township; Michael Joseph Moran, 90, Winona Lake, IN; Donald Elmer Engel, 88, Summit Township; Dennis Ethan Howe, 84, Hanover Township;

Marriage licenses issued

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

Michaela Savannah Worden, Jackson, and Aiden James Resendes, Windsor; Joshua Paul Brandt, and Aisleen Virginia Pack, Jackson; Katharine Janine Meade and Brandon Michael Sibson, Jackson; Michael Thomas Penezich and Cassandra Michelle Rose, Jackson; Richard Allen Pittsley and Taunya Mae Meyerhofer, Jackson; Jade Alexandra McGinnis, Jackson, and Deacon James Winklepleck, Jackson; Joseph Robert Norment, Jackson, and Taylor Nikole Stone, Jackson; Jessica Lynn Sexton, Jackson, and Ronald Joe Benjamin Garner, Jackson;

Michael Blake Meade, Jackson, and Cherry Fernandez Valeriano, Jackson; Jason William Niswonger, Jackson, and Alektra Jayla Kay Ohlinger, Homer; Luella Mae Rosencrants, Rives Junction, and Dale Allen Duncan, Rives Junction; Finnegan Earl Felesky, Munith, and Annie Sue Hancock, Munith; Sienna Nicole Surber, Jackson, and Logan Christopher Young, Jackson; Robert Howard Brammer, Jackson, and Chloe Renee Stearns, Cement City; Jacob Matthew Singleton, Spring Arbor, and Kylie Marie Brown, Grant; Hannah Jane Krebs, Jackson, and Adam Keith Karas, Jackson; Michael Eugene Strickland, Jackson, and Rebecca Diane Gray-Kelly, Jackson;

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The Great American Crab Races are taking place at the **Eagles Nest Bar & Grill** this year on July 9, 10, and 11. Watch for heat times on Facebook. Proceeds benefit the **Clark Lake Spirit Foundation**.

Gypsy Blue Vineyards is holding a Paint and Sip event on Thursday, July 9, from 6 to 9 pm. Tickets are \$40 per person and include all supplies, guided instruction, and one beverage of your choice. Go to gypsybluevineyards.com for more information.

The **Irish Hills Eagles** are featuring Brayden Lape from The Voice Season 22 on July 11, beginning at 3 pm. Tickets

are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Proceeds go towards Irish Hills Eagles Charities. For tickets, call Patty at 517-206-3410. This event is open to the public, and all ages are welcome.

Artesian Well Sports Tavern holds its Bike Nights featuring Live Music every Thursday evening on the pavilion beginning at 6 pm. Go to thewellstavern.net for more information.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church is holding its next Diaper Closet on Saturday, July 18, from 10 am to 1 pm. They are located at 11151 US 12. Please park in the back and go downstairs. They are providing

a week's supply of diapers, wipes, and diaper cream (per child). This service is open to the public. There is no residency requirement or income verification—just a need.

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@hbajmi.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 killarney-camp.org for more information and to register.

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

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.

Columbia Township

Man arrested for OUID, woman for probation violation after crossing center line into path of state trooper

By John Hummer
Editor

A 53-year-old Brooklyn man and a 62-year-old Brooklyn woman in the same vehicle were arrested and jailed recently after being stopped in Columbia Township – the man for operating under the influence of drugs (OUID) and the woman for outstanding probation violation. The man also had a valid warrant out of Jackson County. Names have yet to be released; pending arraignment.

Michigan State Police troopers stopped a vehicle, a 2016 Chevrolet Malibu, on Wamplers Lake Road near the intersection of Antcliff in Co-

lumbia Township on Tuesday, June 23, at approximately 8 p.m.

"Troopers made contact with the driver – initially they stopped him for improper lane use," said Spl/Lt. Rene Gonzalez, public information officer for MSP First District. "The subject was swerving in and out of his lane of travel. The vehicle was traveling eastbound. The trooper was traveling westbound. The vehicle crossed over the center median line and came into the westbound lane where the trooper vehicle was traveling. The trooper served to avoid the vehicle then initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle."

Lt. Gonzalez stated that upon making contact with the driver, the trooper noticed indicators that the subject was possibly under the influence of either drugs or alcohol and appeared to be falling asleep with slurred speech and small, pinpoint pupils, noting that they are all indicators of drug use.

"The trooper performed a standard sobriety field test on the driver and had enough indicators to believe that the driver was operating a vehicle under the influence of drugs," Lt. Gonzalez said, adding that it did not appear that alcohol was a factor.

The driver was arrested for OUID and taken to the hospital

for a legal blood draw and subsequently lodged at the Jackson County Jail. Additionally, he had a felony warrant for possession of cocaine.

Lt. Gonzalez said the prosecutor's office normally waits for blood results to come back to confirm what drugs the subject was under the influence of before issuing charges.

Additionally, the passenger, a 62-year-old female from Brooklyn, was arrested on an outstanding probation violation warrant and lodged at the Jackson County Jail.

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Multiple America250 activities held in Irish Hills



Sam Depida of Onsted shared his 1935 Chevy truck at the Onsted America250 Car show. Photo by Michelle McLemore.



Napoleon's Carl Davenport, at left, displayed his 1957 BMW Isetta300 and enjoyed the company of James Ackerman of Blissfield who was also there exhibiting. Photo by Michelle McLemore.



**By Michelle McLemore
Staff writer**

The Independence week-end started with a different type of bang and a little more burst than was expected, but Onsted-area folks maintained their Independence Day weekend enthusiasm despite the storms and downed power lines.

Patriotic car enthusiasts stuck it out Friday, July 3 until the storm blew in, knocking over outdoor umbrellas and driving attendees inside the American Legion building. Resolute, Jaded Soul band moved inside and continued with their evening free show.

At Saturday's parade, first place for a large, decorated wagon went to Gateway Church, whose re-enactors of

all ages paid tribute to the signing of the Constitution. Second place was awarded to Denise Schultz in her decked out John Deere. In the youth category, Hailey Lowe took home first place for her small, decorated wagon while Yeti Brayman won for the decorated bicycle category.

At the American Legion free community luncheon, no one went away hungry as sources shared over 80 hot-dogs and about 120 hamburgers along with sides and desserts.

Also at the luncheon, Debbie Hartwick, of Oh These Irish Hills! historical preservation group, displayed an Irish Hills history timeline as well as a postal display at the On-

sted Post Office. Additionally, Sara Sollars of Friends of Walker Tavern had a large display for Lenawee indigenous history.

Down the road at Wooden Old Stone School Open House, more than 25 people visited the site during its three hours. Both Union (Onsted) and Wooden student legacy was discussed as a special topic. The youth activity included making patriotic potato prints.

The Hubbard Auto Museum was also a hopping place on Saturday. Showcasing classic cars, trucks, and a range auto-related and general life exhibits, Jackie Hubbard greeted guests at the door and her extended family helped answer questions and

showcase special items throughout the museum.

Multiple businesses participated in a storefront competition sponsored by the Onsted Chamber of Commerce. Robinson Trucking was awarded the first place trophy. Second place was awarded to Irish Hills Nutrition and third place to R&S Apartments on Main Street. Other fronts which were well-decked-out included Shugar Creek Restaurant, Hubbard's, and Gateway Church.

Continuing America's 250th celebration, July 8th at the old Courthouse in Adrian, Jack Griffes of Onsted, along with others, will be performing a public reading of the "Declaration of Independence" at 6 p.m. All are invited.

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Jackie Hubbard, at right, greeted each museum visitor Saturday, July 4. On display were numerous vintage vehicles and auto-related memorabilia. Photo by Michelle McLemore.



Above, left: Grandchildren of Shawna and Troy Rohrbach of Onsted practiced potato stamping at Wooden School's July 4 Open House. Photo courtesy of Shawna Rohrbach. At right, Sara Sollars shared her knowledge and artifacts of indigenous history. Photo courtesy of Debbie Hartwick.

These Patriots are Justin and Darcie Anderson and their daughters Mia and Nora." Photo courtesy of Debbie Hartwick.

Onsted man second at Firecracker 500



Mitchell Hiatt of Onsted was second at the Hanover Firecracker 5 Mile Run/5K walk in downtown Hanover Saturday.

Story, photo by Jeff Steers

The skies cleared, the rain and lightning stopped, and the heat wave dissipated just in time for the annual Hanover Firecracker 5 Mile Run/5KWalk in downtown Hanover. Those facts may have brought out a large field. Nearly 400 participated in the annual event – the halfway point of the ORS Race Series. That total participating is up nearly 100 from 2025. Rogan Melling lead a charge of Hanover-Horton runners – past and present– winning the 5 mile event in 25 minutes, 48 seconds. Mitchell Hiatt of Onsted was second (25:57), and Hanover-Horton runners Cooper Flick (26:34) and Landen Boulis (26:36)

finished third and fourth-respectively in the 5 mile run. Samantha Schroeder was the 5 mile winner in the women's division in 31:44 and Lindsay Harris of Brooklyn was second in 33:28. Timothy Muckle of Chelsea won the master race (31:25) in the 5 mile run and Barb Meyers was the female master winner in 36:16. Nathan Blondke of Jackson won the 5K walk (34:15), Jennifer Oakes of Jackson finished second (37:21), Katie Flanagan of South Lyon placed third (38:07), and Tim Jaynes of Napoleon was fourth (38:15). Sheri Bush of Clark Lake won the female senior 5 mile race in 47:59. Complete results are available at www.run-

signup.com, look for HanoverFirecracker Run/Walk on July 4.

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OUTDOOR LIVING

The ultimate hunting crib

Gary Eastridge has turned a lifetime of hunting memories into a favorite hangout



Gary Eastridge has chronicled his hunting success, whether it is a whitetail buck taken in his own back yard (left) or a kudu taken on safari (right).

Story, photos by Matt Schepeler
While many grown men claim a room of their own to escape from the troubles of the world, Gary Eastridge has created a space that not only serves as an escape room, but as a reminder of his favorite pastime.

Eastridge, who lives in the Irish Hills, has memories from most every successful hunt he has undertaken, from harvesting whitetail deer in his back yard to taking black bear in Canada, and even successfully harvesting wildebeest in Africa. At one time, Eastridge kept all of his trophies in the house, but as he grew in success, he eventually needed a special place for them, leading him to build a structure in his back yard.

Of course, no proper man-cave would be complete without a large screen television, but make no mistake about it, Eastridge's trophy bear (one weighed up to 330 pounds), antelope and wildebeest are what commands attention from anyone walking into the room.

Eastridge is not a mere bone collector. Behind every kill is a story, and while he takes care to ensure his trophies are well-preserved (Nature's Pride Taxidermy in Hanover does his work), he also notes that he eats what he harvests, including bear.

"We never buy meat," said Eastridge. "The bear, we have it burgered up. We have them all ground, because they are greasy, and add bacon into them. We go to Ebels (General Store Meat Processing) and have it all done. They grind the whole bear and make the patties. I get about 250, 260 patties per bear. They put about 30 percent bacon with it. They grind it right in with it. "It's really good."

Eastridge has two more Canadian bear hunts scheduled over the next two years, and plans on taking along five other hunters from his church, Heart of the Lakes United Brethren Church near Brooklyn, during each trip.

Gary prefers to use a bow and arrow for hunting, and on his African trip he made the most of it, taking the wildebeest, a baboon, two kudu, a duiker (a small antelope), an impala and more.

While the meat cannot be shipped to North America, they ate much of it there during his trip, and he noted that the seasoning they use made it taste different. He said that the animal carcasses had to be freeze dried for 30 days before they were allowed into the country, but once they were thawed out, the taxidermist was able to preserve them beautifully.

The avid outdoorsman

also has enjoyed hunting in Iowa, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, and other places around the United States.

Eastridge is from Romulus, and fell in love with hunting with family in Pittsford near Hillsdale. The retired auto worker enjoys it so much he bought property in the Irish Hills, where he and his wife, Jennifer, regularly hunt.

Incidentally, Gary said that he no longer takes whitetail buck, unless it is larger than one he has taken before. He gets around four doe permits, which keeps meat in the freezer, but leaves most bucks that wander past alone.

He also got involved with raising ringneck pheasant, and at one time was raising 4500 or so birds a year, which he sold to area ranges. "That was before the cost of feed got so high," he said, noting that he enjoyed it while it lasted.

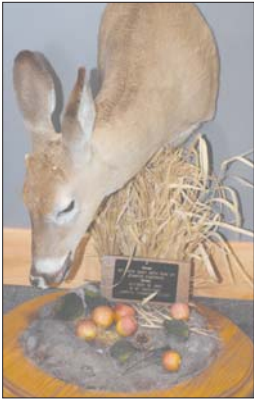
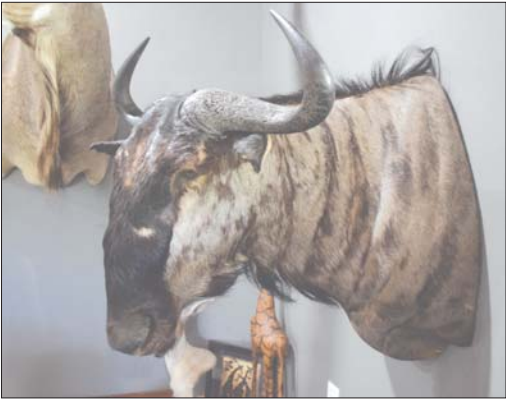
The outdoorsman also enjoyed trapping fox and coyote teens.

When enjoying his hunting crib, Eastridge is reminded of the thrill of the hunt, and enjoys a special connection to the outdoors that many people who do not hunt – but still eat meat killed for them by others – will likely never understand.

"It holds a lot of memories," he noted.



Gary Eastridge poses in front of two black bears he harvested.



Gary Eastridge harvested the above wildebeest, left, while his wife, Jennifer, took the button-buck at right in her back yard. It was her first successful hunt with a bow and arrow.



This photo shows just some of the trophies lining Gary Eastridge's walls collected over a lifetime of hunting.

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