



There is a lot going on in the Irish Hills - see inside

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Wahr honored for years of service

Story and photo
By John Hummer
Editor

Brooklyn resident Bob Wahr, shown at left, who has served on the Columbia School District board for nearly three decades, was honored this past Friday as the first-ever grand marshal of the Columbia homecoming parade and was paid tribute between the first and second quarters of the home-

coming football game. "I was surprised to be honored as grand marshal," he said.

Wahr's first term on the Columbia School District board began on July 1, 1997, and he will hang up his board hat on Dec. 31, 2026. He served straight through without a break. "It will be 29-and-a-half years," he said proudly. He served as board president from 2009 through 2023 and

was appointed to each of the officer positions on the board throughout his tenure.

"I look at it as benefiting all kids – that's why I willingly ran for multiple terms," he noted. "I also think it's good to have a balanced board with different ages on the board. It gives some different perspectives – that helps when boards make joint decisions."

During the tribute at the homecoming game, the public address announcer stated, "We are honoring Bob Wahr for his amazing dedication to the Columbia School District, where he has continuously served on the school board from July of 1997 through December of this year. During that time, Bob has served as

See *Wahr honored* page 2

'You are never too old to have a dream'

Brooklyn nonagenarian takes her first horse ride in nine decades, thanks to local horse breeder who loves sharing her world with others.



Above: Gloria Lowe, 93, rides 'Jet' along with RaeLynn Dotson, 2, at McGrath Stables in Cement City. Below, Gloria Lowe is shown riding a horse when she was a little girl. Photos courtesy Lynda Browning.



By Matt Schepeler
When she was a little girl, Gloria Lowe had her picture taken while riding a horse. The picture is shown at left, below. It was taken on Jonathon Street in east Dearborn.

Gloria, who grew up in and around Detroit, did not ride horses much throughout her life, and didn't really have a desire to. "I was afraid of them," she said last week, noting that the last experience she had with a horse was a bad one.

But something changed when she began watching the television series "Heartland."

The program features a family who owns a horse ranch that specializes in "fixing" horse issues. For instance, a horse may not like walking through water, or may be afraid of dogs, or won't jump during competitions.

"Heartland is just a wholesome program," said Gloria, who admits with a sheepish smile that she is particularly fond of Jack, the family patriarch played by Shaun Johnston who happens to be a pretty handsome guy.

But the real star of the program is Amy Fleming (played by Amber Marshall) who has an uncanny knack for finding out what is causing the problems with the horses, and eventually finding a solution. Amy is careful not to call herself a "horse whisperer," but will say she learns what is going on with the animals by "listening" to them.

The show captured Gloria's imagination. "I did not know that horses were so smart," she said. "I knew they

'Migrant workers' hired in Addison

Addison's new 'Landscape crew' specializes in clearing land in the spillway; recycles along the way.



Story & Photos
By Michelle McLemore
Staff writer

Addison residents received a breaking news alert September 23, that a special migrant work force had begun cleaning up the public park land spillway across from the Addison dam and would be working 24-7 til its completion.

The text read: "The Village has officially hired a new, highly specialized landscaping crew to clear the dam's spillways. They are furry, four-legged, and working at devouring overgrowth. Feel free to come out and watch them in action, but please do not disturb the goats while they are on the clock. We want to avoid any baa-d workplace incidents!"

The village council con-

tracted with Mike Mourer of Twin Willow Ranch for a team of 10 goats from Milan, MI.

Prior years, President Andrew Snow noted "the DPW would have been tasked with maintaining the spillway." This year, the council discussed landscaping companies, however Snow noted, the bids received "were almost triple the cost and could come with issues needing permits due to it being near a spillway. No chemical options were ever on the table."

Snow stated, "Other companies we reached out to were logistically too far away." Twin Willow Ranch was awarded the bid based on the \$1,876 estimate provided by Mourer at a special village meeting



September 16. Snow and Mourer met to walk the site and discuss needs.

Mourer installed the fencing and electrified boundaries around it (marked clearly). Snow said, "The goats clocked in on September 23." The initial estimate was that five goats would need approximately three weeks. This dedicated team of 10 is ahead of schedule having completed the first area on moved on to the second, Sunday September 27.

Initially, Snow observed community members had a lot of questions but "They quickly realized what was going on and really have been positive about the project. Folks walk down to see the progress. Others are praising the out-of-the-box thinking."

He further shared, "The Council seems to be impressed with our furry four-legged lawn crew, and happy that the community is enjoying our guests as well...I feel this has been a positive experience and the safest way to maintain the steep banks of the spillways."

Baker announces retirement from Columbia

By John Hummer
Editor

Columbia School District Superintendent Jim Baker, shown at right, officially announced his upcoming retirement on Sunday via an announcement on the district's website.

Baker noted that his primary inspiration for stepping down is family. The announcement says, "With four adult children, five wonderful grandchildren, and a sixth grandbaby arriving this December, his



retirement goal is simple: to be fully present with his family every day."

The Columbia School District Board of Education says it will soon initiate the search process to identify a successor.

Since August of 2023, Baker's leadership and vision have helped position

the district for long-term growth and educational excellence, the announcement states.

It further reads, "Upon assuming the role of superintendent, an ambi-

tious set of short-term and long-term goals was established to strengthen district operations and enhance opportunities for students. Reflecting on his tenure, the district has achieved several major operational and academic milestones:

Bond Initiative Success: Successfully passed a major district bond initiative to fund facility improvements and modernization.

Curriculum Alignment: Spearheaded the overhaul and alignment of core K-12 curriculum standards.

Financial Stability: Built a robust fund balance supported by a stable

sinking fund to protect the district's fiscal future.

Community Partnerships: Strengthened collaborative relationships with local leaders, businesses, and civic organizations across Jackson County.

On behalf of the entire Columbia School District staff, students, and Golden Eagle community, we express our deepest gratitude for his service and wish him all the best in a well-deserved retirement!"



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High in the saddle continued from page 1



Cheryl McGrath, left, with friend Gloria Lowe. Photo courtesy Lynda Browning.

sensed fear, but didn't know how much they could do with just the touch of the reins."

As chance would have it, Gloria met Cheryl McGrath, who owns and operates McGrath Stables near Cement City, while getting her nails done. Cheryl noted that she was talking about "her babies" to the manicurist and Gloria got curious, so she showed her some photos. Her babies, it turns out, are foals born at her busy Cement City stables.

In fact, McGrath has lots of babies. We featured her story several years ago when she helped birth her 1,000th foal, and she noted in our interview for this story that she is about to bring number 1,500

into the world.

If there is any character close to an Amy Fleming of Heartland around Brooklyn, it would be Cheryl McGrath. Though she is quick to note that she is no horse whisperer either, she does note that you can tell a lot about a horse from its body language and mannerisms.

One thing McGrath loves to do is share her all-things-equine world with those who are not fortunate enough to have horses in their lives. "I tell people all the time to come out to the stables and see the horses," said McGrath. "A lot of times, they say they will, but never do. It is like saying 'we need to get together for lunch,' and it

never happens. I had to get after her (Gloria) a few times to come out and see the horses before she did," said McGrath.

When Gloria finally came to Cheryl's stables and was able to finally pet one of her horses, an idea sparked inside her.

"I decided, at my age, before the Lord takes me home, that I wanted to get on a horse," said Gloria, who will turn 94 in December.

She was at the right place, with the right person. McGrath didn't hesitate. "I said sure," said McGrath. Of course, getting a 93-year-old on a horse is different than getting a teenager up. They don't bounce as well, and McGrath noted that at her stables, safety always comes first.

Fortunately, McGrath once started a program that allowed handicapped individuals to come and ride horses as part of her outreach into the community. She still has a three-step mounting stairs, and practiced the same protocol for Gloria to keep her from harm. That included three people helping her up, and once she was up, someone leading the horse with a spotter on each side.

"At 90, your body kind of falls apart, and it was a real challenge for me to get on that horse," said Gloria.

Gloria went to McGrath's several times to practice

mounting the horse before the planned day of her ride got here.

She explained that while she had help, she wanted to do it herself. When she was lifted, it felt like she lost control. "I was afraid I would get up on the horse and slide right off the other side," she said.

Cheryl had her covered, and was not about to let her get hurt.

Gloria said the ride was wonderful. "I was able to reach down and say 'good boy,' which meant a lot. They really understand," she said.

"The day that I rode it, I felt that I conquered it."

Her daughter, Lynda Browning, noted that she hopes Gloria doesn't get any more urges to do anything crazy, like drive a race car or jump out of an airplane.

As for Cheryl, she said she was just tickled to be a part of helping someone cross an item off their bucket list.

"I am honored, really," she said. "I really am."

"When I tell someone to come see the horses, I am serious. I mean it," she said, adding it was a treat to be a part of helping someone's dream come true."

It seems like a good reminder that when someone says "Let's do lunch" to follow through and take them up on it.

Who knows what might come from it.

Columbia Township fire report

September 24	Road; Assist other	Street; Rescue:
Rescue: Shady	Agency-Fire: East	Sherman Street;
Lane; Rescue:	Liberty Road;	
September 27		
Case Road; Fire:	Street;	Rescue: South
School Street;	Fire: Desales	Meridian Road;
Rescue: Russell	Drive; Rescue:	Fire: Reed Road;
Court; Rescue:	South Mill Street;	Rescue: South
Marshall Street;		Main Street;
September 26	September 28	
Rescue: Hewitt	Fire: South Main	

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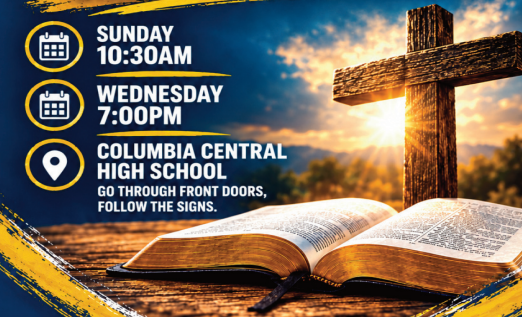
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Wahr honored continued from page 1

board president, vice president, treasurer, and trustee. He is following in his parents' footsteps, who were also local community leaders. His mother, Beverly Wahr, was a primary school teacher at Miller Elementary. His father, Robert Wahr Sr., was a dedicated board president for 12 years...Bob values all staff and their contribution to ensuring strong educational opportunities for all students, as well as families and community support. During Bob's tenure, bond issues and sinking fund campaigns were successful and paved the way for all students to have a better educational experience at Columbia. Bob truly represents what the Columbia School District stands for: respect, opportunity, and unwavering belief that every student has value. Please join me in thanking Bob for his years of service as he has continuously been the model of all things Columbia as he proudly shares the reminder, 'Every day is a great day to be a Golden Eagle!' Thank you, Bob!"

The announcer also noted that Wahr received the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Master Diamond Board Member Award.

Wahr stated that his work on district bond proposals and getting the work done as a result of those bonds are his greatest accomplishments. "Getting the new football field, auxiliary gym, and fitness center built were huge accomplishments that happened around the year 2000," he recollected. Other work completed during that time

period, he noted, were expansions of Miller and Brooklyn elementary schools and additions to the middle school.

"The next major thing was the 2013 bond where we were able to renovate our buildings and bring them up to date with roofing, lighting, and air conditioning," he said. He noted that the AC installation was not only important to improve the climate for the students, but also for safety and security. "You have no need to have doors open or windows open when you're climate controlled," he said. "It helps with the security aspect that we created safe entries."

Wahr noted that another big-ticket item on his watch was the passage of a sinking fund in the 2016-17 school year. "That really helps with our maintenance and helps stabilize finances as well," he explained. "It helps maintain the district buildings, because things wear out, and it gives us a source of dedicated funds for repairs. It ensures that what we spend the bond money on we will keep maintained well."

Among all Wahr's accomplishments with his boards through the years were some great challenges as well. "Our biggest challenge was around 2008-09 when state funding was cut, and we had to work through a severe cash crunch," he stated. "We were able to negotiate and work with our union and staff - we had a one percent pay cut across the board. Everybody bought into it, and it helped us through the

crunch. We worked through it and grew from it. You always learn when you have a bit of a budget crisis what's important and what's not important."

Wahr's happiest, most memorable moments during his board tenure were graduations. "I always get a lot of joy out of graduation and seeing our students succeed - seeing them reach that pinnacle of success for their high school career and getting them set up for the future," he shared. "That's why I'm on the board - setting students up for success - giving them the tools to succeed. Some will go farther than others, but give them the tools so they can go as far as they can."

Wahr pointed in particular to the success of the Columbia Options high school program. "Not every district has that - I think it's important to have options to fit all kids," he stated. "I think that's one thing that has differentiated us from some other districts. The graduation for the Options students tugs at your heart because you hear some of those stories about where they came from and where they are now. That makes you feel good."

Wahr said the thing he will miss most when he steps down from the school board at year-end is contributing his little part to the success of the district. "I think education is the key component for life's success and economic success for our country," he said. "I'll miss not having the opportunity to directly make a little impact, my small part as an individual board member." Wahr grew up in Brooklyn, on Wamplers Lake Road near Pink Street, and graduated from Columbia Central High School in 1978. Following high school, he earned a bachelor's degree in finance from Michigan State University.

"I served as a banker for many, many years," he noted. "The last 10 years I've had a semi-retirement job working for the Brooklyn Presbyterian Church as their treasurer. As of last year, I retired from that."

Along the way, Wahr got married, and he and his wife raised two children, both of whom graduated from Columbia Central High School,

one in 2005 and the other in 2010.

Wahr currently serves as president of the Brooklyn Food Pantry and has been in that role for about a year. Prior to that, he was treasurer for nine years. "That's something which is close to my heart, as well as the school," he shared.

Following his school board career, Wahr says he will remain very focused on the food pantry. That organization is currently planning to build a new facility, and Wahr wants to see that project through completion. He said he also plans to work to address the food insecurity in the Brooklyn community.

In his new allotment of spare time, Wahr says he will dedicate more time fishing, particularly on Vineyard Lake. He also plans to enjoy more family time and will spend more time traveling.

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History in the making

Downtown Grass lake now a commercial historic district



An historic look at downtown Grass Lake.

**By John Hummer
Editor**

Downtown Grass Lake recently reached an exciting milestone. On Sept. 25, the Michigan State Historic Preservation Review Board approved the nomination for a new Grass Lake Commercial Historic District.

The historic district covers approximately six blocks of downtown, generally following Michigan Avenue from Maple Street on the east to Clark Street on the west.

The Grass Lake Downtown Development Authority (DDA) began pursuing the National Register Historic District designation to formally recognize the history and architecture of downtown Grass Lake while also supporting preservation and future investment in its historic buildings.

"We hired Firefly Preserva-

tion Consulting and the formal project began in January 2025," stated DDA Executive Director Mitzi Koors. Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski, the founding principal of the company, specializes in research, documentation, condition assessment, and interpretation of historical resources.

Koors noted that Szcodronski went through the village's historical archives, reached out to local historians, and put together an extensive body of research that was packaged into an application submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The SHPO board voted affirmatively to grant the historic designation for the village.

"It's been a pretty extensive process over the last year and a half, including archival research, a survey and docu-

mentation of downtown buildings, perusing historic photographs and maps, public outreach, and a lot of re-search into the history of individual properties and businesses," said Koors. "Local historians Marilyn O'Leary and James Damaron were also a tremendous resource in helping document the stories and changes behind many of the buildings."

The nomination documents 54 resources – the number of properties in the district, 32 of which are contributing resources – those deemed to have historical value of significance – and recognizes both the commercial and architectural history of downtown.

Koors noted that having the historic district designation will now allow the village to "check a box" when applying for certain state grants that

require a local government to have such a status. She added that the designation also contributes to the village's "redevelopment ready" status.

"The [downtown] property owner can decide if they would like to take advantage of tax credits and do a renovation according to historical standards," Koors explained.

The DDA funded the project as part of its broader work to preserve and strengthen downtown Grass Lake and create new opportunities for reinvestment in its historic buildings.

Koors said the DDA is looking at signage next that will announce to motorists and pedestrians that they are entering an historic district.

Chasing a dream



Candis Carpenter built a custom coffee trailer business named Caffeine & Crumbs that she takes to events in hopes of giving residents their morning dose of coffee along with a sweet treat. Carpenter said it was a long process to get the trailer business "on a roll," so to speak, but she has been open since June and things are going well. The next time you see the budding entrepreneur at an event, stop by, say hello, and see what is brewing. Photo by Matt Schepeler

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A mighty fine pie...



Cheryl Kemp, of Prospect Hill, won the Apple Pie Baking Contest at the Oct. 3rd schoolhouse festival. Judges were Mike McLemore of Brooklyn, along with Marty Hubbard and Diane Newell of Onsted. Photo by Lisa Cyrus.

Death notices

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

Travis Wayne Lewis, 47, Blackman Township;
Timothy J. Sylvester, 68, Jackson;
Randall Ray Thomas, 66, Blackman Township;
Janice Norma Malcolm, 77, Blackman Township;
Nadine Rose Seitz, 92, Jackson;
Gary Michael Carrier, 84, Parma Township;
Charles Floyd Avery, 85, Summit Township;
Norman Philip Moran, 91, Jackson;
Gwendolyn Ruth Gipson, 65, Napoleon Township;
Peter R. Anderson, 82, Blackman Township;
Helen Marie Garnett, 66, Jackson;
David Paul Zakrzewski, 86, Spring Arbor Township;
Robert John Goll, 72, Jackson;

Ricky Sereno Pond, 69, Leoni Township;
Brenda Kay Evans, 53, Blackman Township;
Gary Loran Thompson, 83, Grass Lake Township;
Michael Danile Barczak, 84, Blackman Township;
Janiene Lucille Talbert, 90, Blackman Township;
Thelma Jane Beets, 62, Jackson;
Larry Neal Bonner, 73, Jackson;
Phillip Joseph Lasky, 20, Summit Township;
Bradford Joe Harris, 48, Jackson;
Kathleen Marie Holt, 69, Summit Township;
Kenneth Dale Maitland, 90, Hanover Township;
George Vogt, 90, Summit Township;
Vanita Perrine Wilcox, 86, Napoleon Township.

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Communications

Concern over township’s lack of response

Editor’s note:

We received the following letter from Trisha Miller of Brooklyn regarding a letter she said she sent to the Columbia Township board back on August 28 regarding the proposed STR Ordinance.

Miller said as of October 1, she has not received a response from the township.

“The issues raised in this letter directly affect Columbia Township residents,” said Miller. “Regardless of where individual board members stand on short-term rentals, residents who take time to contact their elected officials with legitimate concerns deserve acknowledgment and a response.

“Thirty four days of silence is concerning. Township residents should not have to turn to the newspaper simply to have questions directed to their elected representatives acknowledged.

Following is her communication with the township:
Hi Brittany-

Given the recent developments regarding the proposed Short Term Rental Ordinance, I have several questions concerning the short term rental operating directly behind my property at 1265 Maple Lane Brooklyn MI 49230. I am formally requesting a written zoning and code determination for this property and clarification regarding its current use and advertised occupancy. Specifically I would appreciate responses to the following questions:

- 1) What is its current zoning classification?
- 2) How many legally approved bedrooms are on record?
- 3) What is its maximum lawful overnight occupancy?
- 4) Is 27-person transient occupancy permitted?

- 5) Does it have a valid STR registration/license if one is now required?
- 6) Has the township approved the property specifically for that occupancy?
- 7) What occupancy was used in approving its well and septic system?
- 8) Are all rooms being advertised as bedrooms legally approved sleeping rooms with required egress?
- 9) When for sale, the real estate listing showed 5 bedrooms and now is being advertised as 9 bedrooms. Did the township approve building permits for the additional rooms to be added?
- 10) Does the township have any ordinance or regulations/requirements regarding private road usage?

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Trisha Miller
Brooklyn

Some dates to know

Dear editor,
Sixty-five million registered Christians do not vote in midterm and local elections. Some races are decided by only a handful of votes. Imagine the difference if believers across America faithfully showed up and voted according to biblical values. By not voting, Christians are giving their vote to the opposition.
We are blessed with many freedoms. One of them is the right to vote.
This November, we will choose leaders for Congress and offices closer to home, including governors, state legislators, school boards, and more. These leaders will make decisions that affect our families, communities, freedoms, and nation.
Whether you’re just starting to shape

our country’s future or you’ve spent a lifetime helping protect it, this moment belongs to you. We all share a stake in our freedoms and the future we pass on. With an important election coming soon, your vote can make a meaningful difference.
Please pray for wisdom, learn about the candidates and issues, and make a plan to vote.
Important dates for our state:
Voter registration deadline: October 19, 2026, for online or mail registration. In-person registration at the local clerk’s office is available through Election Day.
Early voting: October 24 – November 1, 2026.
Mail/absentee ballot deadline: Ballots must be received by the local clerk

by 8 p.m. on November 3, 2026.
Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2026.
Free voting resources:
Verify your registration: CandidateFactSheets.org/checkregistration
Find your polling place: CandidateFactSheets.org/pollingplaces
View candidate fact sheets: CandidateFactSheets.org or text MI to 805550
Thank you for taking a moment to read this letter. Now, let’s work together to elect representatives that will preserve our nation’s Judeo-Christian heritage, support law & order, and protect our Constitution and God-given rights.
May God bless you and your family,
Judy Bivins
Clarklake

Marriage licenses

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

Tyler Steven Tee, Grass Lake, and Jill Madison Wollpert, Grass Lake;
Brad Lee Olney, Clarklake, and Jackie Lynn Gray, Jackson;
Frederick Matthew Hallacy, Jackson, and Noah Rae Wood, Jackson;
Joshua Michael Miller, Tecumseh, and Kristynne Marice Kik, Jackson;
James Cleavland Davis, Jackson, and Jacob Allen Trumbull, Jackson;
Mark Antione Durham, Jackson, and Jessica Lynne Cummings, Jackson;
Kylie Lyn Carpenter, Jackson, and Shane Michael Brinn, Utica;
Daniel Paul MacMillian, Jackson, and Lillian Ogechi Igwe-eze, Lansing;
Rebecca Lynne Stachulski, Jackson, and Benjamin Michael Hoskins, Jackson;
Faith Renae Bartle, Lewiston, and Gomez Angies Lisseth Cardona, Jackson;
David Lewis St. John, Rives Junction, and Sandra Gay Town, Rives Junction;
Sierra Lynn Curtis, Jackson, and

Steven Dade Picklesimer, Jackson;
Arra Marie Scott, Jackson, and Harleigh Makayla Yochem, Jackson;
Lukas Daniel Hurst, Jackson, and Mindy May Freeland, Jackson;
Zoe Raelynn Hammond, Jackson, and Arron Denny Merx, Jackson;
Joshua David Kelley, Henderson, NV, and Emily Catherine Robbins, Henderson, NV;
Petelo Kapisi Vatuvei, Jackson, and Emma Hope Pelletier, Jackson;
J. Jemison James Palmer, Michigan Center, and Bethany Kayla Mahan, Michigan Center;
Breanna Marie Houvener-Murray, Litchfield, and David Michael Clemons Jr., Litchfield;
Arie Anae-Anise Boleware, Jackson, and Thomas Allen Samoms, Jackson;
Haley T. Rose, Springport, and Ethan Russell Eddy, Springport;
Tyler Eugene Oxley, Parma, and Elizabeth Paige Miers, Rives Junction;

David Phillip McNutt, Jackson, and Emily Ann Fronk, Jackson;
Molly Ann Avery Mears, Jackson, and Austin Travis Sanders, Jackson;
Lisa Sue Neal, Grass Lake, and Jay Alan Sliwinski, St. Paul, MN;
Jeffrey Donald Kluesner, Grass Lake, and Leeann Mae Haire, Jackson;
Ezekiel James Tomblin, Jackson, and Kaylei Hannah Donaldson, Jackson;
Joni Lynn Orandello, Jackson, and James Martin Angyan, Jackson;
Bryan James Stauffer, Eaton, and April Ann Wilkes, Jackson;
Jeremi Stuart Feller, Jackson, and Sarah Julia Beadenkopf, Jackson;
Charles Marc Carlson, Jackson, and Shelby Constance Dillon, Jackson;
Andrew Conor Etherington, Brighton, and Zoe Suzanne Rice, Jackson;
Anna Henerietta Vinson, Terre Haute, IN, and Kevin Ray Adams, Jackson;

Columbia Charter Township police report

September 24
Property Security: Hyde Road (2); General Non-Criminal: School Street (2); Assault: Chicago Street; Disorderly: Jefferson Road/Eagle Point Road; General Non-Criminal: Hewitt Road; Personal Welfare: Constitution Avenue; Alarm: North Main Street; Parking: Monroe Street; Disorderly: Lane Street; Suspicious Situation; General Non-Criminal;
September 25
Property Security: Brooklyn Road; Personal Welfare: Hewitt Road; Motorist Assist: Marshall Street/Delamater Street; General Non-Criminal: School Street (2); Conservation: Hewitt Road; Divorce and Support: South Stony Lake Road; Property Security: Hewitt Road; General Non-Criminal: Hewitt Road; Personal Welfare: Chicago Street; Property Security: Hyde Road; Conservation: North Lake Road; Accident: Jefferson Road;

Disorderly: Chicago Street;
September 26
Loud Music: Potter Street/Main Street; Property Security: Hyde Road (2); Motorist Assist: Brooklyn Road/Riverside Road; Animal Complaint: Brooklyn Road; Divorce and Support: Ashley Court; General Non-Criminal: York Avenue; Loud Music: Flint Drive (2); Animal Complaint: Vineyard Lane; Loud Music: Southern Shores Drive; Disorderly: Daugherty Road; Suspicious Situation: South Main Street;
September 27
Property Security: Hyde Road (2); Personal Welfare: Eagle Point Drive; Personal Welfare: East Mill Pond Drive; General Non-Criminal: Desales Drive; Accident: South Main Street/Chicago Street; Personal Welfare: Ernest Street; General Non-Criminal: Giles Road; Transport-Mental: Eagle Point Drive; Loud Music: Castlewood Drive; Loud Music: Ce-

ment City Road/Kelly Road;
September 28
Property Security: Hyde Road (2); General Non-Criminal: Jefferson Road; Warrants: Lori Lee Lane; Suspicious Situation: East Mill Pond Drive; General Non-Criminal: School Street; General Non-Criminal: Hewitt Road; Found Property: Jefferson Road; Personal Welfare: Kelly Road; General Non-Criminal: South Grand Point Drive/Littlefield Lane; General Non-Criminal: South Main Street; Suspicious Situation: Lane Street;
September 29
Alarm: Southern Shores Drive; Property Security: Hyde Road(2); Malicious Destruction of Prop: Chicago Street; General Non-Criminal: South Meridian Road; General Non-Criminal: Reed Road; General Non-Criminal: School Street; Domestic: North Grand Pointe Drive; Personal Welfare: Hewitt

Road; Peace Officer: North Grand Pointe Drive;
September 30
Property Security: School Street; General Non-Criminal: School Street; General Non-Criminal: Hewitt Road; Found Property: Jefferson Road; Property Security: Hyde Road; Suspicious Situation: Brooklyn Road; Transports-Mental: Clark Lake Road;

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Michael Myers

Michael Lester Myers

Michael Lester Myers, 72, of Cement City, Mich., passed away on September 26, 2026. He was born on April 5, 1954, in Jackson, Mich., to Ken Myers and Wilma Myers. He married Lynda Myers (Kendall) on August 5, 1986, after a 12-year relationship. Michael worked for Xact Products, Elco Textron, and Mid America Machine, never leav-

ing the same building. He retired at 67 years old. He loved motocross racing, farming, horse racing, hunting, fishing, golfing, and spending time with family and friends. Michael is survived by his wife, Lynda Myers, and daughter Brenda Holt. Brothers are Dan (Joy) Myers and Dean Myers. Grandkids Paige Webb (Kyle), Zachary Nieto

(Melissa), and Lucas Gomez (Olivia). Great-grandkids, Malachi, Olyvia, Connor, Lorelai, Deegan, Gwen, Ander, Macie, and Josie. He is preceded in death by Ken Myers, Wilma Sutton, and Brother Mark Myers. Celebration of Life will be held at The Fraternal Order of Eagles, Brooklyn, Mich., on October 31 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Robert J. Wells



Robert J. Wells, age 87, of Napoleon Township, shown at right above with his son, Michael, after a successful hunt, passed away peacefully on Sept. 16, 2026.

He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Rita "Bunny"; sons Michael (Amy) Wells and Robin Wells; grandchildren, Bradley (Trinity) Wells, Josie (Nathan) Richards, David Wells, Traci Hernandez and Kelsi Wells; and great-grandchildren, Madeline, Mason, Bevi and Robert Wells, August Richards, Rowen and Liliana Hernandez, Kinsleigh Ortwine and Kohen Sabatini.

Bob and his son, Michael, worked together building homes for many years. He

took great pride in his work and truly enjoyed it. Bob was also a longtime member of the Napoleon School Board and generously volunteered his time with the athletic department.

In accordance with Bob's wishes, cremation has taken place, and there will be no services.

Bob will be remembered for his love of family, his dedication to his work and community, and the many lives he touched throughout his 87 years. Please sign Bob's guest book at sherwoodfh.com. Arrangements entrusted to Sherwood Funeral Home, Grass Lake.

Donald William Warren

Donald William Warren
February 5th, 1955 –
September 29th, 2026



Don Warren

Donald William Warren (age 71) of Liberty, Michigan, passed away on September 29th, 2026, after a very short (but valiant) fight with glioblastoma. Don was born in Ann Arbor, Mich., to Donald Edward and Mary (Pegan) Warren, who both preceded him in death. He graduated from Huron High School and went on to have an over 40-year, committed and tireless career in sales for D&C Plumbing & Heating Supply in Ann Arbor (later bought out by Ferguson Plumbing Supply), where he retired in 2019.

Don is survived by his wife, Judy (Leutz) Warren, with whom he recently celebrated 20 years of wedded bliss. Don and Judy had a marriage that most could only aspire to have. They were each other's ride or die, best friends, and biggest champions of each other. The happiness they brought to each other was palpable.

Don is also survived by his two daughters, Amanda Beverly and Alyssa (Gareth) Warren-Smith; grandchildren Gideon Beverly, Kenley Smith, and Tristan Smith. Becoming Papa was his greatest joy. He devoted more than half of his life to loving and supporting his daughters, finding his greatest joy in watching their dreams grow and become reality. He is survived by his siblings, Pamela Wisler, Patricia (Kenneth) Davis, San-

dra (Richard) Corzine, MaryAnn (Thomas) Somers, Deborah (Timothy) Smashey, and Dave Warren; ten nieces; and nine nephews.

When Don married Judy, her family became his as well. The Leutz "in-laws," nieces, and nephews became his as well. This is how Don loved. He had a way of making everyone around him feel like family. His love language was acts of service and putting others first above his own wants and needs. He was the kind of person who showed up—for the good times, the hard times, and everything in between. He made people always feel like they belonged, always helping everyone no matter what. His heart was as big as his personality, and both left an impression on everyone who knew him. To know Don was to know that you always

had a place at his table.

He cherished life's simple joys: family, good friends, his dogs, a cold drink, and, most importantly, time spent together. He was happiest when surrounded by the people he loved—sharing a story, making sure everyone had a drink in hand, and wearing a smile that could light up the room. His greatest joy was simply being together, creating memories and laughter with those who meant the most to him.

The pool and tiki bar were his happy place: floating around the pool, soaking up the sun, or, more importantly, being everyone's best cabana boy; making sure everyone had their favorite food and drink (and he loved making Shirley Temples for all his littles). He also loved ranger rides, camping trips, and fishing adventures with his littles.

We didn't get nearly enough time with him, but we were blessed with a lifetime of memories to carry forward. His cancer battle may have ended, but his story lives on in every person he loved, every life he touched, and every story told with a smile and a little bit of laughter.

A celebration of life gathering will be held on October 24th, 2026, from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m., at "the farm" (11465 Culver Road, Cement City, MI), where we look forward to coming together to honor Don's memory through joy, stories, and connection. Food and refreshments will be provided. Please sign Don's guest book at sherwoodfh.com. Arrangements entrusted to Sherwood Funeral Home, Grass Lake.

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

Sharp's Masonry: 266 Mirror Drive, Jerome (Masonry) Gabriel Jon Sharp, owner;

Honest Hometown Handyman: 6220 Brooklyn Road, Apt 2, Jackson (Handyman) Shavon Hardnett, Owner;

Misfits Barbershop: 636 East Michigan Avenue, Jackson (Barbershop) Tylor Bashore, owner;

Aspen Consulting Services: 11490 Horning Road, Brooklyn (Brooke Luckhardt, owner;

A Thru Z Construction: 818 Cooper Street, Jackson (Remodeling) Donald Sanford, owner;

3D Resource Services: 2153 Tamie Way, Jackson (Construction) Ronald T. Rea, owner;

Pink Ruckus: 203 Monroe Street, Concord (Anthony Daglow), owner.



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By Cindy Hubbell, President/CEO
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Pumpkin Quest is coming up on Saturday, October 10, in **downtown Brooklyn** from 11 to 2, hosted by the **Brooklyn Kiwanis Club**. This is a free family event. Children can bring a donation for the **Brooklyn Food Pantry** and receive a free pumpkin. The costume parade and contest are at noon in front of **Savanna Rose Dance Studio**.

The **Clinton Inn's** 125 Anniversary Celebration is coming up on Saturday, October 10 from 6 to 10 pm. Enjoy fine dining, a historical and clock tower presentation, and a cocktail reception. Tickets are limited.

McCourtie Park's Rathskellar will be open on Fridays through October from 10 am to 4 pm for visitor hours. Stop by to say hello and tour some of McCourtie Park's rich history.

Witches Night Out is back in **Downtown Brooklyn** on Thursday, October 15 from 5:30 to 8 pm. Grab your friends and wear your best witch attire. Enjoy shopping, laughing, sipping, and spooky cheer. Any questions, Call **Kelsey's Boutique and Gifts** at 517-592-5032.

Join **Well Wise Services Area Agency on Aging** for Silver Sneakers Yoga in their lower-level Fitness Room Mondays and Thursdays from 1 to 2 pm, and Fridays from 10:30 to 11:30 am. For more information, call 517-592-1974 or email livingwellprograms@wellwiseservices.org.

The **Irish Hills Eagles** hold an All You Can Eat Breakfast on Sundays from 8 am to noon. This is open to the public, costing only \$9.00 for adults and \$4 for kids.

Mystery Hill presents Horror at the Hill on October 9, 10, 23, 24, and 31. Join Nathan for the Darkside of Circus Sideshow, Haunted Tours, and Halloween at the Hill. These are ticketed events. Find more info on Facebook.

Business Opportunity: The restaurant, formerly known as Patty's Family Kitchen, next to the Top of the Hill Party Store on US-12 is available for lease. This turn-key location could be yours; just call Andy at 248-214-0890.

The All Sports Spectacular is back on October 24, beginning at 4:30 pm at **Irish Acres** in Cement City. Join the Chamber for our largest fundraising event. Tickets are available online at IrishHills.com or call 592-8907. Enjoy dinner from **Jerry's Pub**, auctions, raffles, and tons of prizes. This favorite event is one you do not want to miss! Thank you to our presenting sponsor, **Brooklyn Products International**.

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

Teaching culture, history



Ted Paus of Onsted, shown above in traditional Ojibwe garb, shared with visitors at the Wooden Old Stone School Fall festival last weekend. Paus enjoyed talking with visitors about Ojibwe life and folklore. So what is his biggest lesson about the Ojibwe culture? "We are ordinary people, just like you," said Paus. "We all belong to the sacred hoop, regardless of skin color."

'Biggest Oktoberfest yet'



The "movers and shakers" of Grass Lake – Phil Willis, chair of the Lost Railway Museum board and Grass Lake Village Manager Sabrina Edgar enjoyed some time together at Oktoberfest. Willis said this was the biggest Oktoberfest yet.



Karissa Wyant, left, and friend Christina Hurst, both of Grass Lake, had a fun time at Oktoberfest trying different beers.

Story and photos
By John Hummer
Editor

An estimated 2,000 people lined the streets of downtown Grass Lake this past Saturday for the third annual Grass Lake Oktoberfest presented by the Lost Railway Museum.

Phil Willis, chair of the Lost Railway Museum board, said this year's Oktoberfest was much bigger than the first two. "There are more people and they're staying longer and they're having a great time," he said. "This is our biggest fundraiser – we raised over \$20,000." He added that there were over 150 volunteers who helped put on the event. "We have a lot of good people giving back to the community."

"The biggest feature of course is beer," Willis continued. "We've got 25 different beers, ciders, and wines. We have great Bavarian food, too." There were also several food trucks in town for people to choose from, a beer barrel rolling contest, and many vendors selling unique handmade items, clothing, jewelry, and more.

The event also had an entertainment lineup second to none featuring the Ann Arbor Music Academy's Bavarian entertainment (including several numbers from "The Sound of Music"), the Brian and Steve Tucker duo, and 5 Second Rule.

There were things for the younger crowd to do as well. Jackson School of the Arts held face painting and Jackson District Library had other fun children's activities.

"It costs a lot of money to run the museum," Willis explained. "Oktoberfest is very important to the future operations of the Lost Railway Museum. We hope to continue to grow it."

Willis noted that the museum just acquired a 1901 trolley car to its collection, adding that it is in excellent shape. They also recently ac-

quired a horse trolley.

"We want to enhance people's lives and get people to think about the history of our ancestors," he stated.

Jeanie Murphy, who grew up in Napoleon and now lives in Mason, came to Oktoberfest with her two Mason friends, Anjelita White and Krista Dowding. "I still have family in the area and it's a beautiful day," she said. "It's our third one – we've been to all of them. We had a good time in the past. It's a nice, small-town, fun event. I bring new people every time." It was the first Oktoberfest for White and Dowding.

Rich Willis, a long-time native of Grass Lake and one of the regular volunteers at the Lost Rail Museum who has done restoration work for the museum for 13 years running, was out enjoying Oktoberfest. He noted that over 50 years ago he and his parents and girlfriend and he and his daughter went to two of the original Oktoberfests in Munich, Germany. "We had a great time over there," he said, adding that the Grass Lake Oktoberfest beer mugs were only about half the size of those in Munich.



Singers from the Ann Arbor Music Academy delighted the large audience at Oktoberfest with their Bavarian entertainment, including several numbers from "The Sound of Music."



Leah Fox of Ypsilanti entertained the Oktoberfest crowd on accordion as part of the Ann Arbor Music Academy group.

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M-50 Rivalry

Rivalry showdown set up for Eagles, Pirates



Columbia Central High School seniors Lukas Calhoun and Anicia Aguilera were crowned homecoming king and queen during halftime of last Friday's football game versus Addison. PHOTO BY PAUL SNYDER

Story and photos
By Paul Snyder

Columbia Central 63, Addison 8

The Columbia Central Golden Eagles celebrated their 2026 Homecoming with a big 63-8 win over the Addison Panthers for their fifth win of the season.

Quarterback Sammy Truax passed for 310 yards, connecting on 13-15 passes and four touchdowns, hitting Trent Troyer with 24- and 78-yard scores, Elias Losey for a seven-yard touchdown, and Avery Soto with a 20-yard strike.

Julian Boardman led the Eagles' ground game, run-

ning for 126 yards on eight carries, scoring two touchdowns, one on a 57-yard run and one from a yard out. Bauston Pilaczynski ran for 75 yards on eight carries and scored on runs of seven and 40 yards, and Soto also scored on a two-yard run.

Eli Hawley was a perfect 9-9 on extra-point kicks for the Eagles.

Pilaczynski, Liam McMurtry, and Troyer led the Eagles' defense. Pilaczynski tallied eight tackles, McMurtry accounted for seven tackles, and Troyer made five tackles, forced one fumble, and added an interception. Dylan Penix also contributed an interception and four tackles.

The Panthers' lone score of the night came in the second quarter when Andrew Huston connected with Landin Lefew for a 75-yard touchdown pass early in the second quarter. Caden Olsosky ran in the two-point conversion.

Addison returns home this Friday to host the Jonesville Comets, while Columbia Central will travel to Napoleon to take on the Pirates on their homecoming night in the annual battle for the Little Brown Jug.

Napoleon 48, Michigan Center 7

The Napoleon Pirates, behind the senior running back duo of Jayden Servis and Zavior Skog, took down the Michigan Center Cardinals 48-7 Friday night at Napoleon for their fifth win of the season.

Servis rushed for 162 yards on just six carries, scoring three touchdowns, while Skog ran for 111 yards and scored two touchdowns in eclipsing 1,000 yards rushing for the season. Caden Borders also scampered in for a Pirate touchdown.

Richie Crane came up big with two interceptions on defense for the Pirates, returning one 75 yards for a touchdown in the first half, ending a Michigan Center scoring threat.

The Pirates host archrival Columbia Central (5-1) this Friday for homecoming and the annual battle for the Little Brown Jug.

Grass Lake 48 Vandercook Lake 7

The Grass Lake Warriors put it all together Friday night for a 48-7 homecoming win over Vandercook Lake for their first win of the season.

Quarterback Wesley Reul passed for 138 yards, connecting on 12 of 23 passes, including a touchdown strike to Grady Kromrei. He also ran for 55 yards on 11 carries with two touchdowns.

Running back Gage Salts was the Warrior workhorse, rushing for 183 yards on 23 carries and scoring two touchdowns. Lamar Zegarlowicz ran for 55 yards on five carries while scoring one touchdown.

Kromrei had three receptions for 32 yards to go with his one touchdown catch, and Gavin Killenger hauled in five catches for 55 yards for the Warriors.

Onsted 42 Hillsdale 27

The Onsted Wildcats, with a strong running game, picked up their first win of the season last Friday night, running over the Hillsdale Hornets 42-27 at Onsted.

The Wildcats rushed for over 400 yards, led by Connor Kish with 193 yards on 22 carries while scoring two touchdowns. Parker Paquin was right behind Kish with 183 yards on 14 carries, also scoring two touchdowns. Cade Symington also scored twice for Onsted on runs of seven and eight yards.

The Wildcats led 20-13 at halftime and opened the third quarter with a time-consuming scoring drive to go up 28-13.

Onsted's offense came up big, converting eight of 10 third downs in the game and one of two fourth downs.

Onsted, now 1-5 on the season, travels to Adrian Madison this Friday to take on the Trojans (5-1).



Columbia Central running backs Bauston Pilaczynski (32, above) and his Golden Eagle teammates will take the five mile drive down M-50 Friday night to take on the Napoleon Pirates in what should be a great rivalry game.

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Columbia wins third consecutive soccer title

Champions, times 3



Arrone Santuari (10) of Onsted High School attempts to head the soccer ball on a corner kick against Blissfield.

Photo, story
by Jeff Steers
Exponent special writer

It looked like Columbia Central and Manchester High School soccer teams were going to settle for a tie in a

Cascades Conference contest late last week.

But CCHS was going for a Cascades Conference title, and a tie would not have looked good on the record.

Auden Kennedy scored with 41 seconds remaining in

the contest for the game-winning goal for the Golden Eagles.

CCHS finishes the conference season with a 9-1 conference record and its third consecutive Cascades Conference title.

Columbia Central 15, Leslie 1: The Golden Eagles exploded for 15 goals in the first 40 minutes of play. Eli Hawley finished with five goals for CCHS in the contest. David Munro also had a hat trick – three goals – for the Golden Eagles, and Alex Spangler added a pair of goals.

Grass Lake 1, Manchester 1: Three weeks after a 0-0 tie, the two teams tied again on Grass Lake's Senior Night. Ethan Larsen scored the only goal for GLHS in the contest.

Blissfield 2, Onsted 0: Caleb Vore and Matt Seiser scored goals for Blissfield, and Charles Kasten earned his first shutout in net.

Grass Lake 2, Jonesville 1: Ethan Larsen and Emanuel Kongste scored for Grass Lake. The Warriors finished in second place in the Cascades Conference with a 7-1-2 record.

Ida 8, Onsted 0: Onsted High School lost on the road Wednesday in an LCAA match.

Jackson Christian 2, Columbia Central 2: The two teams tied at Columbia Central in a matinee matchup Thursday. The Royals are unbeaten in their last 11 matches. Eli Hawley scored both goals for CCHS in the tie.

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Volleyball: Golden Eagles on Warriors heels

Story and photos
By Paul Snyder

Grass Lake vs. Manchester

The Grass Lake Lady Warriors remained unbeaten in Cascades Conference play at 6-0, sweeping the Manchester Lady Dutch 25-12, 25-19, and 25-14 last Tuesday night at Manchester.

Warrior Hayley Laurie was

a perfect 15-15 serving with three aces, 10 points, and dished out 25 assists. Reese Lape amassed 14 kills and went 19-23 serving for 17 points. Aliria Pastoriza served 13-14 and had 11 points, while Sydney Palmer tallied 22 digs to lead the Warriors in that category.

Columbia Central vs. Michigan Center

The Columbia Central Lady Eagles swept the Michigan Center Cardinals 25-20, 25-20, and 25-16 Tuesday night at Columbia Central to improve to 5-1 in Cascades Conference play and stay a game back of the first-place Grass Lake Warriors.

Mara Henry and Lydia Sanders led the way for the Eagles, with Henry amassing 14 kills, two blocks, seven digs, and two aces. Sanders tallied 12 kills, five blocks, and one ace.

Brooke Petosky dished out a team-high 21 assists along with five digs, two kills, and one ace. Harlow Zuver led the Eagles in digs with 11, Lou Brown contributed six blocks, five kills, four digs, and one ace, and McKenna Hoskins chipped in with 12 assists and five digs.

Grass Lake vs. Concord and Hillsdale Academy

The Grass Lake Lady Warriors picked up a pair of non-conference wins last Thursday night at Concord, defeating the host Yellowjackets 25-18 and 25-16, and Hillsdale Academy 25-12 and 25-20.

Reese Lape tallied a team-high 18 kills, and Aliria Pastoriza smashed 11 kills to lead the Warriors. Hayley Laurie amassed 45 assists, and Sydney Palmer came up with 31 digs to bolster the Grass Lake winning efforts.

Grass Lake at the Schoolcraft D3/4 Division Showcase

The Grass Lake Warriors finished second in the D3/4 Showcase Saturday at Schoolcraft, falling to Saginaw Valley Lutheran 23-25 and 15-25 in the finals. Earlier in the showcase, Grass Lake defeated Bloomfield Hills Academy 25-9 and 25-4, Travis City St. Francis 25-23 and 25-15, and Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port 25-14 and 25-12.

Aliria Pastoriza and Reese



Hadley Ross attempts a kill against the Hillsdale Hornets.

Lape led the way for the Warriors, with Pastoriza going 30-32 serving with five aces, 16 kills, and 26 points, and Lape making an amazing 30 kills and going 23-25 serving with nine aces for 20 points.

Hayley Laurie dished out 69 assists while going 24-30 serving with seven aces and 17 points. Sydney Palmer had a team-high 51 digs, and Hadleigh White contributed 14 kills on the day.

Napoleon vs. Vandercook Lake

The Napoleon Pirates swept the Vandercook Lake Jayhawks 25-13, 25-7, and 25-10 last Tuesday night at Napoleon to even their record at 3-3 in Cascades Conference play.

Clair Beer spiked 14 kills, Jenna Job shared 13 assists, and Hallie Duvall notched 16 digs to lead the Pirates.

defeat the Berkley Bears 25-18 and 25-21 to capture the silver bracket of the Mt. Morris Invitational Saturday.

Napoleon fell 12-25 and 23-25 to Warren Regina and lost to Richmond 14-25 and 23-25 to start the day. However, the Pirates then came to life to defeat Muskegon Heights Academy 25-6 and 25-7, but finished pool play falling to Roscommon 5-22 and 9-25.

Napoleon bounced back to defeat Muskegon Heights Academy again in the semifinals of the silver division, 25-7 and 25-8, to reach the finals against Berkley, in which they came out on top.

Hallie Duvall tallied 54 digs, Claire Beer 37 kills, Jenna Yob 35 assists, and Myla Hasegawa 14 aces to lead the Pirates.

Onsted vs. Hillsdale

The Onsted Lady Wildcats improved to 13-10-1 on the season last Tuesday night, sweeping the Hillsdale Hornets 25-18, 26-24, and 25-18

at Onsted.

Onsted's Ava Deland was a perfect 14-14 serving and had a team-high 11 assists to go with two kills and seven digs. Lauren Terakedis tallied 15 digs and 10 assists. Alana Ramsey went 11-15 serving with four aces, five kills, four blocks, and three digs. Grace Teske had a team-high 19 digs and was 10-16 serving with four aces. Paisley Murphy led the Wildcats with eight kills and added one block.

Addison vs. Leslie

The Addison Lady Panthers fell to 1-5 in Cascades Conference play, dropping three sets to the Leslie Blackhawks 21-25, 12-25, and 9-25 last Tuesday night at Leslie.

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High school sports schedule

Oct. 5 - 12

Football				Boys soccer			
Oct. 9	Jonesville at Addison	7 p.m.		Oct. 6	Cascades South at Addison	5 p.m.	
	G.L. at Michigan Center	7 p.m.			Cascades North at Leslie	5 p.m.	
	Columbia at Napoleon	7 p.m.		Oct. 7	LCAA at Dundee	5 p.m.	
	Onsted at Adrian M.	7 p.m.		Oct. 10	Grass Lake at Portage	5 p.m.	
	Manchester at VCL	7 p.m.					
Volleyball							
Oct. 6	H-H at Addison	6:30 p.m.		Oct. 5	Columbia at Western	6:30 p.m.	
	Columbia at Jonesville	6:30 p.m.			Hillsdale at Onsted	5 p.m.	
	Leslie at Grass Lake	6:30 p.m.		Oct. 7	Hillsdale Academy at Columbia Central	5 p.m.	
	Napoleon at M.C.	6:30 p.m.			Onsted at Dundee	5 p.m.	
	Onsted at Madison	7 p.m.			GL at Tecumseh	5:30 p.m.	
	Manchester at VCL	6 p.m.		Oct. 8	Dundee at Onsted	5 p.m.	
Oct. 10							
	Hanover-Horton tny.	9 a.m.		Oct. 12	Columbia at Adrian	6:30 p.m.	

Cross Country

Entertainment

Hidden Lake Gardens to debut event with North American Bonsai Federation

By JACKIE KOCH
jackie@tecumsehherald.com

For the first time, Hidden Lake Gardens (HLG) in Tipton will collaborate with the North American Bonsai Federation to hold the Fall Fruit & Foliage Bonsai Exhibition at the Gardens Oct. 17 and 18. The event is a change from the annual Art of Bonsai event normally held in the summer, and according to Jessica Goodrich, HLG'S marketing and publicity coordinator, the goal is to have the exhibition continue biennially at the Gardens.

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, the seasonal exhibition will showcase a large collection of the miniature trees in vibrant fall color and with ripening fruit, and visitors will be able to meet talented bonsai artists and learn more about the living art form, according to a press release.

Goodrich said HLG's Art of Bonsai event has been very successful the past several years. They were approached by a committee of the North American Bonsai Federation, in particular Jack Sustic. Sustic has spent decades working with public bonsai collections, including 20 years as the curator at the

National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in Washington, D.C., before taking the bonsai specialist role at the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum.

"They wanted to host this very first Fall Fruit & Foliage Bonsai Exhibition, and we just want to stress what a premier exhibition this is we're bringing in, with very talented bonsai artists, not just from Michigan, not just from the region, but we're trying to draw from the entire country," said Goodrich.

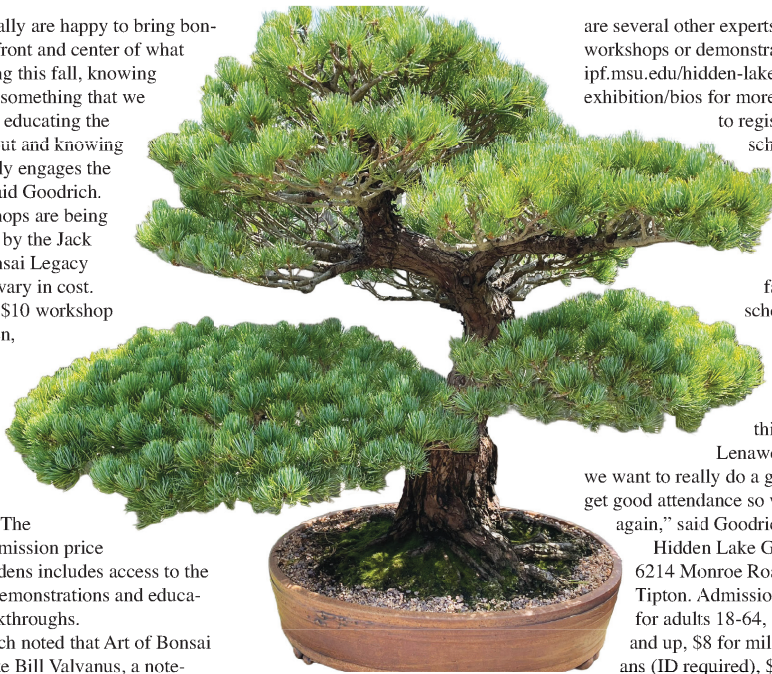
There will be a series of lectures, workshops and demonstrations by bonsai experts along with the opportunity to enjoy the Gardens for fall foliage viewing on the trails, throughout Woodland Drive and on the Sky Walk. Goodrich said they are anticipating a large crowd for the weekend and likely half of them will be coming to see the fall color as well as the bonsai.

"Based on the success of this event it's planned to be hosted every other year, and ideally, Hidden Lake Gardens is hoping to continue to be the host," she said. On alternate years the Gardens would host the Art of Bonsai in July, with a separate fall festival.

"We really are happy to bring bonsai to the front and center of what we're doing this fall, knowing that that's something that we need to be educating the public about and knowing that it really engages the public," said Goodrich.

Workshops are being sponsored by the Jack Winkle Bonsai Legacy Fund and vary in cost. There is a \$10 workshop for children, including a parent, to introduce the next generation to the art of bonsai. The normal admission price to the Gardens includes access to the lectures, demonstrations and educational walkthroughs.

Goodrich noted that Art of Bonsai fan favorite Bill Valvanus, a noteworthy person in the bonsai world, will be one of the keynote speakers and featured presenters, as will Sean



Smith, another bonsai expert who is new to Hidden Lake Gardens. There

are several other experts who will lead workshops or demonstrations. Visit ipf.msu.edu/hidden-lake-gardens/fall-exhibition/bios for more details and

to register. The event schedule may be found at ipf.msu.edu/hidden-lake-gardens/fall-exhibition/schedule.

"It's super exciting to have something like this come to Lenawee County, and we want to really do a great job and get good attendance so we can host it again," said Goodrich.

Hidden Lake Gardens is at 6214 Monroe Road (M-50), Tipton. Admission fees are \$10 for adults 18-64, \$8 for those 65 and up, \$8 for military and veterans (ID required), \$5 for students in K-12 (or college with ID), and ages 4 and under, as well as members, are admitted for free.

Out and about: more things to do

Oscar Winners: Songs and Scores

The Adrian Symphony Orchestra will perform a celebration of Academy Award-winning scores and songs from classic films at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, at Adrian College's Dawson Auditorium. Find tickets at adriansymphony.org.

Witches Night Out

From 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, downtown Brooklyn will be the spot for shopping, laughing, sipping and spooky cheer. Attendees are encouraged to wear witch attire. Participating business will offer specials, prizes, giveaways, refreshments, activities and other surprises. Visit irishhills.com for details.

Nite Lites Halloween Drive-Thru

Starting Oct. 15, Michigan International Speedway, 12626 U.S. 12, Brooklyn, will celebrate the spooky season with a family-friendly two-mile drive-thru from approximately 7-9 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays in October. Train rides in the open air will be available separately. Visit nitelitesshow.com for tickets and more information.

Spooky Scavenger Hunt Hike

Tecumseh Parks and Recreation will offer a self-guided scavenger hunt hike Friday, Oct. 16, with two starting times. Participants will search for items hidden throughout Indian Crossing Trails Park. Hikers will start (and end) at the shelter in Satterthwaite Park, where they will receive a scavenger hunt list and cider, then trek through the trails and enjoy sunset.



views. The 5:30 p.m. hike is best for families, while the 6:15 p.m. hike is geared toward adults. Register at the AJ Smith Rec Center or call 517-423-5602.

Stubnitz Family Fall Celebration

The LISD Stubnitz Environmental Education Center in Heritage Park, 3221 N. Adrian Highway, Adrian, will hold a free Family Fall Celebration Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be nature activities, kids crafts, interactive tables and a scavenger hunt along with refreshments and a free family photo opportunity, a hayride provided by the city of Adrian at 10:30 a.m., an interactive reptile meet-and-greet with Goober Party Animals from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and a guided StoryWalk hike at 1:15 p.m. Visit lisd.us.

Sylvania Fall Festival

Held Saturday, Oct. 17, from 2 to 8 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the festival will take place at Centennial Terrace, 5773 Centennial Road, Sylvania, Ohio, with vendors and artisans, food trucks, family-friendly activities, live entertainment, a cornhole tournament and the annual Fall Festival parade. Visit Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce on Facebook for more details.

Tom Petty Tribute at MCCC

Teddy Petty and the Refugees, America's longest touring tribute to Tom Petty, will perform at Monroe County Community College's Meyer Theater at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24. Visit monroeccc.edu/seasonevents for tickets or call 734-384-7300. The college is at 1555 S. Raisinville Road, Monroe.

Grand Funk Railroad

The Flint-based rock group Grand Funk Railroad will take the stage at Jackson College's Potter Center at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, bringing their 1970s hits "We're an American Band," "Some Kind of Wonderful" and more. Tickets may be purchased at jcmmi.edu/potter-center/events.

Croswell to present 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame'

By HERALD STAFF

The Croswell Opera House, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian, will present the musical, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," Oct. 16-25.

The musical is a depiction of Victor Hugo's classic story of love, acceptance, and what it means to be a hero. Set in 15th century Paris, prejudice, morality, and redemption come together in a tale about the dark and light of humanity and a reminder that beauty lies within.

The show follows Quasimodo, the bell ringer who longs to be "Out There" among the people of Paris. Held captive by his caretaker, the archdeacon Frollo, he escapes for one day during the Feast of Fools only to be treated cruelly by

everyone except for a woman named Esmerelda. Quasimodo isn't the only one mesmerized by her free spirit – Frollo and Captain Phoebus try to win her attention, as well. When Frollo begins a mission to destroy the Roma people, it will be up to Quasimodo to save them all.

"The Hunchback of Notre Dame" opens on October 16, with performances the first weekend Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. The second weekend will have performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$26 to \$46 for adults and \$16 to \$26 for students, and may be ordered online at croswell.org or by calling 517-264-7469.

Comedy show set for Oct. 17 at TCA

By HERALD STAFF

The Tecumseh Center for the Arts will kick off its 2026-27 National Touring Season with a comedy night featuring nationally acclaimed comedian John Heffron at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17.

With more than three decades entertaining audiences across the country, Heffron finds humor in everyday life. He first came into the spotlight after winning NBC's "Last Comic Standing" and has appeared on "The Tonight Show," "Chelsea Lately," "The Late Late Show," "The View," "The Martin Short Show" Comedy Central, Netflix and more.

"Live comedy creates an energy unlike any other performance," said Amy Slupe,

executive director of Tecumseh Center for the Arts, in a press release. "There's something wonderful about an entire theater laughing together. John Heffron has a remarkable gift for finding humor in the experiences we all share, making this the perfect night out for couples, friends, co-workers and anyone who could use a great laugh."

Tickets are available online at thetca.org, and reservations may also be made in person at the Tecumseh Center for the Arts Box Office every Thursday and Friday from noon to 5 p.m. or by calling 517-423-6617.



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Cross country results



Madisyn Lindemann of Napoleon High School placed 28th at the Stockbridge Invitational, earning a medal in the girls' 5K race.

Pirates win quad

Girls Cross Country
Napoleon Quad: Napoleon won the event with 25 points, and Michigan Center was third, scoring 78 points. Ayva Berkeypile won the event for Napoleon (21:48), and teammate Madisyn Lindemann was fourth (22:13).

Stockbridge Invitational: Concord High School finished fifth (147), Napoleon was sixth (193), Marshall finished ninth (234), Grass Lake was right behind the Redhawks (265), Onsted finished 13th (293), and Northwest placed 16th (375). Alaina Dillon of Marshall was third (19:57) Audrey Pyle of Concord placed sixth (20:33), teammates Haley Stimer (21:23) and Audrey Rinehart (21:25) finished 12th and 13th respectively, Styler Ross of Onsted was 15th (21:27), and Ayva Berkeypile was 16th (21:33). Madisyn Lindemann of Napoleon placed 28th (22:08), Makenzie Hilberer of Grass Lake finished

37th (22:26), and Aubrey Weber of Napoleon was right behind her (22:28).

Boys Cross Country
Napoleon Quad: Manchester edged Napoleon (28-34), and Jackson Prep was third (65). Blake Fish of Napoleon finished second (17:27), Thomas Bastian of JPEC was fourth (18:47), Devin Hilliker of Napoleon placed fifth (18:50), and David Arbogast of Vandercook Lake was sixth (19:27).

Stockbridge Invitational: Marshall was seventh (212), Grass Lake finished eighth (222), Concord was 10th (254), Onsted placed 14th (326), Northwest finished 17th (413), and Addison was 19th (513). Abraham McHugh was fourth (16:20), Connor Boteler of Grass Lake was ninth (17:03), and Blake Fish of Napoleon was 21st (17:28). Nicklas Holmes of Onsted was 24th (17:44), and Luke Balaze of Grass Lake finished 50th (18:56).

Grass Lake, Napoleon second in Cascades golf



Avery Rhodes

Photo, story by Jeff Steers
Exponent special writer
Napoleon High School golfer Avery Rhodes said she focused on being consistent and worked on her short game this girls' golf season.

In the long run, it paid off for the NHS sophomore.

Rhodes earned medalist honors for Napoleon in the season-long jamborees in the Cascades Conference.

She beat out teammate Katelyn Ault by 1/10th of a stroke for the honor.

Napoleon and Grass Lake finished tied for second in the Cascades Conference final standings this season.

Rhodes said she learned a lot from watching MHSAA state Division 4 champion Anna McCubbins last year.

"Anna is a very inspiring person to play with," Rhodes said. "It helped me to see someone work so hard at their game."

Rhodes finished in the top three in the conference last year and was 15th in the state in D-4.

In this year's conference final, Michigan Center and Grass Lake tied at the Cascades Conference final at Sharp Park with 398.

The Cardinals won the event, and the conference title is based on the fifth-place score.

Napoleon finished third (405), Columbia Central was fourth (423), Hanover-Horton placed fifth (453), and Addison finished sixth (510).

Grass Lake and Napoleon tied for second place with 44 points; Columbia Central was fourth with 38, Addison finished sixth scoring 18 points, and Vandercook Lake was seventh scoring six points.

Individually, Rhodes was the medalist for 2026 with an average of 9.7 strokes over par, teammate Ault was second at 9.8, Aubry Koch of Columbia Central was fourth at 13.1, Maddy Truax of CCHS finished sixth at 15.4, and Ava Rentfrow of Grass Lake was the final first-team golf member with 15.6 strokes over par.

The top seven earn first-team all-conference honors and the next seven honorable-mention honors.

Emma Troyer of Grass Lake finished eighth (15.9), teammate Ellie Roberts was ninth (16.9), Caylee Campbell of Addison was 10th (18.4), and Caraline Shong of CCHS was 13th (20.0)

LCAA at Madison: Onsted finished fourth with a four-person total of 240. Ruby Helinski was 11th overall, scoring 52.

Grass Lake Jamboree: Napoleon won the jamboree with a four-person total of 190. Michigan Center placed second (207), Columbia Central was third (215), Grass Lake finished fourth (224), Addison was fifth (242), Hanover-Horton placed sixth (248), and Vandercook Lake was seventh (323). Napoleon teammates Ally Hoard and Avery Rhodes tied for medalist honors with 44s; Aubry Koch of CCHS and Katelyn Ault of Napoleon tied for third, scoring 46s; Mallory Gilson of Michigan Center was fifth with 47; and Caylee Campbell of Addison finished sixth with a 50.

Onsted at LCAA final: The Wildcats finished fourth with a four-person score of 478. Aubrie Schonfeld finished the tournament with a score of 111 – good for 14th place.

Regional golf schedule

Division 4 at Calderone
Oct. 6, 9:30 a.m.

Addison, Adrian Lenawee Christian, Clinton, **Columbia Central,** East Jackson, **Grass Lake,** Hudson, Monroe St. Mary, **Napoleon, Onsted,** Ottawa Lake Whiteford, Petersburg-Summerfield, and Sand Creek.

The top three teams and top three individuals not on qualifying squads advance to the D-4 state final on Oct. 16 and 17 at The Meadows Golf Course on the campus of Grand Valley State University.

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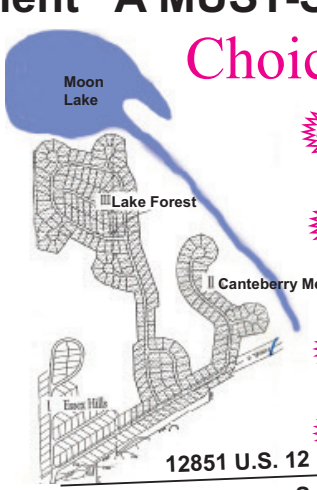
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High school tennis results, regional information

Jackson 7, Columbia Central 1: The Vikings swept the singles with wins by Truong Huynk, Joe Walraven, Leo Nguyen, and Cameron Cotton at Nos. 1 – 4 singles, respectively. Wyatt Blecha/Kameron Trubek won 6-1 and 6-1 for CCHS at No. 3 doubles.

Regional Tennis information
Division 4 at Grosse Ile Tennis Center
Oct. 7, 8 a.m.

Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard, Bronson, Columbia Central, Eaton Rapids, Grosse Ile, Hillsdale, Lumen Christi, Monroe St. Mary, Pinckney, and Plymouth Christian.

The top two teams and top two No. 1 singles players advance to the MHSAA Division 4 tennis finals on Oct. 21 and 22 at Midland Tennis Center.

Tire recycling event in Napoleon Township Oct. 17

Napoleon, Norvell, and Grass Lake townships will be jointly cooperating on a scrap tire recycling event on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year's event will be hosted by Napoleon Township in the Napoleon Township Offices Municipal Services Building parking lot located at 6755 Brooklyn Road in Napoleon.

Only passenger tires or smaller will be accepted. No tractor, large truck, heavy equipment, or semi tires will be accepted. Some muscular high school student volunteers will be on hand to assist with loading tires onto the tire collection truck.