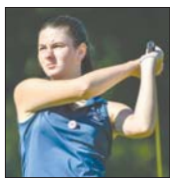




One cannot be angry while playing a ukulele

Jacktown Ukes show up to Walker Tavern



Golf, soccer, volleyball, cross country underway

Football kicks off this week - schedules inside

A scenic summer



Above: No, Country Market is not on fire in this photo. Rather, the sky was strikingly bright after a series of storms rolled through last July. We take a look at some of the best photos that were not published this summer inside. Photo by John Hummer.

Columbia School District

Fires tapped to lead Columbia Options

By John Hummer
Editor

Columbia School District will see a few administrative changes for the 2026-27 school year.

One of those changes is in the Columbia Options program, where Desiree Fires, an Options teacher last year, will take over as the new program coordinator to replace long-time teacher and principal at Columbia Options High School, Melissa Szymke.

"She has been a great mentor and has been of great assistance in this transition," Fires said of Szymke.

"She'll be a good addition to our administrative team," said Superintendent Jim Baker of Fires. "We're excited about that."

Fires is a Brooklyn native and completed all her schooling, K-12, in the Columbia School District. She is a 2000 graduate of Columbia Central High School. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in education at Baker College in 2015. She started her teaching career in the North Adams-Jerome school district as a third-grade teacher for one year before moving to the Jackson Northwest school district, where she taught eighth-grade math for five years at Northwest Middle School.

In 2021, Fires transitioned to Northwest Alternative High School for four years. In October of 2025, she was hired by Columbia School District to teach math at Columbia Options High School



Desiree Fires

for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year before assuming her current role as Options program coordinator.

"Being able to have a position where I can use that skillset and try to help as many of our students as I can is exciting," she stated.

As coordinator, Fires says she will be supporting all Columbia Options students as they take all their classes online. Some of her students have elected to do all their online coursework remotely. Other Options students, by choice, will be physically present at the new location of the Options program within Columbia Central Jr./Sr. High School. (See the Aug. 18 issue of the Exponent for a detailed story on the move of the Options program.)

"I'm like their direct in-person support system," Fires explained. "I can help with the [instructional] material, I can help them navigate the online platform and connect them with any other resources that they may need, whether in the [school] building or in the community."

"I'm very excited about this new role," shared Fires. "It is different for all of us. It's going to look completely different and feel different. I'm excited about the possibilities for the future so that we can best meet the needs of our students. I always advocate for my students and try to do what's best for them."

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026

Spiffing up

Old stone church getting a facelift



PHOTOS BY JOHN HUMMER

A crew of two from Dennis Hearth & Home was spotted doing some restoration work on the old stone church building on N. Main Street in Brooklyn. Above, Brian Dennis is seen using a hose to clean off some of the dirt, dust, and loose stone from the mortar on the building. Brian noted that he has a historic restoration certificate through his company.

Workers have been busy refurbishing the former Brooklyn Library, which served as a Catholic Church before that.

"They're remodeling the whole interior of the building, and we're putting veneer stone around the front entryway of it and doing a lot of masonry restoration," said Samuel Dennis, adding there are sections of the building with substantial damage. "We're removing those [damaged areas] with our demo hammers and refilling them with mortar." They will also be waterproofing the building. Dennis noted that the exterior restoration of the building will take around five to six weeks.



Samuel Dennis uses a rotary hammer to chip off some of the loose, cracked mortar on the exterior of the building. Once they clear out all the loose mortar, they will fill and shore up the cracks with fresh mortar.

Opinion

Well done, Bea Nestor

Opinion
By Matt Schepeler

Two things can be true at the same time, even though they might seem contradictory.

I was reminded of this oddity last week after we published the paper.

If you recall, our lead story was about the 101 Monroe Street building, which has undergone an extensive – and expensive – refurbishing. Central to last week's story were complaints from business owners in the area about the project.

There was nothing wrong or misleading in the story. In fact, the points brought up by those complaining at the village meeting were all valid and worthy of public discourse.

To wit:

- Two neighboring business owners noted how the construction process has hurt their businesses to the tune of tens of thousands of dollars.

- One complaint was about how the project made accessing downtown difficult and even dangerous, adding that the village didn't handle managing traffic well.

- One woman noted how the downtown boom and ensuing parking issues have hurt business off the square.

- Another woman noted that she invested her life savings in their business and received no tax abatements, unlike the 101 Monroe project.

- Chad Fires, the owner of Callaghan's Coffee Café, noted that he was told "the village is not in the business of doing tax abatements" when he asked for one before pouring his military pension into his building, which also required extensive remodeling after it sat idle for years.

"To turn around five years later and have somebody on the corner get a 10-year tax abatement, and not to mention all the issues that we're having with this going on. The lack of support from the village is going to cause us small businesses to struggle," said Fires.

- A central – and likely to be ongoing – complaint is about the lack of parking downtown.

- Yet another issue raised was regarding what business owners feel is unfair ordinance enforcement – a complaint that has risen over the years in the village.

While all of these matters are worthy of discussion, a couple of points should be raised.

One is that Bea Nestor, the owner of 101 Monroe Street, cannot be faulted for asking for a tax break. Be mad at the village for being inconsistent if you want, but Nestor would have been foolish not to have asked for the break as well as sought grant opportunities to restore a historic building. You snooze, you lose.

Secondly, it should be noted that what Nestor has accomplished in taking a dilapidated, 1860s era building and turning it into an asset is nothing short of remarkable. Anyone could have done the same thing and reaped the potential benefits, but she had the vision – and the chops – to take the risk to actually do it.

Third, it would not matter who purchased that building, parking was always going to be an issue. That problem



Beatrice Nestor



8 10499 02693 7

101 Monroe Street . . . from page 1

is not going away. Yet from our perspective, after seeing the downtown area struggle for so many years, this is a good problem to have.

Also, it should be noted that construction is messy. Could the village have handled things differently? Possibly. But I didn't have any trouble getting around town.

In the end, Nestor took a historic building and breathed new life into it, and she should be commended. She created both retail space and living quarters, which will help inject even more life into the village.

Even though the process has been painful, growing pains should be expected with the revitalization of not only our most historic building, but with our entire downtown.

It seems where ever creative and hard working people vye to make a living in close proximity, there will be issues.

In the end, we hope that Nester's building is a big hit for the community.

We also hope anyone reading this will make a point to visit the businesses nearby — especially Callaghan's, Sweet Caroline's, the Corner Cottage and Revive Hair Studio, to express your appreciation for their investment into our community as well.

After all, the phrase "A rising tide lifts all boats" doesn't only apply to coastal life, but to small town economies, as well.

When our neighbors prosper, it helps us all.



A worker paints the facade in front of 101 Monroe

Jackson County

Former sheriff deputy charged with sex crimes

From staff reports

A former Jackson County sheriff's deputy was arraigned Friday on three criminal sexual conduct charges stemming from allegations that predate his time in law enforcement, according to the county prosecutor's office.

Tyler Glen Strawser, 26, faces one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a person under 13 by a defendant 17 or older, one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct with

multiple variables and one count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct with multiple variables, according to a press release from Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney Kelsey Guernsey.

Guernsey said that on Aug. 21, 2026, Strawser was arraigned by Honorable Judge Hughes on the charges. The maximum possible penalty for Criminal Sexual Conduct-First Degree is up to life in the Michigan Department of Corrections.

The charges stem from an

investigation beginning in 2023 where multiple disclosures were made involving Strawser with allegations of assault stemming back to 2017, predating his affiliation with the sheriff's department. Guernsey said the Initial disclosures were reported to the Jackson County Sheriff's Office when a victim learned that Strawser was employed as a sheriff's deputy.

Upon learning of the allegations, the sheriff's office placed Strawser on unpaid leave and the investigation

was turned over to the Michigan State Police.

Strawser was fired from the Sheriff's Office prior to the issuance of the charges. He is being held on a \$250,000 bond at the time of the press release.

A Probable Cause Conference has been scheduled for August 28, 2026 and a preliminary exam has been scheduled for Sept. 10, 2026, both before Judge Hughes.

Lenawee County

Impersonation of law enforcement warning

The Lenawee County Sheriff's Office has received numerous reports of fraudulent activity involving impersonation of members of the Sheriff's Office and asks residents to be vigilant and heed the instructions below.

In these reports, the caller's phone number appears to be the Lenawee County Sheriff's Office, or another local number, and the caller identifies themselves as a deputy, sergeant or lieutenant. The scammers claim the person missed jury duty, failed to appear for court, or have an outstanding warrant.

The scammer will then pressure the person receiving the call to act immediately by paying a bond, fine, or fee to avoid arrest.

THIS IS A SCAM. Law enforcement agencies **DO NOT** call residents demanding immediate payment to avoid arrest. The Lenawee County Sheriff's Office will never instruct you to pay a bond, fine, or fee over the phone, by gift card, cryptocurrency, wire transfer, or through a payment app.

Scammers are becoming increasingly sophisticated. They can "spoof" phone num-

bers so your caller ID appears to show a legitimate law enforcement agency. They may also send text messages or documents that look official in an attempt to make their story seem believable.

If you receive a call like this:

- Hang up immediately.
- DO NOT provide personal or financial information.
- DO NOT send money or make any type of payment.
- Anyone unsure whether the call is legitimate should contact the Lenawee County Sheriff's Office directly using

the non-emergency number or call your local law enforcement agency to verify the information.

The best defense against scams is taking a moment to verify before acting. Scammers rely on fear, urgency, and confusion to pressure people into making quick decisions. If you believe you have been targeted by this scam or have already provided money or personal information, contact your local law enforcement agency as soon as possible.

Write and win scholarship opporntnity

Veterans of Foreign Wars offers patriotic essay/scholarship programs

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is pleased to announce this year's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay/scholarship programs for area school students. Students are invited to prepare unique essays on this year's theme: "What a Veteran Taught Me About America."

Students in grades 9

through 12 are invited to participate in the Voice of Democracy program. Students are asked to write and then record an audio-only essay on the theme. The audio-only recorded essay must be between 3 and 5 minutes in length. The only accepted file type is MP3.

VFW Post 10194 offers a

first-place scholarship of \$500 for the Post Voice of Democracy winner. The national VFW program offers a \$35,000 scholarship to the national first-place winner.

Students in grades 6 through 8 are invited to participate in the Patriot's Pen program. Students are asked to write an essay on the theme. The typed essay must be between 300 and 400 words.

VFW Post 10194 offers a first-place scholarship of \$250 for the Post Patriot's Pen winner. This VFW national program offers a \$5,000 scholarship to the national first-place winner.

Submissions are welcome from all students (public, private, parochial, homeschool) to a local VFW post. Students may submit their essays to only one VFW post. Submissions must be in the hands of their chosen VFW post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2026.

Entry forms and program information are available on the VFW's national website:

vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships

Area contact: Dann Todd, adjutant/youth scholarship chair, VFW Post 10194 - Grass Lake. Phone: 517-740-8454 / Email: danntodd@vfwmi.vet

VFW posts in this area include:

VFW Post 10194, Grass Lake, Mich. vfw10194.org

VFW Post 6056, Springport, Mich. facebook.com/profile.php?id=61573362968427 #

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Ukulele time!



The Jacktown Ukes played and led a community sing at Walker Tavern in honor of America's 250th birthday.

Story & Photos
By Michelle McLemore
Staff writer
For the America250 year-long celebration, Walker Tavern hosted the Jacktown Ukes for a community sing-along, Thursday August 13 on the green. They entertained

with a variety of musical instruments, dancing, and a rousing mix of family-friendly, patriotic, and modernized pieces such as "Hallelujah: the Ukulele version." Friends of Walker Tavern were on-site selling the famous Tavern root beer and the fixings

for ice cream floats. The event had been postponed due to heavy rain on its first scheduled date. Attendees received a sing-a-long packet and free mini U.S. flags.
The Jackson-based group meets every second and

fourth Monday at the Jackson District Library Eastern Branch to practice 5:30-7:30 p.m. As a self-proclaimed "casual" group, they say, no experience is necessary to join the group practices.



Some of the uke group took turns singing, playing the kazoo, and doing the twist to entertain the audience at Walker Tavern.



Out and About: more things to do

Irish Hills EagleFest 50th Anniversary

The Irish Hills Eagles 3689 will host a 50th anniversary celebration on Saturday, Aug. 29, at the club, 9500 Wamplers Lake Road, Brooklyn. Starting at 10 a.m., the public is welcome to enjoy craft vendors, a bake sale, pig roast, live music, a beer tent, games and more to celebrate both the Eagles and the 250-year celebration of America. Visit Irish Hills Eagles 3689 on Facebook.

Renaissance Faire at Sandhill Crane Vineyards

On Saturday, Aug. 29, from noon-8 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 30 from noon-6 p.m., Sandhill Crane Vineyards, 4724 Walz Road, Jackson, will hold a Renaissance Faire. Attendees are encouraged to come in costume. The event will include vendors, classes, wine, mead and beer. Come for the sword fights, a stockade, fortune tellers, trinket trading, live music and more. Follow Sandhill Crane Vineyards on Facebook for updates.

Adrian First Fridays

Set for Friday, Sept. 4, in downtown Adrian, Adrian First Fridays will have a "90s Throwback" theme with a DJ, a bounce house, yard games such as Jenga and Connect 4, farmers market vendors on North Main Street with overflow on East Maumee Street, food trucks and more. The event will take place from 5-8 p.m. with participating shops staying open late. Go to Adrian First Fridays on Facebook for more information on activities and specials.

Michigan State Fair

The Michigan State Fair in Novi will take place Thursday and Friday, Sept. 3 and 4, from 11 a.m.- 8 p.m. and Saturday-Monday,

Sept. 5-7, from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Entertainment, rides, contests, art, Lego and farm displays, monster trucks, a demolition derby and more will round out this family-friendly event. Visit michiganstatefairllc.com/attractions for details.

The Croswell: 'Come From Away'

The Croswell Opera House, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian, will present "Come From Away" Sept. 11-20. The critically acclaimed musical tells the story of 7,000 passengers and the small town of Gander, Newfoundland. On Sept. 11, 2001, what started as an average day turned into an international sleepover as 38 planes and people from around the globe were diverted to Gander's airstrip. Visit Croswell.org for tickets.

Second annual Irish Hills Music Festival

This second year of the music festival that supports the Parkinson's Foundation of Michigan, Irish Hills area hospices and the Irish Hills community will take place Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Durkee-Seager Unit 550 American Legion, 333 Conner St., Onsted.
From noon to midnight, local bands will take the stage, including Massasauga, Stray Shot, Wasabi Pearls, Bille Lewis and the Soulbacks, Jaded Soul, Elektrik Mayhem and more, with food trucks including Smoky D's BBQ, Brenda's Little Taste of Texas, Katie Kakes and several others. Onsted Band Boosters will hold a charity bake sale and there will be a wellness center and a boutique craft vendors market.
Admission is freebut donations are encouraged. Visit Irish Hills Music Festival on Facebook for details.



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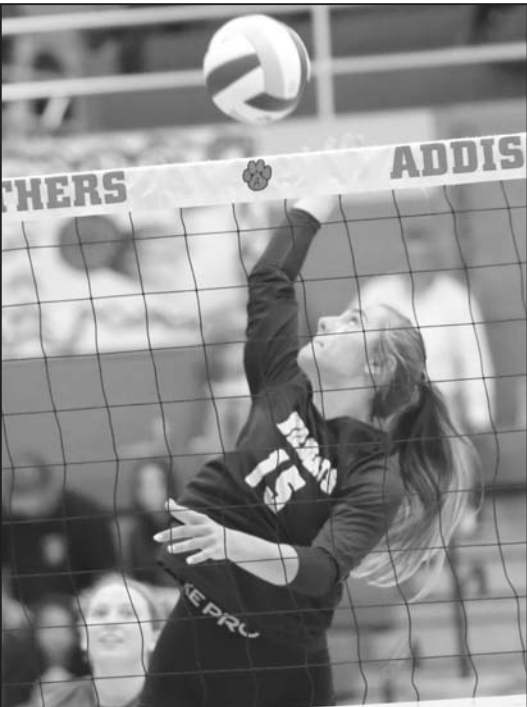
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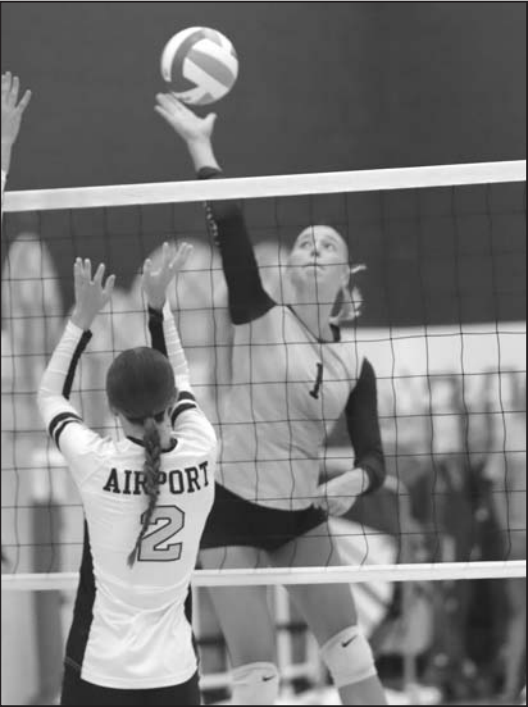
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Napoleon starts season undefeated

Onsted and Columbia Central sweep invitationals



Wildcat Payton Edwards was active around the net last weekend as Onsted started their season a perfect 5-0.



Lou Brown, #1, led the Eagles with seven blocks while making 21 kills and seven digs against Carleton Airport on their way to capturing the Adrian Invitational.

Story and photos
By Paul Snyder

Onsted wins Addison Invitational

The Onsted Lady Wildcats went a perfect 5-0 this past Saturday to clinch the 2026 Addison Invitational as Coach Taylor Hutchinson's Lady Wildcats defeated the host Addison Panthers 25-20 and 25-22, Sand Creek 25-18 and 25-13, and East Jackson 25-8 and 25-15 in pool play. They also defeated Grass Lake (JV) in the semifinals of bracket play, and the Sand Creek Aggies again in the finals, 25-13 and 28-26 for the championship.

Hadley Ross led the Lady Cats with 31 Kills, eight aces, and 14 digs. Kayla Gerken and Alana Ramsey tallied 14 kills apiece, while freshman Paisley Murphy added 11 kills.

Grace Teske led the Wildcats with 69 digs and Lauren Terakedis dished out a team-high 56 assists to go with 37 digs and six aces.

The host Addison Panthers went 1-3 on the day. After falling to Onsted, they bounced back to defeat East Jackson 25-21 and 25-16 but fell to Sand Creek 17-25 and 22-25 in pool play and the Reading Rangers in the consolation contest.

Columbia wins Adrian Invitational

The Columbia Central Lady Eagles captured the Adrian Invitational this past Saturday going 3-0 on the day, sweeping Carleton Airport in the opener 25-16, 25-13, and 25-13, the host Adrian Maples 25-17, 25-21, 19-25 and 24-14, and the Blissfield Royals in three sets 25-22, 25-11, and 25-14 for the championship.

Senior Mara Henry led the way for the Eagles with 33 kills, six aces, six blocks, and 19 digs. Junior Lydia Sanders had a big day with 32 kills and 31 digs. Brooke Petoskey and McKenna Hoskins ran the Eagle offense with Petoskey dishing out 46 assists while making 23 digs, six kills, and three blocks, while Hoskins recorded 43 assists, 19 digs, and five aces.

Lou Brown led the Eagles with seven blocks while making 21 kills and seven digs, Brooke Johnson contributed 24 digs, 11 kills, four aces

and two blocks, and Junior Harlow Zuver chipped in with 23 digs.

Onsted at Quincy and vs. Hudson

The Onsted Lady Wildcats fell to the host Quincy Orioles 22-25, 25-20, and 23-25 and archrival Hudson Tigers 23-25, 13-5, and 18-25 in their season openers last Wednesday at Quincy.

Lauren Terakedis recorded her 1,000th career assist on the night.

Onsted at Whitmore Lake and vs. Ann Arbor Greenhills

The Onsted Wildcats picked up their first two wins of the season last Thursday (Aug. 20) at Whitmore Lake, defeating the host Trojans in three sets 25-19, 22-25 and 25-15 and Ann Arbor Green Hills in two sets, 25-13 and 25-20.

Hadley Ross led the Wildcats with 14 kills, Lauren Terakedis dished out 23 assists, and Grace Teske notched 30 digs for the Lady Cats.

Columbia at Parma Western and vs. Pewamo-Westphalia

The Columbia Central Lady Eagles went 1-1 in their 2026 season opener at Parma Western last Wednesday (Aug. 19), falling to the host Panthers 15-25 and 16-25, then bouncing back to defeat Pewamo-Westphalia 25-20 and 25-18.

Lydia Sanders led the Eagles with 13 kills and 16 digs. Mara Henry had strong all-around games with eight kills, seven digs, two aces and three blocks.

Brooke Petosky led the Eagles in assists with 14, and McKenna Hoskins served up three aces to go with eight assists and six digs. Brooke Johnson chipped in with seven kills, seven digs, and one ace. Lou Brown had a team-high four blocks.

Napoleon vs. Jackson Christian and Brighton Charyl Stockwell Academy

The Napoleon Lady Pirates opened their 2026 season at home last Wednesday (Aug. 19) with a pair of wins, defeating Jackson Christian in four sets 25-4, 25-14, 22-25 and 25-20 and Brighton Charyl Stockwell Academy in four sets, 25-22, 25-20 18-25 and 25-20.



Addison senior Hailey Marsee goes for a kill against East Jackson. Photos by Paul Snyder.

Claire Beer and Myla Hasegawa led the way for the Pirates, combining for 49 kills and 42 digs. Beer made 26 kills and Hasegawa tallied 23 kills and 20 digs while serving up 11 aces. Hallie Duvall contributed a team-high 42 digs, Lydia Warner dished out 28 assists, and Jenna Yob added 23 assists for the Pirates.

Grass Lake at Tecumseh Quads

The Grass Lake Lady Warriors opened their 2026 season going 2-1 at the Tecumseh Quads last Wednesday (Aug. 19) defeating Adrian Madison 25-18 and 25-17, falling to the host Tecumseh Indians in three sets, 17-25, 25-23 and 21-25, and finishing the day taking down Carleton Airport, 25-15 and 25-16.

Aliria Pastoriza had 19 points to lead the Warriors while serving up six aces and slamming eight kills and six blocks. Hayley Laurie directed the Warriors offense with 56 assists while serving up five aces for 15 points on the day. Reese Lape had a team-high 20 kills, Hadleigh White notched 11 kills and 10 blocks, Vivian Vitale contributed 10 kills, 12 digs, and had 12 points, and Lily McVicker added 11 digs.

Grass Lake at Chelsea Invitational

The Grass Lake Lady Warriors went 1-1-2 at the Chelsea Invitational this past Saturday, splitting two sets with Cascades Conference rival Hanover-Horton 25-18 and 18-25, defeating the host Chelsea Bulldogs 25-11 and 25-19, and splitting with Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard 25-22 and 18-25 in pool play.

The Warriors then moved into Gold Bracket play as the fourth seed facing Father Gabriel Richard for the second time, falling in three sets 25-23, 15-25, and 10-25 to end the day.

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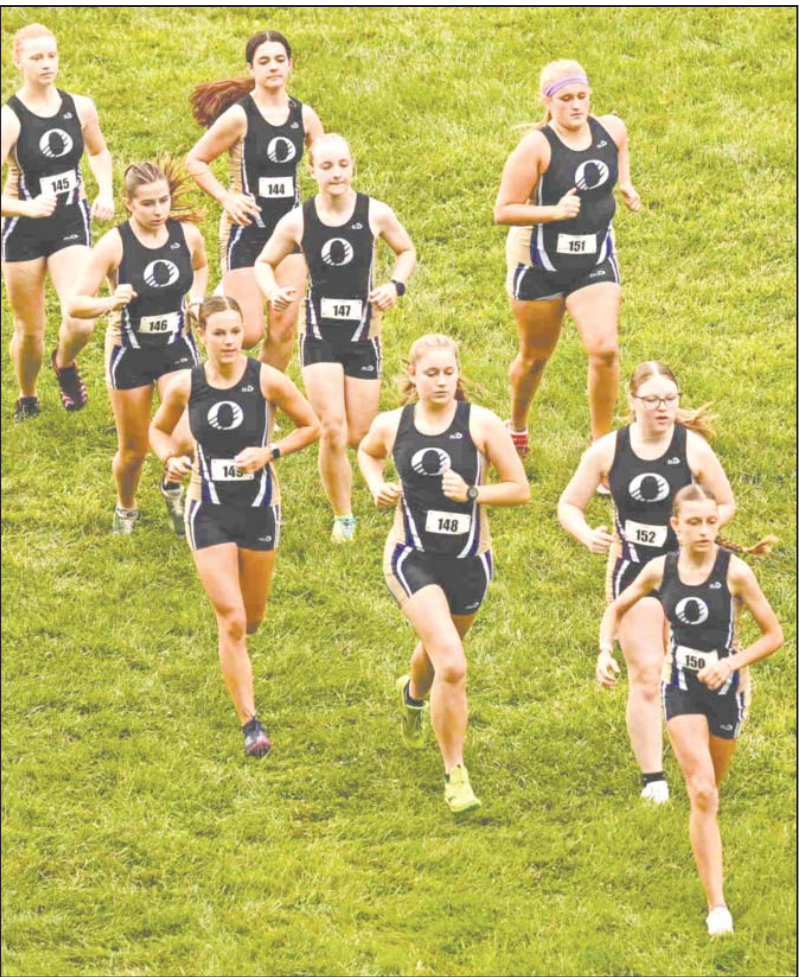
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And they're off!



The season kicks off for members of the Onsted High School girls' cross country team during the Lenawee Preview event at Tecumseh High School.

Cross country, tennis kicks off

Photo, story by Jeff Steers
Exponent special writer

Girls Cross Country Lenawee County Preview: Stylar Ross of Onsted finished 12th in 22:49 to earn a medal. Onsted teammates Izabel Raglow was 28th (25:01), Jaelyn Gwinner finished 34th (25:36), and Mattie Hallenbeck placed 36th (25:42). Grace Gillin of Addison was 42nd in 26:32.

Boys Cross Country Lenawee County Preview: Nicklas Holmes of Onsted finished 30th overall in 19:55, teammate Alex Hunt was 38th in 20:55, and Tony Gudakunst of Addison placed 40th with a time of 21:04.

Boys tennis Columbia Central 3, Hillsdale 3: Trenton Ruttkofsky won 6-3 and 6-2 at No. 1 singles for CCHS. Carson Lupp/Cameron Brown and Lynken Lavery/Tyson Timbrook won doubles matches for the Golden Eagles at Nos. 1 and 2, respectively.



It's YOUR Business

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

Wilcox Lawn & Landscaping is holding a 40 Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, August 29 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. They are located at 3027 Blue Ridge Road in Clarklake. Join them for food, vendors, giveaways, and live music. Go to wilcoxlawndlandscaping.com for more information.

Faust House Scrap-n-Craft and Art Supplies is holding Teen Night on Wednesday, August 25, from 5 p.m. to 7 pm in Manitou Beach Village. Join Faust House to DIY, paint, scrapbook, and more. Bring your own project or use Faust House supplies.

Join the **Village of Brooklyn** on Thursday, August 27 for an evening of music, art, local vendors, and more. Art in the Park will take place every fourth Thursday until September from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Historic Baseball will be played at **Cambridge Junction Historic State Park/Walker Tavern** on Saturday, August 29 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Irish Hills Eagles Fest is taking place on Saturday, August 29 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Help them celebrate their 50-Year Anniversary with vendors, a bake sale, a pig roast, live music, a

beer tent, games, fun, and free entry.

The Wine and Flower Festival is taking place at **Gypsy Blue Vineyards** on Saturday, August 29, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Enjoy U-Pick Flowers, local artisans, food trucks, music, and more. General Admission is \$10 and includes two samplings of two new Gypsy Blue wines. Go to gypsybluevineyards.com for more information.

The Irish Hills Regional Chamber of Commerce is holding Coffee & Connections on Friday, August 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at Meckley's Flavor Fruit Farm, sponsored by The Berger

Group. Network with Irish Hills Business Leaders and learn how to get the most out of your Chamber benefits. If you are not a member of the IH Chamber yet, stop in and see what we are all about. This is a free event for IHRCC members or \$10 for potential members. Register at IrishHills.com or call 517-592-8907.

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!

Dr. Gleb Tsipursky
New York

Letter to the editor

Jackson County employers need an AI experience compact

Dear editor,
Michigan's AI Workforce Plan update says demand for AI skills is expanding across regions and industries. The state is right to emphasize adaptation, but businesses also need to protect how workers gain experience. Stanford Digital Economy Lab is tracking disproportion-

ate pressure on workers ages 22 to 25 in highly AI-exposed occupations. Jackson County employers should adopt an AI experience compact. When software removes a recurring beginner task, the employer should identify a new supervised responsibility, a coach, and a measurable skill mile-

stone. The replacement could be troubleshooting instead of routine processing, reviewing exceptions instead of producing standard drafts, or explaining findings instead of merely compiling them. AI can remove repetitive work without removing development. The employers that

deliberately preserve a path from novice to expert will have a stronger talent base when today's junior workers are needed as tomorrow's supervisors and specialists.

Fighting cancer, building hope
Grass Lake Relay for Life marks 20th anniversary

The Grass Lake community will host its 20th annual Relay For Life on Friday, Sept. 18, 2026, honoring cancer survivors, remembering those lost, and supporting individuals currently facing cancer. This year's theme, "Fighting Cancer, Building Hope," highlights continued community support for those affected by the disease. The Survivor Lap begins at 3 p.m., recognizing cancer survivors and their families. Community members are en-

couraged to attend and show support. The event coincides with the Grass Lake Warriors varsity football game against Manchester, bringing together students, families, alumni, and local organizations. A GLCS Community Resource Night will run from 4 to 7 p.m. and will include a spaghetti dinner fundraiser, a silent auction featuring local business donations, and additional Relay For Life activities.

Following the game, attendees will participate in a Luminaria Ceremony honoring those impacted by cancer, including remembrance of loved ones and recognition of current patients. This year's event will also honor the Bechtel family, who helped establish Relay For Life in Grass Lake 20 years ago in memory of Joe Bechtel and in support of all affected by cancer. A Kiwanis Club Bingo fundraiser will be held Thursday, Sept. 17, at Sawd's Vil-

lage Inn-Missy's II to support Relay For Life. Sawd's is located at 12000 E. Michigan Avenue in Grass Lake. For 20 years, Relay For Life has united the Grass Lake community in the fight against cancer. Organizers say the anniversary underscores the importance of continued local support. To register to participate in the event, call 1-800-227-2345. For more information, contact Jon Bristle at GLRelay4Life@gmail.com.

Soccer results



Eli Hawley of Columbia Central High School scored the only goal in a 2-1 loss to Jackson during the Battle for Jackson at Mehall Field Saturday.

Columbia Central competes in Battle for Jackson

Columbia Central High School went 1-2 in the Battle for Jackson Soccer Tournament Saturday at Mehall Field in Jackson.

The Golden Eagles defeated Jackson Christian 2-1 to begin the day.

But CCHS lost 2-1 to Jackson and 5-1 to Tecumseh in the other matches. The event featured seven Jackson County soccer programs and Tecumseh playing on two field across from the Middle School at Parkside.

Eaton Rapids 3, Grass Lake 0: The Warriors were shut out 3-0 against Eaton Rapids at the Boyne Invitational Friday to open the sea-

High school schedule
Aug. 24 – Aug. 31

Football

Aug. 27
Melvindale Academy at Columbia Central 7 p.m.
Perry at Addison 7 p.m.
M.C. at Onsted 7 p.m.
VCL at Laingsburg 7 p.m.

Aug. 28
Madison at G.L. 7 p.m.
Montague at Nap. 7 p.m.

Volleyball

Aug. 24
Nap. at Onsted 5 p.m.
VCL at Springport 5 p.m.

Aug. 26
Nap. at C.C. 6:30 p.m.
VCL at Addison 5 p.m.
G.L. at M.C. 6:30 p.m.

Cross Country

Aug. 27
Meckley's Inv. 4:30 p.m.

Boys Soccer

Aug. 26
C.C. at M.C. 5:30 p.m.
G.L. at Leslie 5:30 p.m.

Aug. 29
C.C. at Ida Noon

Aug. 31
W.C. at Onsted 5:30 p.m.
Grass Lake at Columbia Central 5:30 p.m.

Girls Golf

Aug. 26
Onsted at LCAA (Wolf Creek) Noon

Aug. 31
Napoleon Jamboree (Green Valley) 1 p.m.
Onsted at LCAA (Baw Beese, Hillsdale) 1 p.m.

Boys Tennis

Aug. 24 Northwest at Columbia Central 3:45

Aug. 31 Columbia Central at Jackson 4 p.m.

Back on the links

Grass Lake second at first Cascades golf jamboree



Columbia Central High School golfer Maddy Truax watches her chip shot head toward the green during the Cascades Conference jamboree at Clark Lake Golf Course last week.

Photos, story by Jeff Steers
Exponent special writer

Grass Lake High School had a solid start to the golf season.

The Warriors were second in the first Cascades Conference golf jamboree and placed a team in the top 10 of a scramble event.

Here are scores from a busy week of golf to kick off the 2026 high school season.

East Jackson 2-man scramble at Sharp Park: Pinckney won the event with a two-person score of 1-

under-par 70. Jillian Barnes and Taryn Sawyer of Western finished fifth with a 77, Lumen Christi placed eighth with an 81 with a team of Peyton Best and Tristin Johnson, and Concord and Grass Lake tied for ninth with 82 with a Concord team of Haley Stimer and Mya Barrett and Grass Lake with a team of Ellie Roberts and Lauren Doser.

Columbia Central jamboree at Clark Lake: Michigan Center won the first Cascades Conference jamboree scoring 199 at Clark

Lake Golf Course. Grass Lake was second (213), Columbia Central was third (217), Hanover-Horton placed fourth (239), Napoleon was one stroke behind the Comets (240), Addison placed sixth (265), and Vandercook Lake was seventh (303). Mallory Gilson of Michigan Center took medalist honors with a 46, Maddy Truax of CCHS was second scoring 47, Karsyn Smith of Michigan Center finished third scoring 48, and Katelyn Ault of Napoleon was fourth with a 50.



Lauren Doser of Grass Lake High School teamed with Ellie Roberts tied for ninth at the East Jackson Scramble Invitational at Sharp Park last week.

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Obituary

Richard Chamberlain Jr.

 Richard Chamberlain Jr., age 83, passed away peacefully on Aug. 15, 2026, surrounded by his loved ones at his home in Clark Lake, Mich., with the love of his life, Patricia, by his side.

Richard was born to Richard Chamberlain Sr. and Goldie Chamberlain. He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved sister, Beverly Brzozowski.

For more than 60 years, Richard shared a beautiful life and enduring love with his wife, Patricia. Together, they danced through a lifetime of memories, adventures, laughter, and love. Patricia was, without question, the love of his life and his favorite person in the world. Their story was one of true partnership, devotion, and a love that only grew stronger with time.

Richard was a man who lived a remarkable and adventurous life. He proudly served as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps and was also honored as an honorary member of the Air Force. He later became a commercial pilot, flying both DC-8 and 747 jets—a career that suited his larger-than-life personality perfectly.

When he wasn't flying through the skies, Richard could usually be found doing something interesting or unusual, or slightly mischievous. His many hobbies included waterskiing, running, forg-



Richard Chamberlain Jr.

ing knives, antique dealing, metal detecting, and coin collecting. He loved riding his Harley motorcycle with his little dog Spike and his MasterCraft boat; he had a lifelong curiosity that always seemed to lead him into his next adventure.

Richard also had a tremendous love for animals. He especially enjoyed being a proud "goat dad," because apparently

raising goats was just another perfectly reasonable thing to add to an already impressive list of hobbies.

But above all else, Richard loved his family. He was a devoted father to Angel Chamberlain Gormley and her husband, Eric; Richard Chamberlain Jr. and his wife, Tammi; and Sandy Darling and her husband, John. He was a proud grandfather to Tricia Chamberlain, Bobbie Miller and his spouse, Lynn, Courtney Hill, and Grace Olivia Darling. He was a beloved great-grandfather to Walker Miller and Carter Richard Miller, and a brother to Susan Chamberlain Psychas and Ted, Valerie Chamberlain Hoyt. Along with so many nieces and nephews

Richard wasn't just a father to his own children. He was the neighborhood "Dad"—the kind of man who was there when someone needed him, whether they asked for help or not. He was loving, loyal, kind, protective, and always

ready with an opinion, a story, or a smart remark, but that was part of what made him Richard. His humor, his teasing, and his unmistakable personality will be missed just as much as his hugs and his wisdom.

One of his favorite things to say was, "I'm glad you got to see me." It was perfectly Richard—funny, confident, and just a little bit of a wise guy.

Those who knew him will remember a man who loved deeply, lived boldly, worked hard, played hard, and never did anything halfway. He was an amazing husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend, and neighbor. Richard leaves behind a lifetime of stories, adventures, laughter, and love. His family will carry those memories with them always—and knowing Richard, he probably would have wanted the last word. And somehow probably still does. Richard, we're glad we got to see you!!

Visitation will be held on Friday, September 4, beginning at 10 a.m., at Eineder Funeral Home in Brooklyn, Mich. A service celebrating Richard's life will follow at 12 p.m.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Cascades Humane Society, or Memorial contributions may be given to the family for future designation. Please leave a message of comfort for Richard's family or sign his guestbook at www.EinederFuneralHomes.com.

Death notices

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

Steven Cox, 67, Jackson;
Judith Rae Proseus, 79, Summit Township;
Willie Terry Taylor, 64, Blackman Township;
Helen May Taylor, 102, Blackman Township;
Anne Marie Struck, 93, Summit Township;
Allan Ray Rickman, 72, Jackson;
John Patrick Wright, 91, Grass Lake Township;
Rochelle Renee Steele, 56, Jackson;
Ella Sue Parker-White, 69, Jackson;
Jane Ann Norris, 80, Columbia Township;
Shirley Mae Morris, 99, Summit Township;
Kenneth Lester Herrick, 64, Napoleon Township;
Shirley Ann Eastman, 86, Jackson;
Kevin Kip Roberts, 70, Spring Arbor Township;
Rosita Po McWilliams, 84, Leoni Township;
James Melvin Cozart, 62, Rives Township;
Kevin Michael Underhill, 46, Springport Township;
Edward Zera French, 85, Blackman Township;
Ronald Hall, 63, Summit Township;
Denise Kay Harkness, 71, Jackson;
Wayne Charles Chappell Jr., 65, Blackman Township;
James Glenn Reasoner, 85, Blackman Township;
Herman Lee Arnold, 90, Leoni Township;
Madelyn Jo Hart, 0, Grass Lake Township;
David Michael Lindeman, 61, Liberty Township;
Ralph Leonard Vail, 97, Blackman Township;
William Bernard Ruede, 76, Jackson;
Joan Lela Dumbauld, 91, Jackson;
Glenis Lee Berry, 83, Leoni Township;
Mildred Harriet Killian, 92, Spring Arbor.

Support area farmers' markets

Reserve your seat for the 2026 Farm to Table Fabulous Feast at Grass Lake

By John Hummer
Editor

There is no better way to celebrate the bounty of our communities than by gathering around a table filled with fresh, locally grown food. That is why 5 Healthy Towns is hosting the 11th annual Farm to Table Fabulous Feast, themed "Picnic at the Lake."

The Fabulous Feast takes place on Sunday, Sept. 13, from 4 to 6 p.m. (gates open at 3 p.m.) at Grass Lake County Park, 400 N. Lake Street, Grass Lake. Tickets are available online. (See end of this announcement for website.) This event always sells out, so get your tickets

soon.

The 2026 Farm to Table Fabulous Feast, this year in Grass Lake, will host community members from around the area to enjoy an unforgettable evening that brings together local farmers, foodies, and neighbors in celebration of the people and places that make area communities special.

All tickets sold support five area farmers' markets and gives guests an opportunity to savor delicious food, con-

nect with others, and experience the best of the season.

The volunteer planning committee has crafted a seasonal menu that will offer something for everyone. The multi-course menu includes bruschetta topped with goat cheese and caramelized pear, pimento cheese hushpuppies, fresh seasonal salad, bacon-wrapped pork tenderloin roasted with herbs and marinade, herb roasted chicken thighs, buttermilk

mashed potatoes, piperade and polenta cake, dill biscuits, and ice cream served with fresh fruit pies.

To purchase tickets, volunteer, sponsor, or donate, scan the associated QR code or visit 5healthytowns.org/farm-to-table-dinner.

For more information about the 5 Healthy Towns Foundation or the five farmers' markets, visit 5healthytowns.org.



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Marriages

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

Mackenzie Elisabeth, Grass Lake, and Cade William Gilles, Saline;
Sherry Suzanne Pauze, Hanover, and Kenneth Brown, Hanover;
Tony Allen Spink, Jackson, and Angela Jean Sharp, Jackson;
Brittany Lynn Bycraft, Jackson, and Zachary Gerald Kulpinski, Brooklyn;
Sydahei Raelynn Car-Steffen, Jackson, and Henry Thomas Coolbaugh, Jackson;
Angela Lynn Edward, Jackson, and Floyd Wesley, Jackson;
Jennifer Marie Leach, Jackson, and Shawn Ashley Crowley, Jackson;
Jack Benjamin Kopplin, Jackson, and Lillian Suesanne Miller, Jackson;
Kala Diamalyn Goodwin, Jackson, and Erwin Joseph, Jackson;
Cecily Suzann Watterson, Parma, and Jonathan Luke Beukelman, Greenwood Village, CO;
Brayden James Becker, Jackson, and Mary Ann Marie Long, Jackson;

Mallory Lyn Stribe, Jackson, and Jacobe Aaron Allen, Jackson;
Dorothy Ann Ross, Albion, and Gatlinn James Hurley, Albion;
William Lynn Potter, Brooklyn, and Tammy Lynn Jamison, Brooklyn;
Brock Robert Herrick, Owosso, and Mary Elena Bundy, Brooklyn;
Casey Dean Postma, Jackson, and Emalee Rebecca De La Grange, Jackson;
Elizabeth Ann Howke, Parma, and Daniel Lee Lozuaway, Parma;
Dillion Gauge Oldenburg, Parma, and Mercedes Elizabeth Catt, Jackson;
Kevin Douglas Allen, Jackson, and Rachel Marie Marks, Jackson;
Nathan Thomas Lockridge, Jackson, and Ritchelle Taylor Avriett, Jackson;
Chelsea Ann Hemminger, Springport, and Coleman Wayne, Springport;
Jesse Everett Jones, Jackson, and Amy Lynn Arnett, Jackson.



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