

Sanders hits 1,000



Above: Columbia Central senior Derek Sanders hit his 1,000th point in a victory over Addison last week - see sports

On the water
Hamlin
named
Bassmaster
All-American



Ryan Hamlin, shown above showing off a hog of a largemouth bass, has been named to the 2024 Bassmaster High School All-American team. Courtesy photo.

From staff reports

Twelve of the top high school anglers in the country have been selected as members of the prestigious Bassmaster High School All-American Fishing Team, including Rylan Hamlin, a senior on the Jackson Bass Fishing Team.

According to B.A.S.S. officials, Hamlin has an astounding 24 wins spanning 2023 to 2024, including multiple wins on the B.A.S.S. High School Team Trail and, notably, the 2024 Michigan B.A.S.S. Nation High School State Championship at Sault Ste. Marie this past August.

In addition, Hamlin has earned 17 Top 5 finishes, including a second-place finish at the 2024 Bassmaster High School National Championship on Chickamauga Lake out of a field of more than 270 teams, as well as five Top 20 finishes, with a sixth-place finish at the MLF/TBF National Finals and a 10th-place finish at the MLF/TBF World Finals, with both events having a field size of nearly 400 teams.



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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024

\$2⁰⁰

Grit trumps talent

The making of a Big League champion



From left: Conice Reynolds Honeywell, Brent Honeywell Jr. and Brent Honeywell Sr. were all smiles after the Los Angeles Dodgers won the World Series. Below, Brent Jr. walks off the mound. Photos courtesy Brent Honeywell Sr.

Through four surgeries and countless rehabs and setbacks, Brent Honeywell Jr. never wavered in his faith - and neither did his family.

By Matt Schepeler

Last fall many people in the community watched with a sense of pride as Brent Honeywell Jr. pitched in the National League playoffs and the World Series for the now-World Champion Los Angeles Dodgers.

After all, the Honeywells have deep roots in the community. Vince Honeywell, Brent Jr.'s grandfather, championed baseball in Brooklyn for years, coaching at various levels, including American Legion ball. His wife, Cheri, was a popular hairdresser in town.

Vince poured his knowledge and love of the game into his son, Brent, who played baseball for Columbia Central and later made a run at the Big Leagues through the Pittsburgh Pirate farm system.

Though Brent never made it to the Bigs, (he retired and became a teacher in Georgia) the dream lived on when his son, Brent Jr. proved to have prime-time potential.

Like Vince, Brent Sr. handed down his love and knowledge of the game to his son, coaching him in high school and staying tuned into his progress as he made his way from farm systems all the way up to the pinnacle of the sport.

While having talent and encouragement are important, it should be noted that nothing would come easily for him.

Honeywell went undrafted out of high school and attended Walters State Community College for a year, where he went 10–3 with a 2.81 ERA and 102 strikeouts. During that season, his velocity increased from the mid-80 miles per hour range into the 90s.

The Tampa Bay Rays noticed the hard-throwing right hander, and selected Honeywell in the second round of the 2014 Major League Baseball draft. He made his professional debut with the Princeton Rays, and finished his first year with a 1.07 ERA with 40 strikeouts



in 33⅓ innings over nine games.

The future was bright. At one point in his minor league career, Honeywell ranked as high as the 11th-best prospect in professional baseball, according to *Baseball America*.

But then the struggles began.

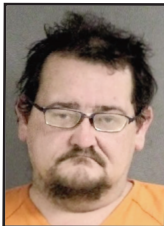
On February 22, 2018, Honeywell left a spring training workout with an arm injury. The following day he was diagnosed with a torn ulnar collateral ligament in his elbow. He underwent Tommy John surgery and was done for the entire 2018

Tracked to Brooklyn

Double murder suspect arrested



Niles



Schweda

“The Flock camera system provided a very crucial element to the apprehension of Mr. Schweda.”

Jay Niles
Columbia Charter Township police chief

By John Hummer
Editor

Two Leoni Township residents are dead from gunshot wounds and the suspect has been arraigned on murder charges in a double homicide that occurred this past Saturday.

Roger Albert Schweda, 40, was arraigned Monday on two counts of open murder and felony firearms for the deaths of two people found shot in the 6900 block of Welch Lake Road in Leoni Township.

Schweda is accused of murdering his neighbor, 57-year-old Thomas Farnsworth and his mother, 70-year-old Shari Schweda.

On Saturday, Dec. 7 at approximately 1:56 p.m., Blackman-Leoni Department of Public Safety was dispatched to the 6900 block of Welch Lake Road in Leoni Township for a personal welfare check on a subject.

Farnsworth had received a voicemail from Roger Schweda saying he couldn't go inside his home because his mother was dead. Concerned, Farnsworth called the police requesting the welfare check.

Farnsworth walked over to the residence to get the exact address of his neighbor. While in the driveway, Farnsworth called the police again, saying the defendant was pulling up the driveway. That's when a gunshot was heard and Farnsworth stopped responding.

When officers with the Blackman-Leoni Department of Public Safety responded to the

Service with a smile



Vickie Monahan of the Irish Hills Eagles is ready to serve a scrumptious plate of chicken and all the fixins at the Christmas Gala dinner last Friday. Photo by John Hummer.

Honeywell . . . continued from page 1

season.

After missing 2018, he fractured a bone in his right elbow and was ruled out for the 2019 season.

In May of 2020, he underwent a compression procedure on his right ulnar nerve, removing scar tissue. This surgery caused him to be out for the 2020 season.

Following 2020, Honeywell dropped out of the preseason prospect rankings for *Baseball Prospectus*, *MLB.com* and *Baseball America* for the first time since the offseason after he was drafted. But while the professional prognosticators had lost faith in Honeywell, neither he nor his family gave up the dream.

“He kept plugging along,” said Brent Sr. in a recent telephone conversation. “It was a lot of hard work, but he eventually got to show America what we knew all along,” said his dad.

During his career, Honeywell Jr. has bounced around the league. From Tampa Bay he went to Oakland, then to San

Diego to the Chicago White Sox, then on to the Pittsburgh Pirates, and finally back to California with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Over that time, he had available some of the best rehabilitation experts and pitching coaches in the business, but it wasn’t until he went home to Georgia that he got the advice that helped him get back on track. Predictably, it came from his father.

“I noticed when he was throwing that he was landing on his tiptoes,” said Brent Sr. “I asked him, ‘Do you walk like that? Of course you don’t. Then you can’t throw like that, either.’”

Honeywell worked with his father on his mechanics, and the advice helped him with his fluidity.

While Brent Sr. said he would like to take all the credit for his son’s success, he noted that his cousin, former pitching coach Mike Marshall, also had a lot to do with it, as he had handed down much insight to Brent Sr.

“He [Marshall] was 30 years

ahead of his time,” said Honeywell of the former pitching coach, who died in 2021. “He was only 5’8”, but he was a pit bull of a man.” Marshall’s primary pitch was the screwball, something that Brent Jr. now has incorporated into his arsenal, and coupled with his fastball and curveball, makes him a formidable challenge on the mound.

Honeywell Jr. is quick to give credit where it is due.

“My dad built me as a pitcher,” he said in a recent interview. “He always told me ‘You’re going to pitch in the Bigs a long time.’”

“I’m so happy for him,” his father said, noting that his son is now 29 years old.

“I’d put money on him that he will be pitching into his 40’s.”

And who knows, perhaps when his career is done, Brent Jr. will find someone to pass the love and knowledge of the game down to as well.

After all, it is kind of a family tradition.

Bassmaster . . . continued from page 1

Hamlin is a three-time Michigan High School All-State champion, a three-time Michigan High School Angler of the Year winner, and an eight-time B.A.S.S. High School Team Trail champion. He is very involved in the sport, and spends much of his time helping youth anglers learn to fish and get comfortable on the water. Hamlin also dedicates his time to local lake cleanups and has participated in the AFTCO Conservation Clean Up Program over the past two years. He does all of this whilst maintaining a 3.59 GPA.

According to B.A.S.S. officials, nearly 300 applications nominating students in grades 10-12



were submitted from 31 states across the nation. Of these, 45 students were chosen as Bassmaster All-State Anglers. After considering tournament resumes, conservation efforts, community service activities, and recommendations from school officials and coaches, a panel of judges consisting of representatives from the sport fishing industry, media, and conservation groups further narrowed the field to the Top 12 high school anglers in the country.

“Over the past 10 years, the Bassmaster High School All-

American program has spotlighted some of the hardest working and most successful student anglers in the country,” said Chase Anderson, B.A.S.S. CEO. “Since the inception of this program, we have seen former All-Americans go on to qualify for the Bassmaster Elite Series, excel in the Bassmaster Opens, take the Bassmaster College Series by storm, and even compete in the Super Bowl of Bass Fishing, the famed Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Classic presented by Under Armour. I have no doubt that the 12 outstanding anglers selected for 2024 All-American honors will follow suit and continue to make a wonderful impact in the fishing community.”

His parents are Chad and Linda Hamlin.

Ballet Chelsea presents ‘The Nutcracker’ at JC

Ballet Chelsea will present its 27th annual production of The Nutcracker. This enchanting performance will take place from December 13 to 15 at the Potter Center on the Jackson College campus, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson.

Performances will take place on December 13 at 7 p.m., December 14 at noon and 5 p.m., and December 15 at 2 p.m. A Sugar Plum Tea will be held on December 15 at noon. For tickets and more information, visit www.balletchelsea.org/tickets/.



Photo courtesy Michael Bessom Photography.

TCA presents ‘A holiday feast’

The TCA Big Band & VocalAires are proud to present their annual holiday concert, “A Holiday Feast,” on Sunday, December 15 at 3 p.m. at the Tecumseh Center for the Arts.

Consisting of five saxes, five trumpets, four trombones, four rhythm players, and six vocalists, the TCA Big Band & VocalAires are a true big band, patterned after the groups of the 1930s, 40s and 50s. Led by conductor Mark Felder, they will perform such favorites as “Winter Wonderland,” “Frosty the Snowman,” “Let It Snow,” and more. Tickets for the December 15 concert are available in advance at the Tecumseh Center for the Arts’ Box Office, 400 N Maumee, or by calling 517-423-6617, Thursday and Friday, noon to 5 p.m. Individuals may also purchase tickets online 24/7 at www.TheTCA.org or the day of the show beginning at 2 p.m.

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Affordable housing units to get facelift

Michigan State Housing development Authority grant and tax credits sought



Both the Mill Pond Senior Apartments and the Mill Pond Family Apartments will see a major facelift in 2025 – on the inside of each unit as well as the outside of the buildings.

Story and photos
By John Hummer
Editor

The Mill Pond apartments complexes, Brooklyn's affordable housing units, will undergo a major renovation in 2025. At its Nov. 18 meeting, the Brooklyn Village Council unanimously approved a letter of support for a grant to help fund the project.

The letter expresses the village's full support for the proposed consolidation and rehabilitation project of the two "affordable" communities into one new community.

The letter states, in part: "As a village committed to ensuring the well-being and equitable treatment of all our residents, we recognize the urgent need for affordable housing options that provide safe, modern, and accessible accommodations for



Swartzlander

individuals and families of limited means."

PK Companies, a family-owned business based in Okemos, Mich. (near East Lansing), owns both Mill Pond Family Apartments and Mill Pond Senior Apartments located near the Columbia elementary schools off School Street. The company purchased the apartment complexes in 2018.

"The two projects will be consolidated into one, as was necessary to obtain funding for the rehabilitation," stated Chris Potterpin, PK's president of development. "The current residents will be asked to temporarily relocate from their units for a short period as we rehab the units and then will move back into their same unit. It is not anticipated that any current resident will be have to move or change their designation."

The village ordinance lan-

guage regarding affordable housing will need to be amended to include PK Companies, stated Village Manager Matt Swartzlander in a memo to the village council about the project.

Both sets of apartments are currently designated as affordable housing units and have an active PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) program. Currently, two different PILOT agreements exist for the two complexes; it is the goal of the new owners to create one agreement to streamline the process for state funding. The company is working with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to obtain grant funding for the renovations.

"In order to qualify for a rehabilitation using housing tax credits and MSHDA grant funding, Mill Pond is applying for a PILOT under one new entity," said Potterpin. "A PILOT means that the property taxes are based on a percentage of revenue collected. We are requesting that this rate remain at 10% for the new entity."

Potterpin noted that PK has already received preliminary awards for both the housing tax credits and the grant funding and expects to be approved in January. He declined to share amounts until they receive commitments. Mercantile Bank will be purchasing the housing tax credits and will be the limited partner in the project, he added.

PK expects to start the project in March 2025 and be finished by the end of 2025. Renovations will update the inside of all residential units in both Mill Pond Family Apartments and Mill Pond Senior Apartments, as well as update the outside of the structures. Work on the exteriors will commence in March. The schedule for apartment unit work is in process; residents will be

notified once it is nailed down, Potterpin said.

Four units at a time will be remodeled. PK will pay for temporary lodging for residents for roughly one week while their apartments are renovated. They are also offering a per diem if residents prefer to stay with friends or family. The approximate one-week period will be longer if ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) updates are being made.

"No current resident will have a rent increase due to the rehabilitation," Potterpin stated. "After the rehab is completed, the rental rate will increase for new residents."

The Village of Brooklyn's letter of support also notes that village leadership is particularly enthusiastic about important benefits the project brings to the Village of Brooklyn. One key benefit is an improved quality of life for residents with updated amenities, energy efficient systems, and safer living environments.

The letter states that the project will also play a part in community revitalization. Improving the apartments will help restore pride in the community and contribute to neighborhood revitalization efforts currently underway.

The project will also have an economic impact on the community as local contractors and workers will benefit from employment opportunities created by this large project, boosting the local economy.

Mill Pond Family Apartments

Currently, Mill Pond Family Apartments offer one- and two-bedroom units with a lot of closet space and spacious floor plans. Rent is based on income. One-bedroom units range from \$675 to \$841 per month. Two-bedroom units range from \$740 to \$900 per month. Heat, water, sewer, and trash are all included. Interested prospective tenants should contact the office at 517-592-5654 (TDD #711) or stop by the office at 100 W. Mill Pond Drive, Brooklyn, Mich. Questions can also be emailed to millpond@pkhousing.com. Prospective tenants can also file an application online at millpond-familyapts.com. Applications for barrier-free and rental assistance units are being accepted for when they become available.

Mill Pond Senior Apartments

Mill Pond Senior Apartments currently only have one-bedroom units available. As with the family apartments, rent is based on income and ranges from \$715 to \$905 per month. Prospective tenants should use the same contact information as above under Mill Pond Family Apartments. Applications can be filed online at millpondseniorapts.com. Applications for barrier-free and rental assistance units are being accepted for when they become available.

Homicide from page 1

call, they found Farnsworth in the driveway and Shari Schweda in her bedroom. According to the prosecutor at Monday's arraignment, the police report describes the bedroom as a "gruesome scene."

Police had reason to believe a vehicle belonging to Shari Schweda was missing from the residence and entered it into the Flock camera license plate reader system to locate it. The vehicle was picked up by a Flock camera in Napoleon Township across from the Willows on Twin Ponds Apartments traveling east on M-50. Soon thereafter, the vehicle was located by Columbia Charter Township Police Chief Jay Niles traveling through the Village of Brooklyn.

"I was traveling northbound looking for him when I observed a vehicle fitting the description," Chief Niles recounted. "I then turned around and caught up with the vehicle. There was an attempted contact at the laundromat (on the north side of Brooklyn), but he fled from that and traveled south on Main Street and came to a stop." That's where Niles said he detained the suspect for investigation.

"Had it not been for the Flock camera in Napoleon Township, it's a great possibility that we would not have known of the suspect's presence in the area," stated Chief Niles. "That allowed my agency to act in locating the suspect and bringing him to justice. Collectively, it was an outstanding effort by all agencies that participated in the investigation. It was a lot of good police work. The Flock camera system provided a very crucial element to the apprehension of Mr. Schweda."

Duaine Pittman, Napoleon Township police chief, said it was a good thing his township's Flock camera identified the suspect vehicle that led to his arrest before he caused more harm. "I'm super happy that it worked out the way it did," he stated. "You don't want it to have to be that, but I can't imagine a much bigger case."

Schweda has been lodged at the Jackson County Jail. On Monday, 12th Circuit Court Judge Allison L. Bates accepted a request for a competency exam, however, denied Schweda's bond citing the public's safety Schweda will be back in court on Jan. 3.

The Jackson County Sheriff Department, Michigan State Police, Columbia Charter Township Police, and Jackson Community Ambulance assisted Blackman-Leoni DPS. The incident is currently being investigated by the Blackman-Leoni DPS Detective Bureau, with assistance from the Michigan State Police Crime Lab.

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A refreshing choice for independents

Dear editor,
How refreshing to potentially have the chance to elect a non-partisan Governor! Since the end of the FCC "Fairness Doctrine" some media sources and the internet have been too biased to the right or left. Thus, too many citizens have been led to only believe what they perceive to be "their team's" truthful news source. The polarization has not been productive for society.
Fortunately, more citizens now label themselves

political "independents" than either of two established political parties. Thus, this new plurality of voters that seeks truth & understanding and then forms their own conclusions is the future of the USA. Stay tuned, independent Duggan for Governor will be followed by many more.

Pete Shawaker
Clarklake

Should have been born in the 50's or 60's...

Dear editor,
I may be young, born into a generation of brainwashed idiots, but I'm mentally old enough to know that this new Gen Z "slang" is the dumbest thing to exist. I can't even go to school without people speaking in this new language.
I don't understand what people are saying half the time. Just let me do what I need to do and then speak. But do NOT speak to me like you are Jar Jar Binks from star wars. Most of the time I'm tempted to shove my sock in their mouth that should teach them to shut up!
I wish I was born in the 50's or the 60's, because I would much

rather be 60 - 70 years old and actually speak english. Don't even get me started on this LGBTQ crap. Back then you'd probably find a few gay people, but now you can't go anywhere without people getting mad and smacking you with their purse because you got their gender wrong.
The truth is you were born a male or female. You can't just change because you want to; you are either born with xx or xy chromosomes.
I got a couple of friends from the community, and they agree it's dumb. It's affecting the youth and their future. This can end the bloodlines of family's. This could

be the end of the human race. I don't remember exactly but I think the project 2025 that's happening said it was gonna get rid of LGBTQ teachings which I think personally is good, but we need to keep an eye on our children to keep them from social media apps like YouTube and Tiktok. Keep them on YouTube kids or the old Disney shows like Mickey Mouse. That could help reduce this problem.

Bentley Collins
Clarklake

Where did people hang out during medieval times?
At knight clubs!

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Transition of power



Incoming village president Estella Roberts, left, shakes hands with outgoing village president Terry Mahr. The two women battled through a close election - so close that it was initially declared a tie - with Roberts eventually coming out on top when absentee ballots were tallied. Photo by John Hummer.

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Freedom is a fragile thing

Student receives prestigious honor as Young Marine

Standing proud with Young Marine Lance Corporal Mia Hull, second from right, are, from left: Jim Ducey, Grass Lake American Legion Post 252; Steve Pock, grandfather of Mia and USMC veteran; LtCol. Colter Bahlau, USMC; and Ronald Cassidy, commander, Grass Lake Post 252.

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LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC GRASS LAKE

By Dakota Bahlau
Teacher, Grass Lake
Community Schools
and John Hummer, editor

In a small ceremony held on Monday, Nov. 25 at Grass Lake Middle School, LtCol. Colter Bahlau of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), currently serving at the Pentagon, recognized Lance Corporal Mia Hull, a seventh grader at Grass Lake Middle School, for her dedication and service to the Young Marines.

LtCol. Bahlau presented Lance Corporal Hull with the Naval and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, marking her exceptional commitment to the

“Mia is a great young lady who works very hard in everything she does. She is a straight-A student, and she is very humble. We are very proud to see an accomplishment she does not talk about at school but follows her through in her daily life.”

program. The awards were presented to Lance Corporal Hull in a special shadow box, which included a dedication plate, two gold lieutenant bars (symbolizing her potential to become a future leader of Marines), and a meaningful quote from President Ronald Reagan: *“Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people.”*

Lance Corporal Hull also received the Commendation of Merit Award, presented by her Unit Commander Rebekah Hackett. This prestigious award is given for a single act of meritorious service to the Young Marines program.

“Someone of her age achieving these awards and her dedication to the program is an exceptional showmanship of her character and how motivated she is to continue in the Young Marines program,” said Hackett. “She’s come a long way – it’s very impressive what she’s done.”

In addition to the recognition from her unit commander, Congressman Tim Walberg’s office awarded Lance Corporal Hull a certificate of special congressional recognition, the highest honor from the U.S. Congress for young Americans. This prestigious award was established in 1979. Commander Ronald Cassidy of American Legion Post 252 in Grass Lake also presented her with a “Make a Difference” pin, further recognizing

her positive impact on her community.

This presentation was especially poignant as LtCol. Bahlau, a current active officer, bestowed these honors upon a Young Marine, with veterans in the audience witnessing the moment. The ceremony further connected the ideals of service and leadership across generations, underscoring the significance of the Young Marines program in shaping future leaders of the United States Marine Corps.

Corporal Hull’s family, including her grandfather Steve Pock, a USMC veteran, were present to witness the celebration, along with Grass Lake Community Schools Superintendent Nick Angel, Grass Lake Middle School Principal Jeanene Byerly, fifth-grade teacher Dakota Bahlau, and members of the Grass Lake American Legion.

“Mia is a great young lady who works very hard in everything she does,” stated Byerly. “She is a straight-A student, and she is very humble. We are very proud to see an accomplishment she does not talk about at school but follows her through in her daily life.”

Lance Corporal Hull’s recognition reflects her dedication to excellence and service, as well as her contributions to both the Young Marines program and her community.

To learn more about the Young Marines program or to volunteer, visit Young Marines Lenawee County at young-marines.org/unit/lenaweecounty/page.

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OH THESE IRISH HILLS!



From right: Debbie Hartwick, Lynn Boughton, and Denise Castonguay check out some of the items available at the Christmas Gala’s silent auction.

Christmas Gala



Proudly holding a Batman-decorated tree she is about to purchase at the Christmas Gala is Cathy Scudder of Brooklyn.



It’s story time! Mrs. Claus entertains these young ones with a Christmas story. The children are, from left Cameron Keezer, 1; Ashton Keezer, 4; Eleanor Goldsmith, 6; and Tarryn Keezer, 6.



The Keezer family (plus one) poses for a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Front, from left: Cousin Eleanor Goldsmith (the plus one), 6; Tarryn, 6; and Ashton, 4. Back, from left: Mrs. Claus, Santa Claus, Kaycee Keezer, Brandon Keezer, and Cameron Keezer, 1.

The 12th Christmas Gala, sponsored by Oh These Irish Hills! and hosted by the Fraternal Order of Eagles – Irish Hills, was once again a huge success with a large turnout all weekend long. Proceeds from the event went to the Brooklyn Food Pantry and Oh These Irish Hills! community projects.

The gala began with the Eagles’ mouth-watering pork chop and chicken dinner on Friday night. For those patrons in a dancing mood, Savanna Spindelman from Savanna Rose Dance Studio led a line dancing session which lasted well over an hour. Visitors were also able to begin bidding on silent auction items and all the beautifully decorated Christmas trees.

On Saturday, the Gala continued with the silent auction, grave blanket/pillow decorating, and a performance to a packed house by Savanna’s competition team. In the evening, smash burgers and fries were served and patrons could participate in DJ trivia. 50-50 raffles also took place on Friday and Saturday evenings.

The Christmas Gala concluded Sunday with breakfast from the Eagles featuring Santa and Mrs. Claus. The silent auction wrapped up with very high bidding wars coming to an end for the lucky winners. It was a fun weekend for all!

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Gene & Rudy Martin



Onsted couple celebrate 60 years of marriage

Gene and Judy (Ruttkofsky) Martin, of Onsted, will celebrate their 60th anniversary on December 18, 2024. They were married at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, Mich., on December 18, 1964. They will be celebrating their diamond anniversary over the holidays with family. Congratulations and love from your children, Sherry (Jeff Velthouse), Laura (Craig) Colligan, Tim (Heather) Martin and your grandchildren.



S.H. Knox advanced low-priced variety stores across the nation. The former store in Jackson was memorialized as one of the iconic structures to adorn a postcard series carried by the company. Postcard for sale at maryilmartin.com

Five and Dime nostalgia



by Michelle McLeane



Five and dime stores hold a special place in many people's hearts. Their red table deals offered tantalizing treats without guilt. Yet, nickel candy is a thing of the past and today a "Dollar Store" may no longer sell things for only a dollar. Still, we have the legend. The concept of a store selling items for a nickel or a dime became an international sensation with the help of Seymore H. Knox of New York. He, like other competitors, focused on establishing these shops in agricultural and small market towns. The postcard displayed shows the S.H. Knox & Company 5 & 10¢ store that once thrived in Jackson, Michigan. Among other goods, the company invested in a line of postcards featuring area landmarks such as Jackson

Post office, Greenwood Avenue Park, Jackson High school, and Station No.1 Fire Department. Each card was printed with "Published expressly for S.H. Knox & Co. Made in the U.S.A." Ida Sweazy, presumably of Jackson, mailed this card to her cousin Ilah Converse in 1911 playing on the company's tagline of being, "the busiest store." Knox's major contribution to low-cost department stores came at a big risk. He ventured every dollar he owned as the first to open a 5 & 10 cent store in an urban area. His successful launch of S.H. Knox in Detroit proved its appeal to city folk as well. His cousins, the Woolworths, quickly followed suit, opening in larger cities. In 1884 Knox & Woolworth opened a joint store in Reading,

Pennsylvania and by 1889, Knox bought out his cousins, merging his 100 stores with theirs to form F.W. Woolworth Company. By then, Knox had 98 U.S. and 13 Canadian locations. With Knox's help, Woolworth eventually expanded into the U.K. and other nations as well. Knox passed unexpectedly at age 54 in 1915. The Woolworth company, however, persevered. It closed its remaining variety store in the U.S. in 1997 when the company decided to focus solely on sporting goods. They rebranded in 2001 as Foot Locker, Inc. If you have photos, scrapbooks, postcards, or other historical items that may be shared, we would love to see them. Contact The Exponent office to arrange a time or email unique photos with any information you have about the content to exponews@theexponent.com. In the subject line, please note for "Attic & Hearth" or "For Michelle" and include your name and contact information in the message.

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50 years ago ...

- Fifty years ago officials from Cedar Point planned to meet with Cambridge Township officials to explain their plans for a proposed Irish Hills amusement park. Park officials were met with stiff resistance from many residents, which eventually killed plans for the amusement giant to create a local facility.

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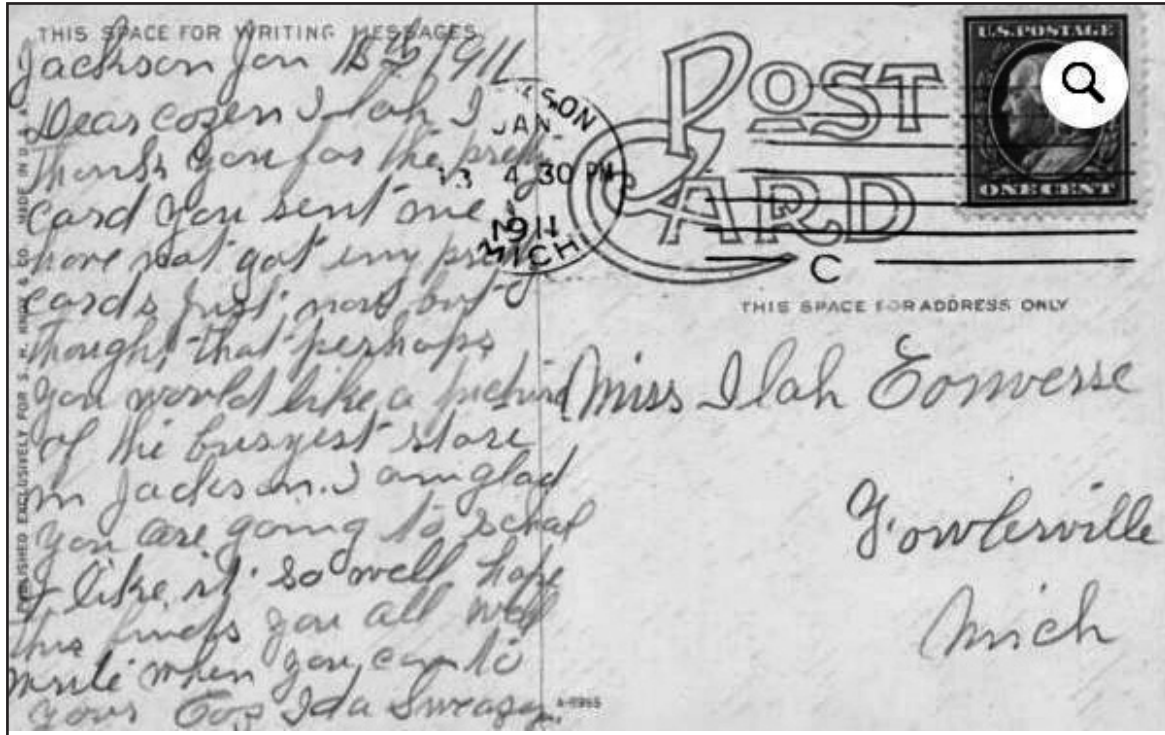
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The Jackson S.H. Knox 5 and 10¢ store tickled local fancy as it did across the nation. Ida Sweazy sent this image in 1911 to her cousin. This postcard is for sale at MaryIMartin.com.



St. Mark's
Lutheran Church
midweek advent
services

St. Mark's Lutheran Church is hosting its mid-week advent services on Dec. 11 and 18 at noon. The church is located at 11151 U.S. 12, Brooklyn.

It's YOUR Business

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

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The Brooklyn Branch of the Jackson District Library is holding Coffee and Book Talk every third Monday in December, January, February and March beginning on Monday, December 16, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The Friends of the Brooklyn Branch Library are hosting this event. This is not a book club. There is no assigned reading, just a chance to get together with others who like to read. Relax and enjoy coffee and treats and talk about what you are reading. For more details, contact Judy at 517-592-5227.

Midwest Energy & Communications is collecting donations for the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. There is a donation box at their Tecumseh location. They are collecting donations from December 13 through the 15.

Breath, Bliss, and Bowls will be at Yoga Studio 225 on Friday, December 13, from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. Reserve your spot by pre-registering at yogastudio225.com and take some time for yourself.

Christoff and Sons will be spreading Christmas joy during the Jackson DDA event, Christmas in the City on

Saturday, December 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. They will be featuring Buddy the Elf, the Grinch, and Mrs. Claus, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies and complementary family photos.

St. Mark Lutheran Church is holding a Gingerbread Bash on Saturday, December 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. Join in on this hand-on celebration building gingerbread nativities while hearing the Christmas story from the Bible. This free event will also include games and songs.

Enjoy dinner with Santa at the Beach Bar on Sunday, December 15, from 4 to 6 p.m. Go to beachbarclarklake.com for more information.

The Irish Hills Roots & Strings Music Series will be at Jerry's Pub & Restaurant on Thursday, December 19, from 7:45 to 10 p.m. Djangophonique will be playing. This is a fundraiser for the Brooklyn Food Pantry. To make reservations, call Jerry's Pub at 517-467-4700.

Santa will be visiting Family Farm & Home in Brooklyn on Friday, December 20, from 5 to 8 p.m. They will also be accepting toy donations during this time.

Heart O' the Lakes Church will be featuring Journey to

Bethlehem on Monday, December 23 and Tuesday, December 24 at 6 p.m. Join them for this Christmas musical featuring songs from the movie, Journey to Bethlehem.

For more holiday happenings, go to our community calendar at IrishHills.com.

Tecumseh Christmas
Candlelight Home Tour

The Tecumseh Area Historical Museum is hosting its Christmas Candlelight Home Tour Friday and Saturday, December 13 and 14, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The owners of these downtown houses have graciously opened their homes for the public to view their many decorated rooms located at 112 East Kilbuck Street, 215 West Shawnee Street, and 111 North Oneida Street; while the museum is decked out in its holiday splendor at 302 East Chicago Boulevard. Tickets may be purchased at Schmidt & Sons Pharmacy, Tecumseh Antique Appeal, and Antiques & Vintage on the Boulevard during regular business hours. The museum will be open both nights starting at 5 p.m. for tickets.

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