



Columbia, Napoleon earn wins on the links - inside

# EXPONENT

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TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

## Election approaching

# Three school, township issues on ballot

Columbia Central, Grass Lake and Vandercook Lake school districts along with Columbia Township all have bond proposals on the ballot. Here is a look at each of them.



### Grass Lake schools positioned well to pass \$42 million bond: Zero mill increase touted as selling point



By John Hummer  
Editor

On May 5, 2026 (or sooner if voting absentee), Grass Lake Community Schools voters will have the opportunity to approve a school bond proposal of nearly 42 million dollars.

If approved by the voters, this bond proposal would provide \$41,905,000 for district-wide improvements. Besides making learning better for the district's students, another huge plus is that it is a zero mill increase over the current debt millage rate for taxpayers.

"We're pretty fortunate timing-wise to have a zero mill increase," stated Superintendent Nick Angel. "You're looking at a 20-year tax continuation."

The district's board, superintendent, administrators, and community members all had input and/or provided feedback into the district's Strategic Plan, a Master Plan commissioned in 2025, and a facility assessment report from 2024. These documents served as the basis for the bond proposal, and through stakeholder and community feedback and involvement, the highest priority projects for the bond proposal were identified.

The identified focus areas for expenditure of funds are safety and security projects, 21st century learning upgrades for classrooms and spaces, athletic facility expansion, technology, and renovations and expansion at the middle school.

"This has been the end-product of a two-year study and engagement with our community," Angel said. "We're incredibly proud of our 42 million-dollar, zero mill increase proposal that goes to vote on May 5. We were very fiscally conservative with the budget size. We could have gone to the community for a much larger bond and extended out our tax base that much longer. We were very mindful to not to do that and to show our dollars in action early. We're on a six-year plan of fulfilling this bond."

Angel noted that the district held three open houses and 16 different engagement sessions with organizations, clubs, and groups in the Grass Lake community. He added that he met with many people one-on-one and had a very vibrant social media presence.

"The themes and tenets of our bond proposal really focus on safety and security projects – through not just our buildings, but our district's spaces and places," Angel explained, adding that other priorities include right-sizing and renovating classrooms, furniture, and being able to address a significant amount of

See *Grass Lake* page 2

### Vandercook Lake schools to address critical needs: Bond proposal has major cuts from November ballot initiative



By John Hummer  
Editor

Vandercook Lake Public Schools has a bond proposal on the May 5 ballot that would largely fund the most critical infrastructure needs at the district's schools. It is a very pared-down version of the bond proposal that voters rejected last November.

If passed, the new bond proposal would borrow the sum of \$9,280,000 for a maximum period of 25 years. The debt millage rate would increase from 3 mills to 5.48 for five years then taper off back to 3 mills over 20 more years (for a 25-year bond proposal).

"We had a bond proposal on the November 4, 2025, election ballot and unfortunately it failed," stated Melissa Bradfield, superintendent of Vandercook Lake Public Schools. "We asked our community members and voters to come in and give us feedback. I truly wanted to understand what we needed to do in order to move forward and pass a bond to be able to address our critical needs."

"Many of our voters that came in had voted 'no,' but they were appreciative of the opportunity to provide some feedback," continued Bradfield. "What I heard was that they supported the school district, and they wanted the school district to survive and thrive. What they had trouble with was the expense of such a large increase. In November we were going for a total of seven mills."

The district still has critical needs in both of its school buildings and uses sinking funds to "patch" needs but still requires a bond to fix them. By putting the bond on the May 5, 2026, ballot, the district says it will be able to address critical infrastructure needs within the next year (water lines, sewage pipes, leaking roofs, failing HVAC, security concerns, etc).

The sinking fund voters passed was a continuation (\$0 mill increase) and pays for emergency facility needs up to \$388,852 per year. That amount is not enough to cover all the critical infrastructure needs the district requires, according to the district's bond information website. The Non-Homestead Operational Millage was a renewal (\$0 mill increase) and pays for the district's daily operations of busing, athletics, staff salaries, and benefits, as well as curriculum and programs for students. The bond is to address critical infrastructure needs and aging facilities.

Bradfield explained that the district's bond committee looked at critical needs on a Series I, Series II, and Series III basis for the November ballot; for this May ballot initiative they just looked at the Series I critical needs.

"Our middle school/high school building was built in 1961," she stated. "We have some significant repairs to do."

Those include replacing the roof, plumbing and water line improvements, replacing the oldest HVAC units, electrical work, and updating the fire alarm system, among other miscellaneous improvements. At Townsend Elementary, one of the critical improvements is to remodel the entrance area and make it a secure entrance. Roof work and replacement of

See *Vandercook* page 5

## Teaching perspectives

# 'Where mountains meet meaning'



Above: Ava Croley, right of the alpaca, and Isabella Schow, right of Ava, share a smile with a Peruvian. Below, right: Dakota Bahlau helped perform service work for the Sacred Valley Project along with her students (in photo below) Oscar Skidmore and Connor Boteler.

Students from Grass Lake explored culture, history, and connection through an immersive journey across Peru, led by teacher Dakota Bahlau.

By Dakota Bahlau, Grass Lake Community Schools

Peru is more than 3,500 miles away from Grass Lake, but this experience was never about distance. It was about stepping into something unknown and allowing it to change you.

The Grass Lake Community Schools Travel Club is built on a simple idea: understanding comes from experience. The most powerful learning happens in the moments you can't fully prepare for, when language feels unfamiliar, when the path is steep, and when connection still finds a way. In short, this was not just a trip, it was a chance to grow in ways a classroom alone cannot offer.

It began high in the Andes in Cusco, where the air is thin but the culture runs deep. The first days were filled with discovery and adjustment. At over 11,000 feet, even simple steps felt heavier, conversations came with shorter breath, and yet, no one backed away from what lay ahead.

At a local cultural center, students met master weavers who continue traditions passed down for generations. They learned that the vibrant colors woven into textiles come not from factories, but from nature itself, plants, beetles, and minerals. With guidance from their Spanish teacher, Marta, students practiced language not from desks, but through human-to-human interaction. At first, there was hesitation, searching for words, second-guessing pronunciation, stepping just outside comfort zones. But little by little, those

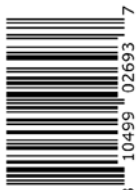
See *Peru* page 3



PHOTOS SUBMITTED



Students gather in a circle in the shadow of the mountains where they learned about the Sacred Valley Project.



# Raising the Star

Brooklyn historical theatre kicks off major fundraising effort



The Star Theatre in downtown Brooklyn is kicking off a major fundraising campaign to get restoration efforts going in earnest.

Story and photo  
By John Hummer  
Editor

There is a rising star in our midst this spring. It is the restoration of one of Brooklyn's historic gems in progress. It's known locally as the Star Theatre in Brooklyn.

To celebrate this ongoing momentous occasion and kick off a major fundraising campaign, the team at the Star Theatre is hosting a Rising Star Gala on Thursday, April 30 at Gauci Golf Resort, 8421 Sports Park Drive, Onsted. The event begins at 6:30 p.m.

The evening will feature a live auction and entertainment by Brian & Steve Tucker. If you plan to attend, RSVP at [restorethestar.com/event-details/the-rising-star-gala](http://restorethestar.com/event-details/the-rising-star-gala) by Saturday, April 25. Suggested dress code is business profes-

sional to cocktail attire.

"We're very excited for the evening," said Star Theatre Development Director Jessica Malcheff. "They can hold 150 guests, so hopefully it will be a packed room. We're excited to get going on some of the more major renovations through the funds raised at the event." (There are sponsorship opportunities available for the evening - see end of story.)

The Star Theatre, a charming beacon of entertainment in its time, first opened its doors to the public on October 7, 1937. Initially, it welcomed guests with an intimate seating capacity of 200, offering a cozy and nostalgic movie-going experience. Over the years, its popularity grew, and by 1950, the theater had expanded to accommodate 463 patrons, solidifying its place as a vibrant

hub for cinema lovers. After nearly five decades of delighting audiences with countless films, the curtains fell for the final time in 1986, marking the end of an era for this beloved local gem.

Now, a local group is bringing the Star back to life. They are about a year-and-a-half into the process of creating awareness and fundraising for the theatre restoration effort.

"We're really hoping that this event creates momentum around the theatre and helps us kick off significant fundraising dollars for some of the renovation projects that we have left to complete within the theatre," said Malcheff.

Malcheff noted that the live auction at the gala will be a little bit different than a typical live auction. "Everything we're doing in the auction will be associated with the theatre in some way," she noted.

The first part of it will be an "Everyone raise your paddle" theme, Malcheff explained, continuing, "Here's the projects that we have left to do in the theatre and the impact that you can make. We want everyone to participate, so 'who can give us this?'"

The second part of the live auction will be four items of historical value from the theatre that will actually be auctioned off, including an old projector reel and a "really cool movie poster," she said.

How much money do they need to raise? "We said from the very beginning our hope is to raise \$1.937 million, which harkens back to the 1937 opening of the theatre," Malch-

eff stated. "The renovation part of that is about \$1.4 million. What we had hoped to do was raise \$500,000 in additional capital that would kind of sit as an endowment and promote the longevity of the theatre after it was up and running.

"We still have a significant way to go," she continued. "If you're looking at a thermometer of 100%, we're somewhere between the 10 to 20% range right now. We're really just trying to figure out how we can get there and this gala will be a big part of that for us."

In addition to this major fundraising event, Malcheff said they are working on some historical preservation grants.

For further information or to get questions answered, contact Jessica Malcheff at [Jessica@restorethestar.com](mailto:Jessica@restorethestar.com) or 517-320-2021, or visit [restorethestar.com](http://restorethestar.com).

### Rising Star Gala sponsorship opportunities

**Starlight Sponsor: \$5,000**  
16 tickets, event recognition, verbal program recognition, brand logo on all event signage, featured posts on event social media

**Starburst Sponsor: \$2,500**  
8 tickets, event recognition verbal program recognition, brand logo on all event signage

**Twinkle Sponsor: \$1,000**  
8 tickets, event recognition, program recognition

**Under the Stars Table Sponsor: \$550**  
8 tickets, event recognition

## Grass Lake bond . . . from page 1

district infrastructure. "We have a district - like all other Michigan public schools - that's in need of some attention to ensure that we are providing safe and dry school environments for our students," he stated.

Both Grass Lake Middle School and George Long Elementary School were built in the mid-1950s, so they require some significant attention.

"At our middle school specifically, we're looking at a half-building remodel that includes spaces for new STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) rooms, robotics rooms, and art classrooms," noted Angel. "That's the only place we're increasing our district footprint - being an expansion at our middle school."

As part of the bond campaign, the district is planning to address technology and upgrades needed to stay on a replacement cycle for its one-to-one devices - laptops, iPads, etc. - where each student has a device to work with. "This ensures that we'll be on a replacement cycle for the next 10 years in the Grass Lake schools," he said.

Angel added that technology



also includes building-wide things like PA systems and door locking mechanisms. "You name it, there is a huge, wide-ranging gamut of how we're addressing technology in this bond," he explained.

"Another exciting piece is we're going to be remodeling and retrofitting our current auxiliary gym into a 21st century weight room that will benefit our students, our burgeoning powerlifting program, and potentially our community," Angel said. "There really won't be anything in Jackson County that will look like what we'll have, except what they're doing at JPS. In terms of a weight room, this will be a true bar-setter and jewel in Jackson County and I'm very excited about that." He added that the powerlifting program in the district now has over 100 students in it. "This provides them the opportunity to grow in a safe and modern environment."

If the bond proposal passes, another addition will be a prefabricated building at the high school with batting cages for baseball and softball. Plans call for it also to be used for other sports, including competitive cheerleading. There will also be new restrooms, concessions, and a picnic area amidst the athletic spaces.

Angel noted that bond funding will also go toward replenishing district musical instruments and an updated ADA-compliant playground at the elementary school.

"I am really, really proud of this bond at many, many lev-

els," stated Angel. "It touches on all three of our buildings and all levels of our students. I'm super-mindful that it will have a zero mill increase. It's been supported really well by our local community - and I think that's a testament to the job our Board of Education has done, the job that our staff has done, our community being engaged and asking the right questions, and making the best factually-based decisions in the best interest of their families."

For more information on the Grass Lake Community Schools May 5 bond proposal, visit [grasslakeschools.com/2026-bond-information](http://grasslakeschools.com/2026-bond-information).

### As it appears on the ballot

#### GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOND PROPOSAL

Shall Grass Lake Community Schools, Jackson and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Forty-One Million Nine Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$41,905,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, for the purpose of:

partially remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping the elementary school, middle school, and high school buildings; erecting, furnishing, and equipping additions to the middle school building; acquiring and installing instructional technology and instructional tech-

nology equipment for the school buildings; erecting, furnishing, and equipping an indoor athletic facility structure; and preparing, developing, equipping, and improving a playground and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2026, under current law, is 0 mill (\$0.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), for a 0 mill net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refund, is twenty-five (25) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 4.96 mills (\$4.96 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$3,995,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is approximately \$5,052,751. The estimated additional interest to be paid on the qualified loans that is attributable to the bonds is \$541,096. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

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Volume 144 Number 37 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  
Publisher

John Hummer  
Editor

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

Publication Day: Tuesday; Periodicals

Materials cannot be used without written permission of the publisher.

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# Peru . . . from page 1

moments turned into conversations, and those conversations into connection.

They visited Sacsayhuamán (12,000 ft), where massive stones, some weighing more than 100 tons, fit together with such astonishing precision that not even a blade of grass can pass between them. Standing in their shadows, students learned about the battles between the Inca and the Spanish, history no longer something read, but something felt beneath their feet.

From there, the group traveled into the Sacred Valley, where the town of Ollantaytambo became both home and classroom. Mornings were filled with Spanish and Quechua, brought to life through movement, collabora-

tion, with even the occasional alpaca wandering through. Students explored the Andean worldview, the condor, puma, and snake, representing the sky, earth, and underworld, and how balance between them shapes daily life.

Some of the most meaningful growth came through service and challenge. Partnering with the Sacred Valley Project, a local nonprofit that supports students from remote Andean communities by providing housing, education, and opportunities to continue their schooling, students stepped into work that was unfamiliar. They learned to use new tools, to communicate through action when words fell short, and to rely on each other to get the job done. Moving rocks, clear-



Many hands make light work - the students learned not only the value of social interaction on their trip to Peru, but of hard work and teamwork as well. Courtesy photo.

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ing land, and preparing pathways under the Andean sun was not easy work, but it was shared work. What began as uncertainty turned into teamwork, and teamwork into pride, knowing their effort would benefit others long after they left.

Language continued beyond the classroom walls. In local markets, students navigated narrow stone streets with ingredient lists in hand, initiating conversations in Spanish with local vendors. There were pauses, mistakes, and moments of doubt, but they pushed through. What could have been intimidating became empowering, proof that growth often lives just outside of comfort.

Along the way, the students tasted new fruits like granadilla

and the bright, tart aguaymanto, learning that culture is often best understood through simple, shared experiences.

A visit to the Maras salt mines offered perspective. Thousands of terraced pools stretched across the mountainside, each one carefully maintained as mineral-rich water slowly evaporates into salt. It was a reminder that even the simplest things at home often carry stories of tradition and hard work.

Then came Machu Picchu. After a scenic train ride through towering peaks and cloud forest, the group arrived in Aguas Calientes, a town named for its natural hot springs. From there, they ascended into one of the most breathtaking places on Earth.

Guided by Gio, whose storytelling brought every stone to life, students explored the citadel and learned how the Incas engineered a city in harmony with the mountains, aligned with the sun, and built to withstand time itself.

But the experience did not end at the top. Instead of simply returning, the group began their descent on foot, hiking a portion of the historic Inca Trail. At altitude, every step demanded effort. The stone steps, worn smooth by centuries, tested balance and endurance. Breathing was heavier, legs grew tired, but no one turned back. The trail twisted along the mountainside, opening to sweeping views of the valley below, and with each step, students

proved something to themselves, that they could push through discomfort and keep going.

And yet, beyond the landscapes, it was the people who gave the experience its heartbeat. There was Kike, their tour director, whose energy, humor, and care shaped each day. More than a guide, he became part of the group, weaving together moments, stories, and experiences with a genuine love for his country that was impossible not to feel. Along the way, he left the group with words that carried beyond the trip: "Optimism with action, and gratitude with conscience."

There was also the growing bond with a group from North Carolina. What began as shared space turned into shared experience, conversations, laughter, and a connection that felt natural and lasting.

And then there was something quieter. As the days passed, the circle expanded. Not loudly, not all at once, but in small, meaningful ways. New friendships formed, inside jokes appeared, and a sense of belonging settled in. Without anyone marking the moment, the group became more than travelers. They became something like a family.

"One thing that surprised me was how much work we actually got done," one student shared. "It didn't even feel like work because we were all talking, laughing, and just having a good time together."

The final days were spent in Lima, where the Andes meet the Pacific. Students explored a chocolate museum, following cacao from pod to bar, and wandered vibrant markets filled with textiles, spices, and handmade goods. Along the rocky coastline, some stepped into the cold ocean while others sat quietly, letting the breeze carry the weight of the week.

It was a moment to pause and take it all in. Because in the end, this experience was never just about where they went.

It was about what they discovered they were capable of. And as the group said their farewells, they carried with them a beautiful truth from the Quechua language, there is no direct word for goodbye. Instead, they say tupananchiskama, until we meet again, a quiet understanding that some journeys stay with you long after you've returned home.

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## Friends of Watkins Lake Earth Day celebration

Friends of Watkins Lake is hosting an Earth Day celebration on Sunday, April 19, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. The day includes free family-friendly activities, such as hiking and presentations by area organizations. Watkins Lake State Park is located at 14801 Arnold Road, Brooklyn.

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**ANOTHER VOICE**

# Resident assesses proposed mine property value impact

**Editor's note: The Exponent received a guest editorial column from Norvell Township resident Marty Godin with his view of how property values will be impacted in Norvell Township if the AAOM gravel mine is approved. Though we did not edit the piece for content, there has been some grammar and style editing, and some clarifying language, applied to it.**

**By Marty Godin**

The Levy-Norvell gravel mine application from American Aggregates of Michigan (AAOC) threatens the property values of Norvell Township residents. That which we enjoy today has been generated by the investments by many over the years in property and assets. We must take into account the impact to "property values" when considering the Levy-Norvell sand and gravel mine application as a Very Serious Consequence (VSC).

The financial data stated in this document is per my spreadsheet under "Levy-Norvell Haul Route Gravel Pit Property Values and Tax Revenue Impact Estimates". The information has been generated directly from the state GIS report (gis.mijackson.org) and reflects "2025 Assessed Dollars". Only properties listed for Norvell Township are included. Properties are sorted by "Prop Class" and "Owner" for Norvell, "Gov Unit" noting "Assessed Values" and "Acreage" by "Parcel ID".

I requested that the data and information, along with my letter emailed to Norvell Township Supervisor Bill Sutherland Monday, March 30, be posted on the Norvell Township website for all to review. Bill did forward the information to the Norvell Township Planning Commission and the applicant (AAOM). But it is not being posted on the Norvell website. Thus, this letter to the Exponent and the residents of Norvell Township.

In the application, AAOM cited under number 1.7, Benefits of the Project, a 2025 "Market Study" by Andrew Reed & Associates out of Quincy, Mich., stating a potential negative impact of 7.3% to home/property values. Also cited by AAOM is The Phoenix Center Study, under number 4.8.3, referencing gravel operations in Tenn., Ala., Calif., and Ohio. I found no evaluations stated for high value residential lake and agriculture property noted in their application.

Closer to home, we have some more applicable property valuations cited by more applicable sources. One is a Canadian Property Valuation magazine article by Tony Sevelka (grassrootsjournals.org/jelp/0203m00310.html#status) which included five studies that identify mine operations having a negative impact on property values ranging from 7.5% to 36%. The Upjohn Institute published a more telling report by George Erickcek in 2006 (research.upjohn.org/reports/222) regarding the economic impact of the proposed Stoneco Gravel Mine in Richland Township, Kalamazoo County, Mich. It concluded "the gravel mine will reduce property values in

Richland and Richland Township by \$31.5 million dollars (estimated 20% reduction), adversely impacting the values of over 1,400 homes, which represent over 60 percent of the Richland Residences" with minimal employment impact. Also, the report reflects that property owners are willing to pay more to be further from the mine and associated haul routes. That willingness to pay was 7.92% more per mile away from the mine.

Mike Wilczynski, geologist with Pangea Environmental, LLC in Michigan with 45 years of experience in mine operations, states the haul route zones could experience a 30% reduction in property valuations. Scott Brown, executive director of the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, stated in his letter to the Exponent (page 4, 3-10-26), among many VSCs, "Are we ready to accept the fact that the market value of homes and property in the area will decline by as much as 40% due to the quality-of-life degrading presence of the aggregate mine?" You have to ask why these experts are not quoted in the AAOM application.

Specifically, for Norvell Township and its residents, I tried to capture what I believe is true "Property Value Impact". Norvell Township is 91.1% residential, 8.7% agricultural, and less than 1% commercial. A total of 2,225 properties identified here cover 18,804 acres. I break this out by indirect "Non-Haul Route" and direct "Haul Route" impact. We have 1,622 properties in the "Non-Haul Route" zone (outside the direct Haul Route Zone) and are located within five miles of the proposed Levy-Norvell Gravel Mine. These properties have a "2025 Assessed Value" of \$184,138,025 and cover 14,373 acres. I used an estimated market value loss of 7.5% for this indirect zone resulting in a \$13,810,352 annual negative impact to property values.

The direct "Haul Routes" (A-B-C), as noted in the application, I have identified as the primary Haul Route Zone. We have 603 properties in the direct Haul Route Zone which includes those properties which must use Haul Routes A-B-C for accessing their properties. These properties, surrounded by the lakes and state parks, have a "2025 Assessed Value" of \$89,265,000 and cover 4,431 acres. I used an estimated conservative market value loss of 30% for this direct zone resulting in a \$26,779,500 annual negative impact to property values.

Combined, the potential total "Assessed Property Value" impacted as a result of the Levy-Norvell Gravel Mine could be \$273,403,025 on 18,904 acres. The negative annual "Property Value" impact would be \$40,589,852 – an average of 14.8% across the residents of Norvell Township and well within many of the studies documented above. This leaves a potential annual long-term tax revenue loss of \$722,499 for the township. Now also consider the long-term impact over the 20-year operation of the Levy-Norvell Gravel Mine, not just for Norvell Township, but the Irish Hills!

I truly believe we have debunked the "NEED" for the Levy-Norvell Gravel Mine

in Norvell Township. We have 436 identified sand and gravel mining operations in just our four surrounding counties. Not to mention the 520-plus sand and gravel mines in Southeast Michigan today serving the AAOM target market area. Our property values will have a long-term impact on Norvell Township's future financial stability, health and welfare and that of Napoleon, Manchester and Cambridge townships.

Property rights have a place. You like to think because we bought a piece of property, we can do what we want with it. We have "zoning laws" for a reason – setbacks from the water's edge, side lot setbacks, square foot restrictions, agricultural restrictions, where and what we can spray, etc. Our township zoning laws are meant to protect all residents – those that own their property and those adjacent to others. The Norvell Township Master Plan is in place to do just that and for the reason to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents!

Progress is one thing, but as one prominent business owner in Brooklyn stated "Unless it brings numerous high-paying jobs to the area, I do not see anything good to come of it!" The AAOM application states only a few full-time jobs will be created with the gravel mine.

We can't fight this without YOU! Irish Hills Concerned Citizens has done a great job educating us on the process for Norvell Township to approve or deny the application by AAOM. We must hire the appropriate legal counsel to represent the residents of Norvell Township here and to address the VSC impact studies necessary.

First, IHCC has a petition drive being mailed out to ALL Norvell Township property owners. Please sign and return the petition in the pre-paid envelop mailed. We request they be returned by April 30. Talk to your friends and neighbors to make sure they are each also looking for their petitions to be signed and returned!

Second, a donation card is enclosed with the petition. We have a budget of \$150,000 to fight this AAOM Gravel Mine application and are well on our way. We can't do it without contributions, small and large. It also does not have to be a one-time donation. Budget what works best for you over what period works best. If you are outside the Haul Route Zone, you are less impacted. If you are in the Haul Route Zone, you are possibly severely impacted.

Look at your assessed property value and determine the cost you are willing to pay to fight to keep this beautiful rural life style we cherish in the Irish Hills in place. Small donations can be made online at ihccinfo.org. We ask that any large donations be made by check to save the 3% processing fee. Simply enclose a check in the pre-paid envelop with your signed petition or mail separately to IHCC, P.O. Box 72, Brooklyn, MI 49230.

**Guest editorial**

# The importance of preserving local news

**By John Hiner  
President,  
Michigan Press  
Association**

I started my journalism career with a typewriter, a notebook and a pretty basic motivation: I wanted to know what was happening in my community, and why.

The typewriter is long gone, replaced by technologies I couldn't have imagined back then. But across Michigan, the curiosity and commitment that brought many of us into journalism in the first place are still there. So is the unshakeable belief that local news matters.

Today is the inaugural Local News Day, a nationwide observance of the role local journalism plays in communities big and small. It's a great opportunity to focus on what this work is really about.

Local journalism helps people understand what's happening around them so they can make informed decisions. That's not a partisan idea.

Everyone benefits from accurate reporting on schools, roads, public safety, taxes, local businesses and the decisions made at city hall and the state Capitol. Communities with strong local news tend to be more connected, more transparent and better prepared to solve problems.

Local reporters show up to meetings most residents can't or don't attend. They dig up records, break down complicated issues and hold institutions accountable. It's often unglamorous and routine work, but it's foundational to civic life.

And it's getting harder to do. Since 2005, roughly 60 percent of local reporting jobs nationwide have disappeared. Fewer journalists are covering more ground, even as the issues facing communities grow more complex and consequential.

Local journalism also depends on public trust and a shared understanding of how

credible news is produced. Media literacy matters. When people can separate verified reporting from rumor or misinformation, public debate improves. When they understand how journalists verify information and correct mistakes, confidence in responsible news organizations grows.

There are real threats to independent journalism that should concern people across the political spectrum. Reporters increasingly face harassment in public for doing their jobs. Weak transparency laws make it harder to see how decisions are made. The use of regulatory pressure or lawsuits to discourage reporting has affected the public's right to know.

There's also a growing movement around the country to shift public and legal notices out of newspapers and onto government websites. That would make essential information harder to find — especially in rural communities — and further distance citizens from watching how their elected officials actually do their jobs.

Local News Day isn't just a celebration. It's a reminder that sustaining local journalism is a shared responsibility. Subscribing, advertising, reading critically and engaging civically all matter. So does standing up for transparency laws, press freedoms and media literacy education.

Local news isn't about ideology or technology. It's about dedicated, professional journalists serving their neighbors with reliable, verified information. On Local News Day — and every day — that mission deserves recognition and support.

*John Hiner is the president of MLive Media Group, which includes eight community newspapers and the MLive.com digital news company.*



**Attic & Hearth**  
~A Look Back~  
By Michelle A. McLemore



**Wheels go round**

## Road and transportation historic snapshot



This postcard of the west side of Brooklyn's square captures three different transportation modes in the early part of the twentieth century. The car has similarities to the 1920s Ford. Photo courtesy of Exponent files.

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 [exponent@theexponent.com](mailto:exponent@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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# Ask the chief

Columbia residents can speak with Cota, Niles about bonds



**Niles Cota**  
By John Hummer  
Editor

Got questions about the May 5 Columbia Charter Township police and fire millages? Come speak with Police Chief Jay Niles and Fire Chief Scott Cota to get them answered on Saturday, April 25, from noon to 1 p.m. (or until the last question is answered) at Callaghan's Coffee Café, 109 S. Main Street, in Brooklyn.

This will be the last public opportunity to meet with the chiefs prior to the May 5 election. The Local Committee to Support First Responders will host the meeting.

**What do the millages entail?**  
There will be two millage requests for operation of the township fire department and two millage requests for operation of the township police department on the ballot.

Two of the millage requests,

one for fire and one for police, will be millage renewals, asking voters to renew the current millage rate that is being levied today, subject to a Headlee rollback.

The second pair of millage requests would ask voters to approve an additional amount for the operations of each department.

Currently, the township is collecting .8577 mills for police operations, rolled back due to Headlee, from an original millage of 1.0. For fire operations, the township is collecting .4286 mills, rolled back due to Headlee from an original millage of .500. Both millages expire Dec. 31, 2026.

Historically, the money collected for both police and fire operations has not been enough to fully fund the departments over the last 10-plus years and has required the township's general fund to make up the difference.

The police department additional millage request is for a levy not to exceed .2423 mills (\$0.2423 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and would be for a period of seven years. It would raise close to an additional \$142,305 per year for police operations.

The fire department would require an additional, not to exceed .4214 mills (\$0.4214 per \$1,000 of taxable value), also for a period of seven years. It would raise an approximate \$247,493 per year for fire operations.

The renewal millages for both departments would be for a period of five years and based on any Headlee rollback figure leading up to the time of approving ballot language. The newly approved millages would appear on residents' winter 2027 tax bills.

"The township general fund has made up the difference for Headlee rollback amounts for a number of years," stated Township Supervisor Barry Marsh back in January when the board approved putting the millages on the May 5 ballot. "That math can't sustain itself. Eventually there would be some change in services — there would have to be."

Contact the Columbia Charter Township clerk's office at 517-592-2000, Ext. 231 for more information about the May 5 ballot.

**Official May 5 ballot language for Columbia Charter Township fire and police millages**

**Renewal millages**

**COLUMBIA CHARTER TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION MILLAGE RENEWAL - PROPOSAL 1**

Shall the previous voted increase in the tax limitations imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within Columbia Charter Township be renewed at .4286 mil (\$0.4286 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the period of 2027 through 2031 inclusive for fire protection; and shall the Township levy such renewal in millage for said purpose, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$251,772.00.

**COLUMBIA CHARTER TOWNSHIP POLICE PROTECTION MILLAGE RENEWAL - PROPOSAL 2**

Shall the previous voted increase in the tax limitations imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution on

general ad valorem taxes within Columbia Charter Township be renewed at .8577 mil (\$0.8577 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the period of 2027 through 2031 inclusive for police protection; and shall the Township levy such renewal in millage for said purpose, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$503,837.00.

**Additional millages**

**COLUMBIA CHARTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT ADDITIONAL OPERATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL - PROPOSAL 3**

Shall Columbia Charter Township, Jackson County, Michigan, impose a new millage on taxable property in the township, at an amount not to exceed .4214 mills (\$0.4214 per \$1,000 of taxable value), for a period of seven (7) years, beginning with the 2027 Winter tax bill and ending the 2033 Winter tax bill, inclusive, as an additional millage, to provide funds to the Fire Department for operating expenses of the department? It is estimated that .4214 mills would raise approximately \$247,542 when first levied in December 2027.

**COLUMBIA CHARTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDITIONAL OPERATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL - PROPOSAL 4**

Shall Columbia Charter Township, Jackson County, Michigan, impose a new millage on taxable property in the township, at an amount not to exceed .2423 mills (\$0.2423 per \$1,000 of taxable value), for a period of seven (7) years, beginning with the 2027 Winter tax bill and ending with the 2033 Winter tax bill, inclusive, as an additional millage, to provide funds to the Police Department for operating expenses of the department? It is estimated that .2423 mills would raise approximately \$142,334.00 when first levied in December 2027.

**1 Mill = \$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value**

## Columbia Schools

### Voters to decide on \$14.8 million bond proposal for Columbia schools

By John Hummer  
Editor

Columbia School District voters have the opportunity to vote (now via absentee ballot or May 5 in-person) on making improvements to school district facilities via a \$14.8 million bond proposal.

If passed, the bond would provide improvements aligned with the 2023-2028 district Strategic Plan. Improvements to facilities would take place in all of the district's buildings. Key projects include:

A new enclosed corridor to connect the elementary buildings

Expand classroom space and create flexible learning environments at elementary schools

Fully renovate the Columbia Central Jr./Sr. High School auditorium

Improve athletic facilities to meet ADA accessibility standards

Address district-wide roofing, safety, and building code needs

The projected cost of the improvements is \$15,200,251. Of that amount, it will be necessary for the district to borrow \$14,800,000, with the remaining funds to be derived from the investment of the bond proceeds.

"It's a non-increase in property tax — it won't increase anybody's taxes at all," said School Board President Tim Creech in a previous Exponent interview. "It's just re-amortizing the bond we already have."

For more information, visit [myeagles.org/page/2026-bond](http://myeagles.org/page/2026-bond).

**As it appears on the ballot**

**Columbia School District bond proposal ballot language**

Shall Columbia School District, Jackson, Lenawee, Washtenaw and Hillsdale Counties,

Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Fourteen Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$14,800,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of: erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to school buildings; remodeling, including security improvements to, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping existing school buildings; acquiring and installing instructional technology and instructional technology equipment for school buildings; and equipping, developing and improving playgrounds, athletic fields and facilities, parking areas, and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2026 is 0.55 mill (\$0.55 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a -0- mill net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty-one (21) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 0.84 mill (\$0.84 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$23,470,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is \$0. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

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## Lenawee County Kindergarten Round Up Dates

<b>ADDISON</b> 4/18 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Elementary Cafeteria & Gym  Contact: Angela Huston 517.547.6910	<b>ADRIAN</b> 4/7 5:30 - 6:30 PM All Buildings Sign-Up on <a href="http://adrianmaples.org">adrianmaples.org</a> ("Parents" Tab)  Contact: Angie Schaffer 517.264.6640 x4108	<b>BLISSFIELD</b> 3/12 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM & 4:00 - 6:00 PM By Appointment (Sign-Up on School Website)  Contact: Linda Mueller 517.486.2811
<b>BRITTON DEERFIELD</b> 4/24 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM Deerfield Building  Walk-In or By Appointment  Contact: Amy McArAn 517.447.3015 x212	<b>CLINTON</b> 3/14 9:00 - 11:00 AM Last Name A-M 9:00 - 10:00 AM Last Name N-Z 10:00 - 11:00 AM  Contact: Michele Smerek 517.456.6504	<b>HUDSON</b> 4/15 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM 4/16 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM 4/17 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM SMCSL 550 E. Main St.  Contact: Angela Combs 517.448.8912 x242
<b>MADISON</b> 4/9 6:00 - 7:30 PM Walk-In or By Appointment  Contact: Trisha Howard 517.263.0744 x146	<b>MORENCI</b> 3/12 4:00 - 7:00 PM Morenci Elementary By Appointment  Contact: Eileen Moore 517.458.7504 x210	<b>ONSTED</b> 4/28 Sign Up 4:00-6:00PM Onsted Elementary 5/4 Screening 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Walk-In or By Appt.)  Contact: Marsha Davis 517.467.7046
<b>SAND CREEK</b> 4/1 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM & 5:00 - 7:00 PM 4/2 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM By Appointment  Contact: Elementary Office 517.436.3121	<b>TECUMSEH</b> 4/11 9:00 AM - Noon Sutton Early Learning Center or on School Website  Contact: Barb Randolph 517.423.2167 x1201	<b>FREE PRESCHOOL</b> Now enrolling for the 2026-2027 school year! Free preschool serving all of Lenawee County. Adrian Head Start: 517.263.2468 Great Start Readiness: <a href="http://lenaweefreepreschools.org">lenaweefreepreschools.org</a>

To view detailed countywide information, use the QR code or visit [lisd.us/kindergarten](http://lisd.us/kindergarten).

## Vandercook bond ... from page 1

gas and plumbing piping are also on the list to get done.

In addition, a new digital sign would be installed that would list key district dates and events and serve as a revenue stream in the form of advertising. The new sign, per school board approval, would be installed on McDevitt Avenue behind the district's softball field on an empty lot the district owns. "That would really allow us to communicate better with our community," Bradfield said.

The bond proposal, if approved, would also fund improvements to the restrooms at the football field to be ADA-compliant. Otherwise, all projects that had anything to do with athletics that were on the November bond proposal were removed for this May 5 bond proposal.

"The bond committee, in listening to the community, only wanted us to address critical needs from Series I," Bradfield stated, adding that the new electronic sign was also a priority.

If the bond does not pass, these critical infrastructure projects would need to be paid for by the district's General Fund, which would be detrimental to instructional programs, arts, and athletic programs already in the district's budget, the bond web page says.

There are two more bond proposal informational meetings scheduled for community members to learn more about the ballot initiative. The first is this Thursday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Townsend Elementary School (after Kindergarten Roundup). The final meeting will be on Wednesday, April 29 at 5 p.m. at Vandercook Lake Middle School/High School (before Bingo Night). Three previous informational meetings were also held.

Bradfield noted that commu-

nity members can email her questions at [melissa.bradfield@vandschools.org](mailto:melissa.bradfield@vandschools.org). More information on the Vandercook Lake Public Schools bond proposal can be found at [vandschools.org/page/bond-proposal-5-5-26-info](http://vandschools.org/page/bond-proposal-5-5-26-info).

**As it appears on the ballot**

**VANDERCOOK LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOND PROPOSAL**

Shall Vandercook Lake Public Schools, Jackson County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Nine Million Two Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$9,280,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor for the purpose of:

remodeling and equipping and re-equipping school buildings, including roof replacements, plumbing and HVAC improvements, and school security improvements; and preparing, developing, and improving the stadium and fieldhouse site?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2026 is 2.71 mills (\$2.71 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refund, is twenty-five (25) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 3.47 mills (\$3.47 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$2,235,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is \$0. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

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## Death Notices

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

Ernest Kenneth Romano, 82, Concord Township; Murray Chalmers, 81, Leoni Township; Clarence Leroy Cooper, 91, Concord Township; Richard Dale Cunningham, 86, Leoni Township; Jarvis Ramon Butts, 43, Blackman Township; Jim Duran, 79, Blackman Township; Dayna Vivian Dennis, 74, Jackson; Richard Allen Sanford, 72, Jackson; Jack Edward Floros, 93, Summit Township; Russell Allen Cowen, 79, Cambridge Township; Lawrence Lee Brace, 79, Liberty Township; Anthony Christopher Aldridge, 12, Parma; Dalonda Denay Duffin, 46, Jackson; Connie Jo Podlewski, 63, Summit Township; Jerome James McMillian, 51, Hillsdale; Clyde Alan Kitts, 66, Leoni Township; Richard R. Daulton, 89, Sandstone Township; Sherry Lynn Hunt, Jackson; Linda Sue Pratt, 68, Jackson; Karren C. Yochens, 85, Sandstone Township; Paul Arthur Miller Jr., 68, Summit Township; Menifee Allen, 62, Homer Township; Kenneth Donald Cooper, 82, Jackson; Kevin Elmer Town, 62, Moscow Township; Twila Gene Sims, 93, Dearborn Heights; Kathryn Lee Rife, 79, Summit Township; Phillip Jay Hiland, 59, Jackson; Marinus Terrence Musselman, 83, Summit Township; Barbara Lynn Penpraze, 81, Grass Lake Township.

## Marriages

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

Makayla Nicole Bella and Nicholas Jesus Hernandez, Concord; Andrea Dale McCabe and Richard Steven Kirchberg, Jackson; Malachi Scott Hubinger, Waldron, and Lily Grace Erickson, Jackson; Meleeah Marie Hall, Stockbridge, and Thomas Francis Rooney, Jackson; Seth Patrick Bauman, Michigan Center, and Allison Michelle Jarchow, Brooklyn; Jean Lee Kang, Jackson, and Arnold Jay Cho, Jackson; Brittney Anne Darling and Marcin Jakub Zieliński, Jackson; Jayme Lynn Newman and Tyler Scott Nichols, Concord; Jordyn Arlene Marie Davis, Springport, and Kadin Daniel Slaby, Parma; Savannah Marie Miskovic, Jackson, and Darren Michael-Edward Otene, Jackson; Cassandra Marie Robinson, Brooklyn, and Michael Thomas Berichon, Brooklyn; Francis Leroy Anderson and Lauri Denise Logan, Grass Lake; David Oran Henley III and Angela Marie Rodriguez, Parma; Christine Marie Royal, Concord, and David Michael Henry, Toledo, OH; Madysen Renee Miotke, Spring Arbor, and Trevor Anthony Ley, Jackson; Kaitlynn Christine Leonard, Brooklyn, and Timothy Aaron Benson, Sand Lake; Andrew Stephen Berry Sr. and Taja Riann Selby, Jackson.

## Doing business as...

**OnCall Property Repair:** 156 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson (Handyman Services) John Antawn Willis, owner;

**Arthur Family Floors & More:** 11025 Hyde Road, Clarklake (Construction-Trades) Warren Travis Arthur, owner;

**R. V's Demolition & Wiring, Recovery Demolition:** 2925 Page Avenue, Jackson (Recycling Wire & Demolition) Ronnie C. Vaughn, owner;

**Riverside Studios:** 3675 Albion Road, Concord (Art Studio) Steven Theodore Ferency, owner;

**KL Contracting:** 4530 Matthews Road, Spring Arbor (Construction) Keegan Lambert, owner;

**Professional Land Services:** 10335 Rountree Road, Hanover (Tree Services & Excavation) Flint Bibbins, owner.

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- Fifty years ago the Greater Brooklyn Association chose new officers. Lou Kaiser was chosen as president and Steve Sacka as vice president. Willard Chapin was voted second vice-president. Millie Lewis, treasurer and Winifred Arksey, secretary, rounded out the board.

**25 years ago ...**

- Twenty five years ago Napoleon sixth grader Kylie Jusick earned a 10th place medal on beam with a score of 8.8 at the level 7 gymnastic finals in Rochester. She also received her season-best score on vault, floor and all-around exercises.

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# Obituaries

## Robert Xavier Goldsborough

Robert Xavier Goldsborough passed away on February 7, 2026. He was born on January 26, 1960, in Dearborn, Mich. His parents were William Lawrence Goldsborough and Margaret Ann Brieska of Dearborn, Mich. He was never married. Robert resided at 308 E. Mill Pond Drive, Brooklyn, Mich. He died of natural causes. Robert graduated from Dearborn Fordson High School and at-



Robert Goldsborough

tended St. Barbara Catholic elementary school. He worked in the maintenance industry at Dearborn Fordson High School and McDonalds.

Robert was a faithful member of All Saints Episcopal Church in Brooklyn and served as sexton, lector, music coordinator, and maintenance and commu-

nity dinner assistant. He leaves behind family members - nieces, Shelly Rushing and her husband Mark, Kim Leydig, Tina Doll and nieces and nephews Anthony, Raymond and Kathleen Rushing, Angles Arnold, Jessica Fernandez, Jennifer, and Kenny Tipton. His body has been cremated with services provided by Eineder Funeral Home, Brooklyn, Michigan.

A memorial service will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church, 151 N. Main Street,

Brooklyn, Michigan, Sunday April 19, 2026, at 10:30 A.M. The Rev. Deborah Semon-Scott will be the celebrant. Robert's ashes will be spread on the St. Francis Garden at All Saints. A luncheon will follow the service in All Saints Parish Hall.

Memorial contributions can be sent to All Saints Episcopal Church, 151 N. Main St. Brooklyn, Michigan 49230.

## William 'Bill' Rothfuss



William Kendall Rothfuss, 79, formerly of



Bill Rothfuss

Brooklyn passed away Sunday, April 5, 2026, at Henry Ford Hospital, Jackson, Mich. Bill's family and friends will gather for a celebration of life from 3 to 6 p.m., Thursday, April 16, 2026, at Eineder Funeral Homes - Brooklyn Chapel.

He was born on October 30, 1946, in Jackson, Mich., to Charles D. and Fern M. (Talbot) Rothfuss.

Bill attended Brooklyn Community Schools from kindergarten through 12th grade, graduating in 1965. He remained proud of his roots and enjoyed reconnecting with

classmates at many reunions over the years.

He honorably served his country in the United States Air Force. Following his service, Bill was employed by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Jackson, Mich., where he worked until the plant's closing in 1984.

Bill valued his independence and found peace in solitude, especially outdoors that he loved so dearly. Though he cherished time alone, he was also incredibly generous. He eagerly taught those who were interested in bird watching, fishing, hunting, and trapping, passing along not only skills

but also a deep respect for nature.

A devoted outdoorsman, Bill had a lifelong passion for wildlife and conservation. He spent countless hours observing and caring for the natural world, finding joy in its quiet rhythms and seasonal changes. He held a special fascination with bluebirds and became affectionately known as "Bluebird Bill" for his dedicated efforts to welcome bluebirds during migration and to care for them throughout the nesting season.

Bill was also a member of the Springville Methodist Church men's breakfast group, known as the "Springville Guys," where he valued the camaraderie and fellowship of friends.

Bill is survived by his brothers, Donald (Anne) Rothfuss, George H. Rothfuss, and John (Ruth) Rothfuss; many nieces and nephews, and lifelong friend and advocate, Sylvia Kay.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers, Charles E., Glen W., and Dennis H.; and a niece, Erin L. Rothfuss.

Please leave a message of comfort for Bill's family or sign his guestbook at [www.EinederFuneralHomes.com](http://www.EinederFuneralHomes.com).

To honor Bill's passion for the outdoors, please consider a contribution to the Friends of Watkins Lake State Park, <https://protectingwatkinslake.org>, F.o.W.L., P.O. Box 26, Brooklyn, MI 49230.

## Lawrence 'Larry' Jay Bergman

Lawrence (Larry) Jay Bergman, 78, passed away Saturday, April 11, 2026, under the compassionate care of Hospice of Lenawee, surrounded by his loving family. Larry was born in Detroit, Mich., on June 5, 1947, to Roy and Delphine (Wayno) Bergman, the oldest of five siblings. On May 3, 1969, Larry married the love of his life, Janice Urban, and they spent 50 years together before her passing in 2019.

Larry worked for Ford Motor Company, where his love of cars grew, especially for Mustangs. Larry loved boating and



Larry Bergman

being on the water and even raced boats for a time. Larry also enjoyed golfing, especially with his grandson, Gage. Larry was a long-time volunteer in both the Boy Scouts, where he held his Eagle Scout award, and with the Plymouth-

Salem Swim Team. Larry was also a fan of Michigan State Athletics and NASCAR, where he liked to attend races and breakfasts with the drivers. Larry loved his dogs and had many throughout his life. Larry also loved to travel with his

wife, especially to Florida. Most of all, Larry enjoyed spending time with his family, from growing up on the lakes in the Irish Hills, to being able to build his retirement home on Lake Columbia, to spending time on Gary's deck in the peace and quiet in the country and in Northern Michigan with his daughter Julie. Larry loved the time spent with his family.

Larry is survived by his children, Gary (Amy) Bergman, and Julie (Jason) Nickol; grandchildren, Gage Bergman, Brixton Nickol, and siblings, Kirk Bergman, Robert Bergman, Roberta Clayton, and Roxanne Bergman-Krumel. Larry was preceded in

death by his parents and his wife, Jan.

A memorial service for Larry will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Hospice of Lenawee, The Lenawee County Humane Society, or to a charity of the donor's choice in Larry's name.

Friends may express sympathies to the family online by visiting the tribute wall at [www.marryfh.com](http://www.marryfh.com). Arrangements have been made with the guidance of the Anderson-Marry Funeral Home, Adrian.

# Investigation into Onsted woman missing in Bahamas continues

By DAVID PANIAN  
davidp@tucumsehherald.com

Authorities in the Bahamas continued to hold an Onsted man for questioning as of Monday after his wife went overboard April 4 from their 8-foot dinghy.

Lynette and Brian Hooker were returning to their 46-foot sailboat, the Soul Mate, that evening in rough seas when Lynette Hooker fell into the water, according to an account Brian Hooker provided to the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

Lynette Hooker, 55, is still missing. Bahamian authorities have told news outlets that the search for her is now a recovery effort rather than a rescue attempt.

Brian Hooker, 58, remained in custody in the Bahamas after a magistrate granted a 72-hour extension to his detention, according to NBC News. There can be only one extension, CNN reported, which means Hooker had to be released by 7:20 p.m. Monday or be charged with a crime.

The line of questioning by police indicate they are considering a murder charge, Butler told NBC.

Brian Hooker posted a message to Facebook on April 8 saying that he is "heartbroken over the recent boat accident in unpredictable seas and high winds that caused my beloved Lynette to fall from our small dinghy near Elbow Cay in the Bahamas. Despite desperate attempts to reach her, the winds and currents drove us further apart. We continue to search for her and that is my sole focus."

Online records indicate the Hookers live at a residence on Sand Lake in northern Franklin Township. They previously lived in Kentwood, which is a suburb of Grand Rapids. They sold their home there in 2020 after owning it for about 15 years, according to online property records for the city of Kentwood.

The Hookers are experienced sailors and have documented their experiences on the water on YouTube and Instagram under the username The Sailing Hookers.

Friends of the Hookers, Marnee and Blaine Stevenson, shared an audio

recording of a phone conversation they had with Brian Hooker before he was taken into custody where he describes what happened when Lynette Hooker went overboard. He said it was about 10 minutes before sunset when Lynette Hooker "basically just bounced off the dinghy" during a 20-knot gust of wind. He said they weren't wearing life jackets.

Lynette had both keys to the dinghy's motor with her. When she went overboard with the keys, the engine shut off, which is a safety feature designed to prevent an unmanned boat from motoring away from a lone occupant who goes overboard.

Brian said he threw a flotation device to her after she fell in, but he couldn't tell if she got it.

"The wind blew us apart so fast that I think she tried to swim back to our sailboat which was probably, I don't know, 1,000 yards or something. But the waves were 3-foot," he said in the phone recording. He tried to use the dinghy's oars, but the pin on one broke and it went into the water and he was left with just one oar.

"I yelled to her that I lost the oar, and I threw the anchor out and anchored the dinghy and just — I yelled. I couldn't see her anymore," he said.

"It's amazing how small a person is in 2- to 3-footers and in 25-knot winds," he said. "So, after an hour of calling her, I never heard her voice."

He said a power boat went past and he tried to signal it with the flashlight on his cellphone, but the boat was going too fast and the people on it didn't see him. A second boat went by, which he tried to signal with flares fired from a flare gun, but that boat's occupants apparently didn't see them.

Brian Hooker said he could see houses on the shoreline, and he decided to try to get help. However, with only one oar to paddle with, the current took him past the houses. He ended up paddling and drifting for hours before he beached the boat on Marsh Island. He made his way through scrub brush to a boat yard where he

talked to a security guard. The police got there around 4 a.m., but the search teams didn't get out until 4:30 or 5 a.m.

He said by midnight he was "freaking out" because no one had come looking for him, but he kept paddling.

At one point after the police took him into custody, they took him out to search his sailboat, his attorney said. His hands were restrained and he was holding some clothing while on the police boat. The seas were "choppy and dangerous" and Brian Hooker lost his footing and fell overboard. He was submerged and ingested a "significant amount of seawater" before his life jacket brought him to the surface and the police pulled him back onboard their boat. He sustained an injury to his knee and received medical treatment and a prescription, Butler said.

Lynette Hooker's daughter, Karli Aylesworth, has given multiple media interviews. In them, she has described a sometimes volatile relationship between the couple, including drinking problems and domestic violence. She told NBC that Brian Hooker's account of what happened seems unlikely.

"I hope this was just a freak accident, but I just have a hard time believing it at the moment," Aylesworth said April 9. "I just want to know the truth...."

"I feel like this was probably preplanned, if anything, like, it doesn't seem like just some accident."

The Hookers had prior encounters with law enforcement, NBC reported. Lynette Hooker was taken into custody following a domestic violence incident in 2015 in Kentwood where Brian Hooker had a bloody nose after he said Lynette struck him several times in the face. She also accused Brian of choking and punching her. Both were intoxicated. Officers observed Brian's injuries but none on Lynette. The Kent County Prosecutor's Office decided to not authorize charges.

Brian Hooker was acquitted of a child abuse charge in 2006, NBC reported.

## Tennis

### Onsted third at Invitational

Onsted High School finished third at the Northwest Tennis Invitational Saturday.

The Wildcats finished with six points in the four-team tournament.

Kaelyn Moore earned a split on the day for OHS at No. 3 singles with a 6-0 and 6-0 against Hillsdale but lost to Anna Surbrook of Northwest 6-1 and 6-0.

Eve Huber won a match at No. 4 singles for Onsted.

Molly Kurowski/McKenna Szul defeated Hillsdale at No. 1 doubles; Lauren Millet/Molly Kordyzon won two matches at No. 2 doubles; and Abby Nichols/Wrayia David defeated Hillsdale at No. 3 doubles.

### Sen. Shink to be in Brooklyn

Senator Sue Shink will be hosting "Connecting with our Community", a Community Conversation, in Brooklyn on Wednesday, April 29 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Choate's Marketplace (upstairs), 102 N. Main Street, Brooklyn.

Join Sen. Shink to talk about solutions for Michigan's future, what's going on in Lansing, and more.

## Softball



Above, left: Columbia Central Golden Eagle Hailey Wetherby and (right) Napoleon Pirate Kaitlyn Fall show off their technique. Both pitchers will be instrumental to their team's success this spring. Photos by Paul Snyder.

## Columbia girls on a roll to start season

Story and photos by Paul Snyder

### Columbia Central 19, Leslie 1 Columbia Central 16, Leslie 1

The Columbia Central Lady Eagles opened their 2026 season sweeping the Leslie Blackhawks 19-1 and 16-1 last Tuesday (April 7) in Cascades Conference play at Leslie.

In game one, Camden Knapp, Kelsey Fausz, Gabby Gaydosh and Rylee Knapp had three hits apiece to lead the Eagles' 19-run, 16-hit attack with Camden Knapp hitting two doubles and driving in three runs and Fausz belting a triple and collecting three RBIs.

Hailey Wetherby pitched four and 2/3 innings, striking out 12 and walking only one, giving up one run and one hit for the win.

In game two Wetherby had two hits, including a third-inning grand slam in helping the Eagles to a 16-1 victory. Camden Knapp pitched four innings, allowing just one run on three hits and one walk, striking out six.

### Columbia Central 10, Hudson 2 Columbia Central 7, Hudson 3

The Columbia Central Lady Eagles swept their former LCAA conference rival Hudson Tigers 10-3 and 7-3 in their home opener doubleheader last Thursday at Columbia Central.

Gabby Gaydosh led the Eagles nine-hit attack in game one with two hits and four RBI. Hailey Wetherby allowed the Tigers only two runs on five hits and three walks, striking out five for the win.

In game two, Rylee Knapp scoring on a sacrifice fly from Camden Knapp and Bella Knapp scored on a two-out single from Kelsey Fausz to take game two 7-3.

Rylee Knapp had two hits and two RBI for two of the Eagles' six hits. Camden Knapp went the distance for the win, giving up three Tiger runs on seven hits and three walks, striking out one.

### Columbia Central 23, Addison 0 Columbia Central 10, Addison 0

Columbia Central Eagles dominated the Addison Panthers 23-0 and 10-0 Friday in a doubleheader at Addison.

In game one, Hailey Wetherby allowed the Panthers' only two hits while not walking a batter and striking out five in three innings of work and collected three hits and three RBI. The Eagles belted out 18 hits led by Gabby Gaydosh with four hits and three RBI.

Camden Knapp threw five innings of no-hit ball in game two striking out 10 and walking only two. The Eagles started the first week of the season going 6-0.

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## AGGIES

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## Baseball

### Columbia, Grass Lake and Onsted all have big week winning four games each

Story and photos  
By Paul Snyder

### Columbia 13, Leslie 2 Columbia 11, Leslie 6

The Columbia Central Golden Eagles opened their 2026 Cascades Conference season last Tuesday (April 7) sweeping the Leslie Blackhawks 13-2 and 11-6 at Leslie.

Conner Rentfrow led the Eagles' 13-hit attack in game one going 4-4 at the plate with two home runs and a double, driving in seven. He pitched three innings, allowing one Blackhawk run on two hits and three walks while striking out five. Hayden Haynes collected three hits including a double. He added one RBI.

Luke Calhoun led the Eagles at the plate in game two with a two-run single in the first inning and a three-run homer in the fourth, batting in five Columbia runs.

Chase Dukate started and went three innings, giving up three runs on two hits and two walks, while striking out two.

### Columbia 15, Addison 0 Columbia 12, Addison 0

The Columbia Central Golden Eagles swept the Addison Panthers 15-0 and 12-0 last Friday in a Cascades Conference doubleheader at Addison.

Eagle Blayden Steller threw a one-hitter in game one, striking out six and walking only one, while at the plate collecting three hits and one RBI.

Luke Calhoun also had

three hits, while Hayden Haynes and Jordan Dankert recorded two hits and three RBI apiece for 10 of Columbia's 13 hits in the game.

Luke Calhoun pitched four innings of no-hit ball in game two, striking out five and walking two, while helping his cause at the plate with two hits and three RBI. Noah Dankert contributed two hits and Conner Rentfrow one hit and three RBI.

Columbia is now 5-1 on the season while the Panthers fell to 0-4.

### Grass Lake 9, Homer 0 Grass Lake 13, Homer 0

The Grass Lake Warriors opened up defending their Cascades Conference crown with a pair of shutout wins, 9-0 and 13-0 over the Homer Trojans last Tuesday at Grass Lake.

Three pitchers combined for a no-hitter in game one, with Noah Orban going the first four innings, striking out six and walking five.

Manny Schafran pitched four innings of one-hit ball in game two, striking out seven and walking two for the win.

### Grass Lake 17, E.J. 0 Grass Lake 17, E.J. 1

The Grass Lake Warriors swept the East Jackson Trojans 17-0 and 17-1 last Friday at East Jackson to improve to 5-0 on the season.

Camden Knight and Evan Mathews combined for a no-hitter in game one. Cam Prater and Gavin Killinger had three hits apiece, including two doubles and three RBI each to lead the Warriors 12-hit attack.

Noah Orban struck out seven and walked two, giving up one run without a hit in three innings of work for the win in game two. Ethan Brown had three hits and two RBI to lead the Warriors at the plate.

### Jonesville 17, Napoleon 5 Napoleon 4, Jonesville 3

The Napoleon Pirates split their Cascades Conference opening doubleheader with the Jonesville Comets last Wednesday (April 8) at

Napoleon, dropping the first game 17-5 and bouncing back to take game two 4-3 in five innings.

Isaac Caroffino drove in two Napoleon runs with a double for one of the Pirates five hits in game one.

In game two, the Pirates' Brady McLain and Logan Hankis had two hits apiece and accounted for three of Napoleon's four runs.

AJ Buckley went four innings for the win, giving up three runs on three hits and seven walks, striking out eight. Tyler Nall got the save going one inning, striking out two without giving up a hit or walk.

### Napoleon 5, M.C. 1 M.C. 9, Napoleon 6

The Napoleon Pirates split their doubleheader with the Michigan Center Cardinals on the road last Thursday, taking game one 5-1 while dropping game two 9-6.

Tyler Nall went the distance in game one, going seven innings while striking out 10 and giving up just one run on one hit and one walk. He contributed at the plate as well with two of Napoleon's five hits, driving in one run.

The Pirates fell in game two as the Cardinals broke a 4-4 tie with five runs in the top of the seventh. Logan Hankis had three hits and two RBI to lead the Napoleon attack.

Napoleon is now 2-3 on the season.

### Onsted 9, Hillsdale 0 Hillsdale 10, Onsted 9 Onsted 12, Hillsdale 2

Onsted Wildcats took two of three games in their LCAA conference season series opener with the Hillsdale Hornets.

The teams split a doubleheader on Tuesday at Hillsdale, while Onsted took game three of the series Thursday at Onsted.

Lucas Arnold and Sean Symington combined for a three-hit shutout to give the Onsted Wildcats a 9-0 opening season win over the Hillsdale Hornets in game one.

The Wildcats rallied from five runs down (9-4) in game

two to tie the game at 9-9, only to give up a run in the bottom of the seventh on a bases-loaded hit batter with two outs. Brennen Wonders had three hits and four RBI to lead Onsted at the plate.

On Thursday, the Wildcats bounced back to defeat the Hornets 12-2 at Onsted in the rubber game of the series.

Mason Lee Jacobs-Lowe led Onsted's eight-hit attack at the plate with three hits and two RBI. Sean Symington went three innings of shutout ball for the win, giving up five hits, walking two, and striking out one.

### Chris Brian Invitational Onsted 5, Charlotte 3 Onsted 13, Clinton 3

The Onsted Wildcats captured the Chris Brian Invitational Saturday at Hanover-Horton with a 13-3 win over LCAA rival Clinton in the championship game.

The Wildcats took control scoring nine runs in the third inning with a three-run double from Lucas Arnold and a two-run homer by Jack Tessier. The pair led Onsted's attack, as Tessier had three hits and four RBI while Arnold contributed the one big hit and had four RBI for the game.

Cade Symington pitched five and 1/3 innings for the win, allowing the Redwolves three runs on one hit and one walk, striking out eight.

Onsted scored two runs in the top of the seventh to break a 3-3 to give the Wildcats a 5-3 over the Charlotte Orioles in game one of the tournament to advance to the championship game.

Onsted is now 5-1 on the season.

### Quincy 12, Addison 9

The Addison Panthers fell to the Quincy Orioles 12-9 in a nine inning slugfest last Thursday afternoon at Addison.

Levi Chestney and Jacob Wright had three hits apiece for six of the Panthers 12 hits in the game, with Chestney hitting two doubles while adding two RBI. Andrew Huston and Sawyer DeRossett collected two hits and one RBI apiece.

**Soccer results**

**Grass Lake takes two matches**

Photo, story by Jeff Steers  
Exponent special writer

Grass Lake High School made a statement in defeating Columbia Central and Jonesville last week in girls' soccer.

The Warriors defeated CCHS on the road and Jonesville at home.

Here are the soccer results from last week's action.

**Grass Lake 3, Columbia Central 1:** The Warriors won on the road in Cascades Conference action. Adelynn Kidd, Adeline Stormont, and Chloe Lesnick scored goals for Grass Lake. Kennedy Salter scored the only goal for CCHS.

**Michigan Center 3, Napoleon 0:** The Cardinals earned a shutout at home Friday night in Cascades Conference action. McKynley Gaddy scored two goals and Carly Horstman added another for MCHS. Abbie Hess earned the shutout in the Cardinals' first home match of the season.

**Columbia Central 7, Napoleon 0:** The Golden Eagles won on the road in Cascades Conference action. Mara Henry scored four times, Kennedy Salter added two goals, and Peyton Huston scored one goal for CCHS. Kolie Brown earned the shutout goal for Columbia Central (2-1 overall, 1-0 Cascades Conference). Napoleon is 0-2 in the season, 0-1 in the conference.

**Grass Lake 8, Jonesville 0:** Adelynn Kidd and Adeline Stormont each scored two goals and Leah Hansen, Taylor Hoppe, Ellia Clouse, and Audrey Koppernoll each scored one in the win. Vivian Vitale had two assists for Grass Lake.



Chloe Lesnick of Grass Lake High School kicks the soccer ball toward the net during a home match against Jonesville last week.

**Onsted 4, Jackson Christian 1:** The Wildcats earned a win over Jackson Christian Wednesday afternoon. Aubreigh Smith scored three goals, Raegan Muir added the other score, Izabel Raglow tallied two assists, and Mattie Hallenbeck stopped 12 shots in goal for Onsted.

**Clinton 4, Napoleon 1:** Kate VanWagnen scored the only goal for Napoleon in the first period. Clinton scored three times in the final 17 minutes of the contest to break open a 1-1 match.

Sargeant, and Willa Bartlett scored goals for the Mounties. Bartlett and Maddy McCall combined to earn the shutout in net for NWHS.

**Northwest 3, Onsted 0:** Mattie Hallenbeck finished with 16 saves in goal for the Wildcats. Avery Redmond, Abby

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**On the links**

**Napoleon, Columbia Central earn golf wins**



Cole Edmunds of Columbia Central High School watches his chip shot head toward the hole during the Cascades Conference jamboree at Lakeland Hills Golf Course last Thursday.

Photo, story by Jeff Steers  
Exponent special writer

Napoleon and Columbia Central high schools opened the Cascades Conference season with wins at jamborees.

The conference is splitting jamborees up into two six-team events each week.

Napoleon won the conference jamboree at Manchester and Columbia Central won the event at Lakeland Hills.

Here are the golf results from last week.

Columbia Central earned medalist honors with a 39, Jack Sturgill of Jonesville shot 41, Ayden Boyk of Hanover-Horton shot 42, and Parker Gough and Cole Edmunds for CCHS tied for fourth with Cole Trumper of Jonesville with 43s.

Mounties. Jayden Valasek shot a 43 and Cole Wells a 44 for Onsted. DaVinci High School only had three players, as Jesse Smith shot a 48.

**Ida Invitational:** Napoleon was sixth with 133 and Onsted seventh scoring 116 in an alternate shot format. Cole England shot a 77 for Onsted and Damian Falls carded a 79 for Napoleon.

**Cascades Jamboree at Wolf Creek:** Napoleon won the six-team jamboree at Manchester Monday shooting 175. Grass Lake was second (183), Addison placed third (185), Vandercook Lake was fourth (232), Manchester was fifth (238), and East Jackson placed sixth (277). Lucas Conaway earned medalist honors for Napoleon with a 40 on a cold and windy day. Lucas Schwartz of Addison tied for second with Zach Rice of Grass Lake (42), Jackson Ziebell of Grass Lake and Leevi Latocki of Napoleon tied for fourth (43).

**Cascades Conference at Lakeland Hills:** Columbia Central won the event scoring 170, Hanover-Horton finished second at 175, Jonesville shot 185, Michigan Center finished with 202, Leslie shot 214, and Homer only had three golfers compete. Adam Senkewitz of

**Devils Lake Quad:** Northwest won the nine-hole event with 157 and Onsted was second, scoring 178. NWHS took the top four spots as Jarrett Osterberg and Jake Brafford tied for medalist honors with 37s, Cody Rowe shot 39, and Javen Palmer tallied a 41 for the

# EXPONENT Classifieds

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Note: Another large estate auction is advertised on page 10

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## LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 7:00 pm, the Liberty Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hear a request for a 5' variance to the south at 117 Westshore Dr., Jerome, MI, parcel number: 074-18-33-456-045-00, for an addition of a family room.

The meeting will be held at the Liberty Township Hall, 101 W. Liberty Rd., Clarklake, MI.  
Debbie Jacobson,  
Liberty Township Clerk

## WATERLOO TOWNSHIP

Summary of Waterloo Township Special Board Meeting April 9, 2026 37  
A special meeting of the Waterloo Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 10:00am. The following motions were made and passed: offer the position of Zoning Enforcement Officer to Joe Cook at \$25/hour plus mileage and a cell phone stipend, and approval to adjourn at 10:16 a.m.  
Complete minutes can be found on the Waterloo Township website.  
(https://waterlootwpmi.gov/meeting-minutes/).  
Bill Richardson,  
Clerk

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**COLUMBIA CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

**COLUMBIA CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
THURSDAY APRIL 30, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Columbia Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on April 30, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia Charter Township Hall at 8500 Jefferson Road, Brooklyn, MI 49230, to consider the following variance requests:

**Variance 26-003**  
Owner/Applicant: William & Karen Bixler  
Location: 8442 N. Shore Dr. Clarklake, MI 49234 (Tax ID #: 000-19-17-327-009-01)  
Request: Variance application to permit a new single-family two-story dwelling on an approximately 4,360-square foot property. The existing dwelling is intended to be razed. The first floor of the dwelling will have 1,244-square foot of living space, the second floor 941-square foot of living space with a screen room and deck on the rear of the home. The dwelling will be setback 12-foot from the north front property line, requiring a 13-foot variance. The Columbia Charter Township Zoning Ordinance requires a 25-foot front yard setback, Article 3: Table 3-4.

**Variance 26-004**  
Owner/Applicant: Heart O' The Lakes Church  
Location: 7031 Jefferson Rd. Brooklyn, MI 49230 (Tax ID #: 000-19-23-301-001-03)  
Request: Variance application for a new 21,955-square foot parking lot to add 42 parking spaces on-site. The proposed parking lot will be setback 40-foot from the centerline of Jefferson Road, requiring a 50-foot variance. The Columbia Charter Township Zoning Ordinance requires a 90-foot setback from the centerline of Jefferson Road, Article 3: Table 3-4, footnote 4, Special Road Setbacks.

Information associated with the scheduled Public Hearing is available for public review at the Columbia Charter Township office during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays. Comments will be heard from the public at the hearing, or you can submit comments in writing to the: Columbia Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 8500 Jefferson Road, Brooklyn, MI 49230. All written comments will be entered into the public record and should be received by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the scheduled hearing date. Columbia Charter Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the public hearing to individuals with special needs upon five (5) days' notice to the Township Clerk (517)-592-2000.

**Cathy Hulburt,  
Columbia Charter Township  
Clerk**

**VILLAGE OF GRASS LAKE**

**RESOLUTION #2026-04-07-01  
TO AUTHORIZE MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MSHDA)  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)  
HOMEOWNER REHABILITATION APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) has invited Units of General Local Government to apply for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Competitive Funding Round; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Grass Lake is such a Unit of General Local Government and desires to request \$472,000,000 in CDBG funds; \$400,000 for Homeowner Rehabilitation, and \$72,000 for administration costs. Eligible low to moderate income homeowners will be provided funds to make necessary repairs to their home to rehabilitate interior and exterior for code-related requirements, permanently affixed energy-related repairs, and improvements necessary for persons with accessibility needs. No persons will be displaced as a result of the proposed project; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDBG does not require a local match from the Village of Grass Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed project is consistent with the Village of Grass Lake Housing Action Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, all proposed project activities will serve low to moderate income households; and

**WHEREAS**, local funds and any other funds to be invested in the Project have not been obligated/incurred and will not be obligated/incurred prior to a formal grant award, completion of the environmental review procedures, and a formal written authorization to obligate/incure costs from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA).

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Village of Grass Lake hereby designates the Village Manager as the Environmental Review Certifying Officer, the person authorized to certify the CDBG Application, the person authorized to sign the Grant Agreement and payment requests, and the person authorized to execute any additional documents required to carry out and complete the grant.

Motion by Council Member Jane Fitzgerald and supported by Council Member Cindy Popovitch to approve foregoing resolution.

I hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted on April 7, 2026 in a regular session of the Village of Grass Lake Council, and this is a true copy of that resolution.

Ayes 5  
Absent 1

**David Keener  
Village President**  
  
**Jennifer Keener  
Clerk**

**Universal Crossword**

*Edited by David Steinberg April 12, 2026*

- ACROSS**
- 1 Like skilled negotiators
  - 7 Chats in a chat room, for short
  - 10 Black Friday attraction
  - 14 Deliver sweet satisfaction
  - 16 Stinky smell
  - 17 "If only ..."
  - 18 TiVo products
  - 19 NFL six-pointers
  - 20 Art colony in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains
  - 21 Romanced
  - 23 Angelic ring of light
  - 24 Leaps
  - 26 Pair of points in an ellipse
  - 27 Plumbing obstruction
  - 28 Madre's sister
  - 29 Short word for a long car
  - 30 Tightly stretched
  - 31 Brand of disposable diapers
  - 32 Melodious temptations
  - 34 Minerals in Catan
  - 35 Abandoned urban center
  - 36 \_\_\_ Martin cognac
  - 37 Like an escapee
  - 40 Ram's mate
  - 41 Parks and Rec, e.g.
  - 42 Home of Snow Canyon State Park
  - 44 Genre for GloRilla or Flo Milli
  - 46 Layered South Asian street food
  - 48 Astral, licorice-flavored pod
  - 50 Arial or Comic Sans
  - 51 "You're mistaken"
  - 52 Start of a fairy tale
  - 53 Irritate
  - 54 Bottom-of-the-barrel bits
  - 55 Visionary
  - 56 Himalayan bovines
  - 57 Stringy cat toy
- DOWN**
- 1 Liquor serving
  - 2 Rear
  - 3 GPS suggestions
  - 4 And so on: Abbr.
  - 5 "Brilliant idea," sarcastically
  - 6 Alaskan national park
  - 7 NYSE events
  - 8 Unruly head of hair
  - 9 Cooking vessels such as tagines
  - 10 "Same here"
  - 11 Jules Verne or Jon Krakauer
  - 12 Appeal to the Supreme Being
  - 13 Hosp. areas known for long wait times
  - 15 "Get lost"
  - 22 www.unr-wa.\_\_\_\_
  - 23 Room that might have recliners and surround sound
  - 24 Slimy garden denizen
  - 25 Pert
  - 26 Wedding tradition featuring a special song
  - 27 "Busy right now?"
  - 29 Feline visitor to the Emerald City
  - 30 Canine visitor to the Emerald City
  - 31 Traditional cultural knowledge
  - 32 What can precede -mo or -pitch
  - 33 Waterway deposit
  - 38 Declares
  - 39 Units of corn
  - 43 Useful and available
  - 45 Nonhuman family members
  - 46 Corp. money minders
  - 47 Sharpen
  - 48 Predominant Islamic sect of Iran and Iraq
  - 49 "A Doll's House" protagonist
  - 51 Have a go

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**

A	R	K	S	T	I	M	E	S	A	V	E	R	S
W	O	A	H	I	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	I	T
E	C	R	U	N	A	S	C	A	R	R	A	C	E
S	K	A	T	E	S	S	A	C	S	L	E	W	
G	O	S	S	T	A	P	E	S					
O	A	K	L	A	R	G	E	N	O	T	R	E	
P	R	E	K	T	E	E	B	A	T	H	E	D	
I	D	B	E	T	T	E	R	B	E	G	O	I	N
N	E	A	T	E	N	E	E	L	E	S	T	E	
E	N	R	O	N	M	C	A	T	S	I	F	S	
B	O	S	S	U	R	I	O	R	A	T	E	S	
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D	E	A	D	S	I	L	E	N	T	P	U	Z	O
S	C	R	A	P	P	Y	D	O	O	Y	E	E	T

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www.upuzzles.com

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

**TWILIGHT ESTATE AUCTION**

We will offer the following at auction located approximately 3.5 miles west of Tecumseh Michigan on M-50 at 2487 west Monroe Road or M-50, Tipton Michigan 49287 or 1.5 miles west from the M-50/M-52 intersection. At 2487 west M-50, Tipton, Michigan

**THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 23RD, 2026**

**STARTING AT 4:30 P.M.**

Massey Ferguson diesel tractor w/loader; Kubota diesel zero-turn lawn tractor; 3 pt. Bushong rotary motor; 3 pt. rotator-yoke rake; Sub soiler snow blade; 3 pt Box scraper – 3 pt. boom; 2 wheel trailer – chainsaw – generator – wire welder – cordless dewalt tools – air nailer – Plus an outstanding set of wood working and hand tools.

Massey Ferguson Model GC1723E diesel tractor w/ model FL 1883 front loader – 4 wheel drive; 3 pt. just like new w/less than 100 hours – Super Sharp!! Kubota Model BX2660 Diesel lawn tractor 0 turn – extra power w/less approx. 645 hours Nice!! Snowblower BX2750 like new; Snow Blade BX2763A front dozer blade (hydraulic 5 ft. wide angle); 3 point carrier; Countyline Bush Hog Mower – looks like new; 3 point sub soiler like new; 3 point boom; Countyline plow chisel; Countyline Box scraper; King Kutter 3 point Rotator ASub compact x8; 6 foot yoke rake; small utility trailer w/ramp; torch set; homemade trailer; Lincoln weld pad model 100 wire welder; 6 gallon air compressor; 2 wheel lawn cart; 15 gallon lawn sprayer; lawn seeders; welding supplies; sand blaster; rope; screw jacks; all power 12 watt generator; log chains; Craftsman chain saw; chain binders; floor jacks; welding clamps; rope; vices; asir tools; Warner ladders; Milwaukee and Dewalt tools; Dewalt cordless saw; 3 point draw bar; several gas cans; Krause Multimatic ladders; Chicago 12 inch miter saw; small water heaters; Southland 6 ton wood splitter; 10x10 dog kennel; Delta table saw; drill press; 12 inch band saw sander comb.; Bo stitch air nailer; drill doctor; routers; Dewalt impact wrench; Bosch cordless tools; Coke and Pepsi boxes; Freud professional woodworking router bit set; levels; wood bits; impact wrenches; electrical tools; table saw blades; nail guns; wood planes; Dewalt ½ inch drill; micro meters; pipe vice; Jergenson miter saw; misc. screws; mmisc. Lumber; 1950's calendar girl pictures and Hawaiian calendar pictures; tool bags; extension cords; Coleman stove safety jacks; Englander wood stove; Black smith vice; garden tools; Pittsburg one ton Gantry Crane plus lots off good misc. hand tools.

**AUCTIONERS NOTE: VERY, VERY NICE CLEAN AUCTION - Very low hour tractor, lots of good small; 3pt tools and name brand hand tools. SOMETHING for everyone – Majority of auction will be held inside of building.**

**ESTATE OF BRIAN CHENOWETH**

Terms: Cash or negotiable check w/proper I.D. Nothing to be removed until settled for. Not responsible for accidents or items after they are sold. Pictures and fall Ad in Auctionzip.com

**AUCTIONEERS – APPRAISORS – REAL ESTATE BROKERS**  
RALPH – MARK –KYLE TILLOTSON  
(517) 263- 1804 or (517) 403-5493

**UNIVERSAL  
Sudoku Puzzle**

		4		3				
1				5	2		6	3
				8		7		
	4	1		6			9	
			4		3			
	2			1		8	7	
		8		2				
2	3		1	4				6
				9		1		

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

**Today's puzzle solution**

2	1	3	5	6	8	9	4	7
9	8	4	1	7	2	6	3	5
7	6	9	2	8	3	5	4	1
4	7	5	1	6	3	8	2	9
3	8	7	4	9	1	2	5	6
1	9	6	3	7	4	8	5	2
8	5	3	8	9	2	7	4	1
6	1	9	4	7	1	8	2	5
3	9	2	5	6	8	9	7	4
8	5	1	2	7	3	1	2	6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

4/12 © 2026 by Andrews McMeel Syndication

**4/12 Themeless Sunday 179 by Adrian Johnson and Alexandra Doumani**

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14						15						16			
17												18			
19				20					21	22					
				23					24					25	
				26					27					28	
				29					30					31	
32						33							34		
35													36		
37								38	39				40		
				41							42		43	44	45
46	47						48						49		
50							51								
52							53						54		
55							56						57		

## CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

37  
**CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP  
 NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION  
 #2026-001**

At a regular meeting of the Cambridge Township Board held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at the township hall located at 9990 M-50, Onsted, Michigan, the board adopted Ordinance #2026-001, which amends Section 36-132 of the Cambridge Township Zoning Ordinance as follows:

**THE TOWNSHIP OF CAMBRIDGE ORDAINS:**

Section 1. Amendment to Section 36-132  
 Section 36-132, Lake District Overlay Zone (RL-0), of Chapter 36, Zoning, of the Cambridge Township Code of Ordinances is amended add a new section 36-132(e)(7) to provide as follows:

(7) The maximum lot coverage shall be no more than 40% lot coverage.  
 Existing Sections 36-132(e)(7), (8) and (9) shall be renumbered as Sections 36-132(e)(8), (9) and (10) respectively.

**Section 2. Saving Provision**  
 All provisions of Cambridge Township Code of Ordinances not amended by this ordinance shall continue in full force and effect.

**Section 3. Effective Date.**  
 This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect 30 days from and after the date of publication.

**CERTIFICATE OF CLERK**  
 I, Rick W. Richardson, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Cambridge Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was adopted at a regular meeting of the Cambridge Township Board on April 8, 2026, and that the meeting was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Michigan.

**Rick W. Richardson,  
 Cambridge Township Clerk  
 April 9, 2026**

## CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

37  
**CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP  
 NOTICE OF SALE**

Cambridge Township is offering for sale a 2020 John Deere Z950R zero-turn mower with a 60" deck with approximately 1,100 hours of use. The township is requiring sealed bids for this sale with a minimum bid of \$6,000. Bids shall be mailed to: Cambridge Township, Box 417, Onsted, Michigan 49265 to the attention of the Township Clerk; or may be delivered to the township hall at 9990 W. M-50, Onsted, Michigan. Envelopes are to be marked "bid for mower" and must be returned to the township by Wednesday, May 13, 2026 by 4:00 P.M.

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

Bids will be opened at the township board meeting on May 13, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

**Rick W. Richardson  
 Cambridge Township Clerk**

## CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

37  
**SYNOPSIS  
 CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
 APRIL 8, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by the supervisor at 7:00 P.M. with the pledge to the flag. Roll call was as follows: present-Kissel, Richardson, Garrison; excused-Higgins and Hubbard. The following items were approved: the agenda, the minutes of the March 11, 2026 meeting, the treasurer's report, P.O. for the fire department for \$1,403.53 for a radio antenna at station #2, P.O. for the cemetery for \$16,340.22 for a John Deere zero-turn mower, and the payment of bills in the amount of \$680,916.90. Accepted and placed on file the monthly police, fire, zoning, planning commission and ZBA reports. Approved the proposal for the repair of the seawall and drainage issues on Elm Court. Approved the 2026-27 meeting schedule. Tabled action on approving the list of banks until the May meeting. Approved the Exponent and Telegram as newspapers of record for the township. Approved July 4th fireworks permits for Loch Erin and Sand Lake. Approved the advertising for sale the 2020 John Deere zero-turn mower. Approved Ordinance #26-001 to amend Section 36-132 of the zoning ordinance. Public comment was received. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

**Rick W. Richardson  
 Cambridge Township Clerk**

## VILLAGE OF ADDISON

**Summary of Poultry Ordinance No. 2026-03  
 in the Village of Addison, Michigan.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that on March 2, 2026, Ordinance No. 2026-03 was adopted by Addison Village Council.

**SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE**

This is an ordinance to regulate the keeping of poultry in the Village of Addison.

A full copy of this ordinance can be seen at the Addison Village clerks office. 36x3

## VILLAGE OF ADDISON

**Summary of Parking Ordinance No. 2026-04  
 in the Village of Addison, Michigan.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that on March 2, 2026, the Ordinance No. 2026-04 was adopted by Addison Village Council.

**SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE**

This is an ordinance to prohibit the parking of recreational vehicles on an overnight basis on the streets and on or with the village owned lots, properties, and parks within the Village of Addison, and to prohibit individuals from parking vehicles in a manner that occupies more than one designated parking area or space, and to designate village personnel or designated agents to issue parking citations.

A full copy of this ordinance can be seen at the Addison Village Clerks office. 36x3

## VILLAGE OF ADDISON

**Summary of Cost Recovery Ordinance No. 2026-05**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that on March 2, 2026 Ordinance 2026-05 was Adopted by the Addison Village Council

**SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE**

An ordinance to provide procedures for recovery costs incurred by the Village of Addison for the responses to deliberately caused fires, negligently Caused fires, false alarms, responses to vehicle accidents and other public Safety incidents.

A full copy of this ordinance can be seen at the Addison Village Clerks office. 36x3

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

37  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
 DECEDENT'S ESTATE  
 STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT  
 COUNTY OF JACKSON  
 312 S. JACKSON ST., JACKSON MI 49201  
 (517) 788-4290  
 FILE NO. 26-245-DE Hon. Jennifer M. Kelly**

Estate of **WILLIAM FLOWER-COOPER**, deceased, date of birth 02/17/1936  
**Notice to creditors:** The decedent, **WILLIAM FLOWER-COOPER**, died 11/16/2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate, will be forever barred unless presented to **Ryan L. Phillips** personal representative, or to both the probate court at 312 S. Jackson Street, 1st Floor, Jackson Michigan 49201, (517) 788-4290, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

**Ryan L. Phillips  
 180 W Michigan Ave., Suite 906  
 Jackson, MI 49201  
 (517) 796-3907**

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

37  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
 DECEDENT'S ESTATE  
 STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT  
 COUNTY OF JACKSON  
 312 S. JACKSON ST., JACKSON MI 49201  
 (517) 788-4290  
 FILE NO. 26-257-DE Hon. Jennifer M. Kelly**

Estate of **LU ANN KNIGHT**, deceased, date of birth 06/23/1953  
**Notice to creditors:** The decedent, **LU ANN KNIGHT**, died 07/05/2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate, will be forever barred unless presented to **Ryan L. Phillips** personal representative, or to both the probate court at 312 S. Jackson Street, 1st Floor, Jackson Michigan 49201, (517) 788-4290, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

**Ryan L. Phillips  
 180 W Michigan Ave., Suite 906  
 Jackson, MI 49201  
 (517) 796-3907**

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

37  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
 DECEDENT'S ESTATE  
 STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT  
 COUNTY OF JACKSON  
 312 S. JACKSON ST., JACKSON MI 49201  
 (517) 788-4290  
 FILE NO. 26-244-DE Hon. Jennifer M. Kelly**

Estate of **DEANNA DARLIEN MCCREADY**, deceased, date of birth 10/16/1937  
**Notice to creditors:** The decedent, **DEANNA DARLIEN MCCREADY**, died 2/17/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate, will be forever barred unless presented to **Ryan L. Phillips** personal representative, or to both the probate court at 312 S. Jackson Street, 1st Floor, Jackson Michigan 49201, (517) 788-4290, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

**Ryan L. Phillips  
 180 W Michigan Ave., Suite 906  
 Jackson, MI 49201  
 (517) 796-3907**

## LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

**Notice Hereby Given** that a public accuracy test for the Special Election to be held on Tuesday May 5th 2026 will be conducted on Thursday April 16, 2026 at 10:00 am at the Liberty Township Hall, 101 West Liberty Road, Clarklake, MI 49234.

This accuracy test will be held to test the programs to be used in processing ballots for the Special Election, which will be held May 5, 2026.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

**Debbie Jacobson,  
 Liberty Township Clerk**

37

## VILLAGE OF GRASS LAKE

37  
**Village of Grass Lake  
 119 N. Lake St., Grass Lake, MI 49240  
 (517) 522-4550**

**SYNOPSIS OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
 The Grass Lake Village Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 7:00 PM at the Village Hall.

Present: President David Keener, President Pro Tempore Jane Fitzgerald, Council Member Gina Lammers, Council Member Jennifer Stanton, Council Member Wes Shemwell, and Council Member Cindy Popovitch. Absent: Council Member Matt Swank Staff Present: Treasurer Julie Muszynski, DDA Executive Director Mitzi Koors and Clerk Jennifer Keener. Public: Joe DeBoe, Joel Grimm, Dick Jarzynka, and Tom Denig.

Items Approved:  
 1. Agenda for March 17, 2026  
 2. March 3, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes  
 3. Motion to approve disbursements for March 17, 2026 totaling \$70,256.34.  
 4. Motion to accept the resignation of Council Member Matt Swank.  
 5. Motion to resolve that the Village of Grass Lake Council recommends the application from Asher Creek LLC for a Development District Licenses to located at 121 East Michigan Ave., be considered for approval by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.  
 Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Prepared by Clerk Jennifer Keener. Approved by Village President David Keener

Complete Copies of the meeting minutes are available at www.villageof-grasslake.com or upon request from the Village Clerk. Office Hours are 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Thursday, closed between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted by  
 Jennifer Keener  
 Village of Grass Lake, Clerk**

## NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP

37  
**Notice**

The Napoleon Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing Wednesday, May 13th, 2026 at 6 p.m. at the Township Hall 6755 Brooklyn Rd, Napoleon, MI 49261.

At this time all interested parties will be heard on the request of Matt Sierminski, 3540 Mack Island Rd, Grass Lake, MI 49240 to allow a 15' reduction in front setback for a New Home. The current setback requirement is 35' from the Road Right away. Mr. Sierminski is requesting 20' from the Road Right away.

Napoleon Township Office is open Monday thru Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during which time the Zoning Ordinance / Zoning Map may be examined. Written comments regarding the above matter may be directed to the Township or by calling (517) 536-8694 Extension 209. Napoleon

Township will provide any necessary or reasonable auxiliary aids at the meeting for persons with disabilities, upon ten (10) days' written notice to the Township.

**Jane Gallant,  
 Assistant Zoning Administrator**

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

37  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
 DECEDENT'S ESTATE  
 STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT  
 COUNTY OF JACKSON  
 312 S. JACKSON ST., JACKSON MI 49201  
 (517) 788-4290  
 FILE NO. 26-260-DE Hon. Jennifer M. Kelly**

Estate of **RICK L. TEDROW**, deceased, date of birth 09/19/1961  
**Notice to creditors:** The decedent, **RICK L. TEDROW**, died 12/12/2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate, will be forever barred unless presented to **Ryan L. Phillips** personal representative, or to both the probate court at 312 S. Jackson Street, 1st Floor, Jackson Michigan 49201, (517) 788-4290, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

**Ryan L. Phillips  
 180 W Michigan Ave., Suite 906  
 Jackson, MI 49201  
 (517) 796-3907**

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

37  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
 DECEDENT'S ESTATE  
 STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT  
 COUNTY OF JACKSON  
 312 S. JACKSON ST., JACKSON MI 49201  
 (517) 788-4290  
 FILE NO. 26-213-DE Hon. Jennifer M. Kelly**

Estate of **JEAN MARIE TRECIAK**, deceased, date of birth 12/30/1952  
**Notice to creditors:** The decedent, **JEAN MARIE TRECIAK**, died 2/02/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate, will be forever barred unless presented to **Ryan L. Phillips** personal representative, or to both the probate court at 312 S. Jackson Street, 1st Floor, Jackson Michigan 49201, (517) 788-4290, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

**Ryan L. Phillips  
 180 W Michigan Ave., Suite 906  
 Jackson, MI 49201  
 (517) 796-3907**

## HANOVER TOWNSHIP

37  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Hanover Township Election Commission  
 Address: 311 Farview St. Horton, MI 49246  
 Phone: 517-563-2791  
 Meeting Date: Thursday, April 29, 2026  
 Meeting Time: 10:00 AM  
 Meeting Location: Hanover Township Main Building

Purpose(s) of Meeting: Perform the Public Accuracy Test for the May 5, 2026 Special Election and any other business that comes before the Commission. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election have been prepared in accordance with the law.

This notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended, (MCL 41.72a(2)(3)).

Posted on: Monday, April 6, 2026

**Township Clerk  
 Rachel Heath**

A copy of this notice is on file in the Clerk's Office, located at:  
 311 Farview St., Horton, MI 49246

## WOODSTOCK TOWNSHIP

37  
**Zoning Board of Appeals, Public Hearing  
 Date Posted 4/7/26**

Woodstock Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a 7pm Hearing on Tuesday, May 12th, 2026 at 6486 Devils Lake Hwy.

7 pm Hearing to review Application for Appeal at 14073 Walz Blvd. WDO-635-0150-00. Pole Barn new construction. Needs front setback from the private road (Walz Blvd).

Michael Holmes- ZBA Chair

Copies of documents are available for review at 6486 Devils Lake Hwy. Any written comments relating to these meetings can be forwarded to:

**Woodstock Township  
 Attn. Zoning Board of Appeals  
 6486 Devils Lake Hwy  
 Addison, MI 49220  
 Or emailed to woodstocktownshipzoning@gmail.com**

**Matthew SeGraves,  
 Zoning-Ordinance Administrator**

## NORVELL TOWNSHIP

37  
**THE TOWNSHIP OF NORVELL  
 300 Mill Road  
 Norvell, Michigan 49230  
 (517) 536-4370  
 FAX (517) 536-0110  
 NOTICE OF HEARING  
 NORVELL TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

The Norvell Township Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on May 6th 2026 at 6:00 PM, At The Township Offices, 300 Mill St., Norvell, MI. to hear the request of Jim & Renee Anderson F or a west side property line variance 7' to line for construction of proposed addition and Garage to the home at 1110 Lakeview Dr. Parcel # 115-20-02-102-030-01.

Interested parties can Also provide written comments by forwarding to attention Zoning Appeals Board prior to Scheduled meeting date.

**Martin Taylor  
 Norvell Zoning Administrator**

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# The Back Page

Opinion • By Matt Schepeler

Did the Prosecutor make the right call in gun case?

As one might suspect, the story we ran a few weeks ago about the man who dropped his gun on the Columbia School parking lot when dropping off his children had layers to it.

To recap, someone saw a parent accidentally drop his pistol from his vehicle and reported it to school officials. When the school addressed it, the incident blew up on social media. Even though my initial impression was that it was likely a harmless accident reported by an overzealous Blue Hair, it was still news that should be followed up to clear up online misconceptions that were flying around.

When I called Columbia Charter Township Chief Jay Niles it was clear he really didn't want to see the story expounded. I gathered he

liked the guy, but Niles kept it professional, gave me the facts, said he was filing the report, and that it was up to the prosecuting attorney as to what happened next.

Last Thursday, Jackson County Prosecutor Kelsey Guernsey issued a statement that she was not going to press any charges.

Not that it matters what I think, but I personally don't believe it would have hurt to make the guy re-take a CPL class.

When speaking with Chief Niles, I got the impression that the parent who dropped the gun was probably a good guy who made a careless mistake, but when I pushed the chief, he agreed that dropping the gun was sloppy gun handling, at minimum.

In my mind, the Columbia parent broke a cardinal rule by being careless with a gun on school property. That shouldn't be happening in an elementary school parking lot in this day and age. Yes, I understand it is easy for those who regularly carry to become a little complacent regarding gun security, but that is no excuse. Prosecutor

Guernsey herself has been on a campaign encouraging residents to keep their guns properly secured at all times.

It would not have hurt to make the man re-take a CPL class. Applicants for a CPL must complete a pistol safety training course certified by the state or a national/state firearms organization that includes at least eight hours of instruction, including three hours of firing range. The training is invaluable. It teaches fundamentals about gun safety, gun security, gun responsibility and gun laws. It helps dispel any romantic notion some people might have about pulling a pistol on another human being, and lets them know that there will always be consequences, lawsuits and possibly even legal prosecution for doing so, even if they believe they are clearly in the right at the time.

Incidentally, I did an informal poll among some local police officers as to what they think about an armed civilian helping at the scene of a crime, and was surprised at some of their answers. I'll perhaps address them in an upcoming column.

## Correction

Finally, I want this to serve as a correction to the original story regarding the question "Can a CPL holder legally bring a gun onto a weapon free school zone in his vehicle?"

When writing the story, I didn't think so, and when re-searching the story, I found information that seemed to confirm it. BUT the correct answer to the question turned out to be both yes and no.

Yes, a CPL holder can bring a gun onto school property in their vehicle if he or she is dropping off a child they are legally responsible for, as was the case in the Columbia incident.

No, a CPL holder cannot bring a gun onto school property — in their vehicle or otherwise — under any other circumstances. As a CPL holder, I could not, say, legally bring a gun onto school property if I was dropping off a neighbor's child or perhaps going to watch my grandson play baseball, even if it was secured in a lock box.



April 24th, 8-5pm  
**OPENING DAY!**

Welcome I Spy The Butterfly!

**the Lily Pad garden center**  
At Wilcox Lawn & Landscaping

3027 Blue Ridge Rd, Clarklake  
**517-529-4550**

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Trees & Shrubs  
Gardening Tools & Décor  
Planter Subscriptions  
Potting Soils & Composts  
Dairy-Doo Products




## Track, field invitationals kick off spring season



Bryce Bailey of Napoleon High School concentrates on his jump as he heads toward the pole vault pit during the Napoleon Invitational last week.

Center was fourth (68.5) and Homer placed seventh (33). Connor Boteler of Grass Lake won the 400-meter dash (54.06), Grass Lake won the 400-meter relay (46.19) and the 3,200-meter relay (8:52). Mason Bradley of MCHS took first in the shot put (45-11), and Damien Gallant of Michigan Center tied Simon Steggall-Lewis of Grass Lake in the pole vault (11-6).

**Napoleon Invitational:** Madison won the event with 94 points, Lumen Christi was second scoring 87, Columbia Central placed fourth with 84, Onsted finished sixth scoring 58 points, Napoleon took ninth place with 22.33 points, Northwest was 10th with 20 points, and East Jackson and Addison tied for 12th scoring 17 points. Johnny Walters of Lumen Christi won the 200-meter dash (22.8) and 400-meter dash (50.53). Clint Couchman of CCHS took first in the 3,200-meter run (9:54); Carson Garrison of Onsted won the shot put (48-6.75) and the discus (140-6.5); and Gibson Shore of Lumen Christi won the 800-meter run (2:03).

**Napoleon Invitational:** Ida won the event with 110.5 points, Lumen Christi was third with 97, Napoleon scored 67.5 points for fifth place, Onsted took seventh place with 38.25, Columbia Central was right behind them with 35 points, Addison score 27.25 points, and Northwest placed 12th scoring 19.75 points. Kloe Franklin of Lumen Christi won the 100-meter dash (13.02) and the 200-meter dash (28.26); Hadley Ross of Onsted on the 400-meter run (1:03); Avery Haynes of Columbia Central took first in the 800-meter run (2:26); Lumen Christi won the 800-meter relay (1:54); and Lili Briggs of Onsted won the high jump (5-0).

Photo, story by Jeff Steers  
Exponent special writer

Local high school track and field teams competed in a pair of invitationals to kick off the season last week.

Both Napoleon and Grass Lake high schools hosted events with the Warriors edging Jonesville to win their invitational.

Here are the results from the track and field events.

### Boys Track and Field

**Grass Lake Invitational:** Grass Lake won the event edging Jonesville 138.5 – 138. Michigan

## It's YOUR Business

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



Join the Irish Hills Regional Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 24, during **The Berger Group's Grand Opening** which is taking place at 12745 E. Chicago Road, Somerset Center from 9 to 11 a.m. Enjoy music, coffee & brunch, giveaways, tours and meet the team.

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church** is holding its next Diaper Closet on Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. They are located at 11151 U.S. 12. Parking is located at the back of the church, enter through the downstairs entrance. 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 Irish Hills Roots and Strings Music Series** final presentation will be on Thursday, April 23, from 6 to 9 p.m. at **Jerry's Pub & Restau-**

**rant.** This concert is a fundraiser for the Brooklyn Food Pantry. For reservations, call Jerry's Pub at 517-467-4700.

**The Lenawee Community Foundation's** annual celebration is on Thursday, April 23, from 7:45 to 9:15 a.m. at the Adrian Armory Events Center. For more information, go to lenaweecommunityfoundation.com.

Join **McCourtie Park** for a fun-filled Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 25, from 1 to 4 p.m. Enjoy a guided nature walk, explore an Art Show in the Rathskeller, plant flowers to take home, giveaways and earth-friendly crafts. This is a free public event for the whole family.

**The Brooklyn Presbyterian Church** is holding a Mini Golf Fundraiser on Sunday, April 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Join them for 18 holes of indoor mini golf, concessions, silent auction, and family fun. All are welcome. The cost is \$5

per golfer.

**The Clinton Inn** is holding a Mix & Mingle, a business social event, on Friday, May 1, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The evening will feature a grand charcuterie table, business mingling games, a silent auction supporting a local charity, and a cash bar. You will also find a table for business cards and company swag so attendees can learn more about what each business offers. For more information, go to theclintoninn.com.

Join the Irish Hills Regional Chamber of Commerce for a Ribbon Cutting to celebrate **Grazing Thyme's** new location on Friday, May 8 at 11:30 a.m. Their Grand Opening Celebration will take place on Saturday, May 9, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Their new location is 168 S. Main Street in Brooklyn.

For more Irish Hills Happenings, please visit the community calendar at IrishHills.com.

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