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Designed by William Wesley Peters in 1969, an associate of famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright, the former St. Mary Catholic Church building in Alma could be razed if efforts to save the iconic structure fail to materialize.

PRAYING FOR PRESERVATION

Supporters of Iconic Church Hope to Save Landmark

By Rosemary Horvath
Herald Correspondent

When Michigan's place in the architectural Modernism movement is observed, one unquestionable mention will be the structure that sits at the corner of Downie and Prospect in Alma

While the significance of the 54-year-old building, formerly the St. Mary Catholic Church, is well noted, its existence may soon end much to the despair of some parishioners and many admirers of architect William Wesley Peters, who led the build in 1969.

Peters was an associate of famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Local church leaders in recent years deemed building maintenance upkeep too costly, although some church members have disputed the estimates.

In 2017, The Saginaw Diocese called for a feasibility study on whether to preserve the building and at what cost, or to raze it.

That same year, church services ceased in Alma and parishioners began attending services in St. Louis before consolidating with the congregation to form the Nativity of the Lord Parish.

Nonetheless, many members in the Alma area still hold onto hope the church could still be restored.

See LANDMARK page 14

GRATIOT CENTRAL DISPATCH ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR

By William Meiners
Herald Staff Writer

On board since June 26, Dave Rapacz was introduced to the County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday as the new director of Gratiot Central Dispatch.

With more than 30 years of experience, Rapacz, 50, spent his first three weeks getting his feet on the ground while getting to know the dispatchers in the office.



RAPACZ

He had been the communications training supervisor and quality assurance person for Mobile Medical Response in Saginaw. The ambulance center, which provides services for multiple counties, gets a high rate of calls.

"I spent my whole career in public safety and communications," said Rapacz, acknowledging that everything has prepared him for this longtime goal of leading such an operation.

That career began through a volunteer opportunity at an ambulance provider in 1991.

Between calls, Rapacz, then 18 years old, would have a chance to study for a career as a music teacher. Though the former saxophone player may have been drawn to helping people caught in emergency situations.

See DIRECTOR page 2

Alma Renews Goals to Stimulate Growth Amid County Master Plan

By Rosemary Horvath
Herald Correspondent

Gratiot County's governmental units will come together soon to update a countywide master plan and designate projects specific to their locales.

For example, Alma City Manager Aeris Ripley expressed intent to create an action and master plan for the city beyond its part with the county.

This attitude reflects a systematic approach that Michigan cities implement to attract new residents, businesses, and industry, while retaining existing ones.

Ripley foresees working with a professional consultant to implement goals set by community collaborators to develop the city-owned riverfront at State and Mechanic streets, reinvigorate the downtown business district, and develop Jerome Road industrial potential.

Also, the city hopes to become certified as a Redevelopment Ready community through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Besides paying its share for a countywide plan, additional cost for the city's consultant work has not been determined, Ripley noted.

Local units had Greater Gratiot Development Inc. solicit proposals for a consultant to facilitate the planning process.

See GROWTH page 14



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STOP IN 123 N. Main St. Ithaca

Preparations Underway for 74th Gratiot County Fair For Youth

By William Meiners
Herald Staff Writer

It's a bit of a calm before the storming crowds on the fairgrounds in Alma. People pop in and out of the main office, but for the most part it looks like a clean, somewhat deserted place.

Two weeks from this particular Friday morning, livestock will fill up barn spaces and campers will set up home base. Soon after, the carnival comes to town.

The Gratiot County Fair For Youth takes place from July 29 through August 5. Though months of planning go into that single week that Hannah Reeves, in her first year as fair coordinator, calls the "best week of summer" for the kids participating in the many activities.

For Reeves, who grew up on a cash crop farm in Ithaca, keeping the focus on the kids is critical.

"I want to talk to the kids to see what they like, what they don't like," she said.

There are traditions to keep in

mind and committees are already making plans for a big splash with the 75th anniversary of the fair in 2024. Yet Reeves wants to ensure that the celebration is first and foremost for the youth of Gratiot County.

What's old is even sometimes new again at the fair. This year, Reeves told The Herald, they're bringing back the "Horse Pull" on August 2, as well as the Super Kicker Rodeo on August 5. Both are crowd pleasers that are sure to be a popular draw.

To prep for all of it, the first of three community cleanup days begins Wednesday of this week, followed by Sunday, July 23, and Wednesday, July 27. The campers will start rolling in on Thursday, July 28.

Sandwiched between all of that is the Rural Urban Day, taking place this Thursday, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. The \$15 ticket can be purchased up to the day's event at the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce.

See FAIR page 14



Hannah Reeves (left), fair coordinator, and Mary Sopocy, in her second summer as an intern, are prepping for the many events of the Gratiot County Fair For Youth, which will take place from July 29 to August 5.

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Flag Pickup at Alma Lodge for Michigan Elks Field of Honor



The Michigan Elks Field of Honor at Alma Lodge has been dismantled for this year. If you purchased a flag they are now inside the Lodge and can be picked up until August 1, 2023. After that they will be given to deserving individuals unless you contact Randy Boudreau at rand1b@yahoo.com or 989-506-6332 to make other arrangements for you to receive them.

There were 123 flags that flew in this year's Field. They were

taken down on July 14.

Next year's Michigan Elks Field of Honor at Alma Lodge will be dedicated on Sunday, May 5.

The special honorees for next year will be Special Needs individuals though anyone may be honored with a flag in the Field.

The cost per flag will still be \$25 and the purchaser will receive the flag, tag and pole when it is dismantled on Flag Day, June 14, 2024.

GROWTH *continued from page 1*

A committee on which Ripley was a member studied proposals and unanimously selected CIB Planning of Fenton, which specializes in planning, marketing and economic development.

Additional business before the Alma City Commission at their regular meeting last week:

- Two wastewater lift stations serving the residential subdivision in Pine River Township will get up-

grades. Commissioners approved purchasing pump and valves at \$28,560 from Robinson Electric of Riverdale, and electrical upgrades at \$26,520 from Countyline Power of Hope, Michigan. Both expenditures will be reimbursed by Pine River Township from residential sewer payments.

- The City of Alma and Gratiot Area Water Authority will each pay \$10,613 to contract with the Grand Rapids engineering firm of

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber for planning security upgrades at the water treatment plant and the wastewater treatment plant. Ripley described the project as a "more robust level of security."

- Work has begun on pavement reconstruction at downtown parking Lot 2 between Gratiot and Woodworth and Lot 3 between State and Prospect. This includes curb and gutter replacement and removing some trees on the lots.

Ripley also noted a sewer line extending along Lot 2 behind the Opera Block will have spot repairs to improve drainage. These problem areas were identified from a televised inspection of the sewer line.

Last week's meeting was another swift function, lasting only 23 minutes. Vice Mayor Roxann Harrington presided in absence of Mayor Greg Mapes. Also absent were Commissioners Roger Allman and Andrew Bare.

DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

A self-described "trauma junkie," he would go on to work at police and fire department 911 centers. The teaching career would be sidelined.

As a professional communicator, however, Rapacz will be guiding the efforts of an already tight-knit group of dispatchers in Gratiot County. Much of his time in the first few weeks into the position was spent listening to both their learned experiences, as well as their expectations of a new director.

"They're a good group of people who work very well together," he said.

Rapacz's personality, leadership, and dedication stood out during the

interview process, as did his vision for the call center.

"He told us that being a director was his lifelong dream," said Sheila Barnaby, deputy county administrator. "And that read in everything he said in that interview."

What Rapacz and his new colleagues likely already have in common is their compassion for people. It may be the single most effective attribute of any dispatcher, he maintained. "The 911 centers are at their best when dispatchers are compassionate and actively listening to the callers," he said.

As director of center that's open "24/seven and 365 days a year," Rapacz said he will not just settle into a 9-to-5 director's role. He likes to

work the desk, "so my schedule will be adjustable throughout my tenure," he said. "I'll be there during the day a lot, but there are also times where I could be in there at night, doing some dispatching or covering afternoon shifts."

It's a team-based business, as Rapacz has learned through three decades, and he said he's happy to pitch in like everyone else.

"I enjoy helping people," Rapacz said. "I know that's kind of a corny response. Sometimes there's the exhilaration of the calls coming in one after another, but this job allows us to help others and give back to the community."

Having grown up around Flint, Rapacz lives in Grand Blanc. He and his significant other, a lady he has been with for 15 years, have three grown sons and three grandchildren between them. Among that family mix are two "grand puppies" and a puppy of their own — a King Charles Cavalier.

Rapacz steps into the director position vacated by Dan Morden, who resigned on April 21.

"Dave is excited to be here, and he wants to make this central dispatch the best one around," Barnaby said. "He's got the energy and we are truly excited to have him on board."

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THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Breckenridge Company Celebrates Community with Open House

By William Meiners
Herald Staff Writer

Beneath the spinning wind turbines near the Breckenridge Technology Park last Thursday, locals began filtering into a parking lot for a community celebration.

Integrity Fab and Machine, a cornerstone facility within that industrial space, had invited employees, neighbors, and anyone within range for an open house complete with the summertime fixings of hotdogs, drinks, and dessert.

By 4 p.m., a young man, who by days is a supervisor inside the Integrity warehouse, strummed an acoustic guitar and sang.

Someone is the crowd pointed out the singer had been one of the company's first employees a decade ago. He took advantage of a tuition-assistance program to "go on to bigger and better things." Though he seemed eager to stop by and thank those folks who helped him along that path.

Christine Murphy, who has worked in human resources since April 2021, said the celebration was centered on a number of things, not the least of which was for recruiting purposes and to simply be neighborly.

"What's the sense of being in business if you're not opening your doors to people?" she asked.

Murphy estimated that most of the company's 86 employees radiated from within a 30-mile radius of the Breckenridge plant. "Most live within Gratiot County," she said.

The location seemed reason enough for a celebration for the company's two founders, who, according to its website, "had a vision of providing quality fabricated and machined products to the tool and die and agricultural"

industries while simultaneously employing local residents.

Kirk Smith and Rollie Koutz, the co-founders, worked together at Danly Die Set in Ithaca in the 1980s. As they progressed their way through management ranks, they often discussed operating their own fabrication and machine shop.

The dream, which would evolve over the years, began to take shape as the men picked up some equipment from a Detroit company that liquidated all of its assets. After beginning the business on sight from an existing printer business in Clare, Smith and Koutz eventually built the 17,000 square foot facility in Breckenridge.

"This is home for us," Koutz said. "This was the dream of Kirk's dad to have this industrial park here. We're here for a lot of reasons, but the main reason is that it's home."

With the opportunity for that home cooking comes the chance to bolster the lives of local workers. "Our leadership team talks about something all the time. When you pull into this parking lot, those aren't just cars," said Joe Mooney, Integrity president, pointing to the nearby vehicles. "Those are mortgages, those are braces, college tuitions, and groceries for the family. We have to succeed first for our customers and second for our internal customers — the young men and women who come to work here. Our management team thinks about that every single day."

Over a factory tour, Mooney describes Integrity workers as artistic shapeshifters of steel, creating products for automotive, agricultural, and other industries.

Built to specific orders, Mooney noted the company's five core values, which are plastered



Joe Mooney (left), Christine Murphy and Rollie Koutz, from Integrity Fab and Machine, welcomed employees and the community to an open house outside their Breckenridge facility on Thursday, July 13.

throughout the warehouse, and include "integrity and accountability," important enough to have in the company name, a "customer focus," the "continuous improvement," achieving goals through "teamwork," and "drive."

Those core values, Mooney said, should be a "living, breathing thing, not just a sign on the wall."

As for the future, they're looking to hire anyone willing to embrace those values.

"We want seasoned machinists," Mooney said. "But we really want people who want to work, so we'll teach you this job."

The employees who learned a trade and helped to improve the company's bottom line may have felt a bit of the love on Thursday afternoon. Alongside family and neighbors, they might have also raised a lemonade to a job well done.



Over a factory tour, Joe Mooney, company president, describes Integrity workers as artistic shapeshifters of steel, creating products for automotive, agricultural, and other industries.

Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Chair Delivers Ag Books to County Libraries



Stacey Carey-Jenkins, at the right, promotion and education chair of Gratiot County Farm Bureau, delivered agricultural-themed books to local libraries on Wednesday, July 12.

By William Meiners
Herald Staff Writer

Anyone who knows Stacey Carey-Jenkins can attest to her passion for agriculture and her mission sharing that knowledge with others. As the promotion and education chair of Gratiot County Farm Bureau, she hit the road last Wednesday to deliver books to libraries throughout the region.

Inspired by a June story in The Herald about a little girl in Alma who was well on her way to reading more than 1,000 books before

kindergarten, Carey-Jenkins set out with two agricultural-themed books — *I Love Strawberries* and *Tales of the Dairy Godmother*. Each book was named the American Farm Bureau Federation's "book of the year" over the last two years.

"Agriculture is the second largest industry in Michigan," Carey-Jenkins said. "Gratiot County is a valuable agriculture county in our state, yet children and adults are unaware because fewer people are connected directly to farms. I believe it's less than 5 percent."

With the article that she likened to a "neon sign," Carey-Jenkins said, "she saw an opportunity to share some fun agriculture books that will help encourage children to read."

So Carey-Jenkins, on the hump day, scurried around the county to Breckenridge, Alma, Ithaca, St. Louis, and Seville Township (Riverdale) libraries. She had books for Ashley Public Library, as well, but she did not make it there on Wednesday.

Both children's books relied on

humor and storytelling to teach the "little ones," coincidentally Carey-Jenkins favorite learners, about the farming world.

Shannon Anderson, author of the strawberry book, tells the story of Jolie, a little girl who loves strawberries so much, she wants to grow her own.

"She pesters her parents in hilarious ways by showing she can be responsible like an 'old person,' or her parents, to grow her own from seedling to her lips," Carey-Jenkins said. "Jolie keeps a comical journal about her plans to convince the 'old people' to let her grow her strawberries. She learns that growing strawberries is a lot of work. It is also sometimes complicated but, in the end, rewarding."

Viola Butler and Ward Jenkins, author and artist, respectively, of the "Dairy Godmother" book, focus on Chuck who loved ice cream like Jolie loved strawberries.

"Chuck wishes he could have all the ice cream he could ever eat! Then poof, his Dairy Godmother appears to teach him where the ice cream begins... at the farm!" Carey-Jenkins said.

Chuck is taught about caring for the cows, what they eat, milking them, and the rest of the steps to getting his ice cream. He learns about hard work and the reward of it all.

"He even gets to witness a new calf being born, and that begins the

process of when a cow produces milk," Carey-Jenkins said.

Carey-Jenkins wants to promote agriculture in a world where so much is taken for granted.

"Food is delivered to our door with a click of a button," she said. "Teaching children where their food comes from can help them appreciate the process and hard work of getting their food to the table."

It's not just getting people back to farms.

"Even if children go into careers outside of farming," Carey-Jenkins said, "they will know the importance of protecting our farms from being developed for housing or manufacturing sites. If children today understand agriculture, they can help the world with sustainability and food insecurity issues as they advance in their education."

Most of her Wednesday travels were a surprise trip to the book recipients, aside from the head's up she gave the Ithaca library. Though the librarians all greeted her in similar ways, full of "big smiles" and comments like, "What a super cute book. I can't wait to read it myself."

Carey-Jenkins, who hopes to make the book deliveries an annual event, noted there are many free and low-cost resources for children to learn about agriculture through Michigan Ag in the Classroom, and the American Farm Bureau Federation websites.

Smith Family Funeral Homes' Focus is on Service

By William Meiners
Herald Staff Writer

It's fitting that the Smith Family Funeral Home has the word family in its name. After all, it's the business Sam and Carol Smith built as they raised their daughters Emily and Hannah. It's the funeral home they ran and lived next door to in Elsie for 18 years. And it's the work ethic and service they showed to those two girls growing up.

With six current funeral homes and as many as 10 over the years, the operation, at its core, is still run by the family. Though Carol has dialed it back in recent years, after retiring from her own career in teaching, both Emily and Hannah work there alongside other family members. Emily Smith is the office manager, and Hannah Schmidt, like her father, is a licensed funeral director.

In fact, both Sam and Hannah graduated from the Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Chicago 22 years apart, with Sam earning his degree in 1984 and Hannah getting hers in 2006. Sam said over a two-year period, he spent four days in Chicago and would then drive home to work at the (then) Carter Funeral Home in Elsie on the weekend. A Plymouth Horizon got him there and back.

Sacrifices were often made for the business — like literally reversing out of the driveway for quick a getaway with the girls, only to have to put the car in drive because of a phone call and the report of someone's death. Yet those same sacrifices might have ensured their success.

The funeral industry is a relationship business. "Probably the biggest thing is that if you give someone your word and tell them you're going to do something, you better do it," Sam said.

And with a funeral you only get the one

chance. By now, they've cared for and buried both family and friends. Though not everyone is prepared for those parts of life, the Smith family focuses on what they do best so another family might simply gather with loved ones and grieve.

To that end, the funeral home can help the family take care of issues with insurance, social security, and more. Many people plan ahead, making funeral arrangements, Sam said, but maybe about half the folks do not.

Growing up in a service industry, Hannah at one point thought to follow her mother's footsteps into teaching. But then, at 18 years old, she found herself at the mortuary school in Chicago. "It's always been a part of my life," she said. "I'm not sure what I would do if I didn't do this."

At a recent funeral service, a relative of the deceased thanked Hannah for everything they did, acknowledging that it was their job. Yet that compassion, of being there for a family who may be strangers, cannot be phoned in. It's something ingrained in honoring the importance of those moments of a goodbye.

There's always lots to do. With several full and parttime employees, the Smith family will likely be at it for a long time. "I'm 70 years old and come to work every day," Sam said.

Of course, some things, like payroll and day-to-day accounting, he doesn't have to do anymore. Though he's become a recognizable face within his community in Fulton Township and elsewhere.

Encouraged to finish someone's term on the board there, Smith soon found himself on the board of the Gratiot County Commissioners, having run for and won a couple of elections. He currently serves as commission chair



Sam Smith and daughter, Hannah Schmidt, are both licensed funeral directors at Smith Family Funeral Homes, which has six locations in central Michigan.

In giving back to his community, Smith, more often than not, looks at county matters from a business perspective. "You can't spend more than you're taking in," he said. "You have to consider the wise use of tax dollars."

There's wisdom that comes out of hard work and sacrifice. But good times, well earned, can also make for a pleasurable view of the future.

Hannah's four kids can be seen at the funeral home in Ithaca, just as Hannah and her sister Emily scurried about the one in Elsie.

Sam will sometimes spend some time on a Harley Davidson, recently zipping up to the Mackinac Bridge and back with friends. Being there for those friends, as well as anyone else, has helped him make a name for himself and his family.

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Traditional dances and songs will be performed by members of the Bannister ZCBJ Czechoslovakian Folk Dancers under the direction of Diane Bradley (center)

Czechoslovak Harvest Festival set for Aug. 6

The public is invited to the annual Harvest Festival on Main Street in Bannister on Sunday, Aug. 6. The event seeks to celebrate and preserve old world heritage and traditions of harvest time in Czechoslovakia.

chicken, ham, dressing, dumplings, cabbage, potatoes and gravy, kolache and all the other trimmings will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Adult dinners will be \$15, children under twelve, \$5, and preschoolers are free.

reports that opening ceremonies begin at 2:30 p.m. as costumed participants march onto an outdoor platform carrying decorated rakes, wreaths and scythes. Traditional dances and songs will be performed by members of the Bannister ZCBJ Czechoslovakian Folk Dancers under the direction of Diane Bradley.

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Historical Organizations of Gratiot County

Evening in the Park with Jim Goodspeed



Evening in the Park has been a tradition in Gratiot County for over 40 years and the St. Louis Area Historical Society (SLAHS) is happy to be a part of that tradition. The Evenings in the Park, under the guidance of Linda Gittlemen, met for many years in different towns of the County in various parks. The topics ranged from grilling demonstrations to entertainment. One staple of the series was David McMacken. McMacken, designated the County Historian, informed about the Counties history while always entertaining.

When interested changed and attendance lessened at the weekly summer events the SLAHS continued a once a year Evening in the Park with Dave McMacken who continued to informed citizens about Gratiot County history. He would have an audience of as many as 150 in their lawn chairs, sitting on Crawford St in front of the old Pierre Marquette depot. 2018 was McMacken's last presentation, his 40th, about Lobdel-Emery.

McMacken passed away in July, 2019, always well prepared and organized much of his material was passed on to Jim Goodspeed to whom he also bequeathed his title, County Historian. Helping to continue the tradition, Goodspeed made his first Evening in the Park presentation in June, 2019, about the Sky Top Drive In Movie between St. Louis and Alma on M46.

This year's Evening in the Park with Jim Goodspeed will be Tuesday, July 25, 7 PM at the St. Louis Historical Park (the depot) 113 Crawford. The topic will be Fall Festivals in Gratiot County. Crawford will be closed to through traffic, so bring your lawn chair and enjoy the Evening. There will be parking across Main in the lot next to the fire station. Handicap parking will be near the depot.

Jazz Party Fundraiser to Support Food Pantry and Community Café in Alma

With some pandemic-era supports ending with June, one church in Alma hopes an evening of dancing to live jazz in late July will raise money for food programs that help feed hungry people. "In the Mood," billed as "swing dance extravaganza" will take place on July 22 at the First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall.

The Anonymous Sextet, a group comprised of Adam and Danny Dixon and musician friends from Cornell University and the University of Michigan, will provide live music from the 1930s and 1940s. Eli Lucchesi, a dance instructor, will offer free swing dance lessons from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

A \$30 ticket includes beer, wine, soft drinks, and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Guests can pick up awards as "best dance couple" as well as a prize for "best Swing era attire." All proceeds will sup-

port the Community Café and food pantry run by the First Presbyterian Church.

In spite of low unemployment numbers and some recent relief on the inflationary front, the number of people dealing with food insecurity issues seems to be on the rise.

"The number of households that come through our food pantry each Tuesday has doubled, sometimes tripled," Sue Malone told The Herald. "The Community Café continues to serve more than 100 people each Thursday."

Malone said the government subsidies available to the Lansing Food Bank and the Pantries ended on the last day of June. Even as the food bank attempts to minimize the impact of the increased costs on food programs throughout the area, budgets could still be burdened, ultimately affecting how many people can be fed.

over the Back Fence

Bob MacDonald



JUST WHAT KIND of neighbor are you? How do you think you'd rate if the folks around you voted on your popularity in the immediate neighborhood? Without putting ourselves – or our neighbors – on the spot, let's just think out loud on what some questionnaire items would be if such a survey existed:

Do you have sufficient food stocks to be able to lend that cup of sugar, or those three eggs, or tablespoon of vanilla when your neighbor makes such requests?

Are you "young" enough at heart and "old" enough in spirit to appreciate neighborly contacts with all age groups, and understanding enough to realize every family has its problems?

Do you enjoy getting together with neighborhood families on occasion for a cookout or an evening of shooting the breeze?

Are your carpenter and plumbing tools, as well as gardening tools available for your neighbor's use? Also, are you disturbed when they are not readily returned?

Are you tolerant when after completing a job your neighbor tells you of a better, more satisfactory method of doing it?

Do you have a sense of humor when one of your neighbor's youngsters or dogs damages your flower bed or otherwise does damage to your property?

Can you overlook the noise when your neighbors

occasionally have friends in for an evening of sociability and don't leave until the early morning hours?

And how about the noise of young people playing? Has this affected your values of being neighborly, or can you take it most of the time in pretty good stride?

Do you provide a helping hand, willingly, when your neighbor has a piano to move or heavy container to haul to the dump?

In emergencies are you ready to do what you can to help?

Is your heart big enough and your sense of humor of such magnitude that you work hard at being a good neighbor? If this last question can be answered in the affirmative, you'd pass with flying colors without answering the preceding questions. You've got it made, brother, and so have your neighbors for being so fortunate in having you around.

Published in 1966

**Editor's note: "Over The Back Fence" was a weekly editorial penned by former Herald Publisher Bob MacDonald. His popular column ran for over four decades until his death in 2001.*

Back Through The Years

From The Herald Files of
2013, 2003, 1993, 1983, 1973

10 years ago: 2013

For the second consecutive year Ithaca High School has been ranked among the best, not only in the state but the nation. The school received a silver ranking in U.S. News & World Report of the best high schools in America. Ithaca was 46th out of the 826 high schools in Michigan that made the list. Nationally it was ranked 1,686 out of 21,035.

The new Breckenridge "splash Park" is up and running at the about to be renamed Jaycee-Hoffmeyer Memorial Park on Sexton Street. A grand opening and dedication ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 30.

Hundreds of spectators turned out last Friday and Saturday to see well-known musicians from around the country perform at the seventh annual St. Louis Blues Festival.

20 years ago: 2003

For nearly four decades Joanne Barrett has helped residents of Pompeii in Fulton Township receive and send their mail. But 37 years and probably thousands of postage stamps later, she retired from her job as the community's postmistress this week.

The Mid-Michigan District Health Department in Ithaca recently held a Michigan Safe Kids event, in which 140 bicycle helmets were given to youngsters throughout Gratiot County.

Clifford C. Coston, 18, of Ithaca Boy Scout Troop 678, was recently presented an eagle Award during an Eagle Scout Court of Honor by his uncle, Eagle Scout Dave Nelson.

30 years ago: 1993

Through the efforts of the Ithaca Rotary Club, the Ithaca Rescue Squad has a Pulse Oximeter to measure the oxygen saturation of a patients blood. The purchase of the equipment brings the total to \$20,854.53 the Rotary Club has donated to the Ithaca Rescue Squad.

Rev. Donal Warmouth and Christine Kinkead, directors of Patient Equipment Locker, recently honored PEL Board Member Robert Hoxie as an honorary trustee for his decade of service on the board.

Persistence paid off big dividends for Kaye and Dale Gould of Wheeler. After being eliminated in the shuffleboard singles competition, they put that behind them and surfaced to the top to capture the gold medal at the United States National Senior Olympics Classic last month.

40 years ago: 1983

The Village of Ashley prepares this week to celebrate its centennial year.

The Alma FFA dairy judging team was one of the top in the state this year and includes Bill Courter, Renice Welch, Matt Klump, and advisor Brent Wilson.

50 years ago: 1973

The first actual field construction on the long awaited Maple River Watershed Project began last week with the Sleepy Hollow dam.

New president of the Ithaca Lions Club is Melvin Stacey.

Our publishing goals...

To operate on the principles of honesty and integrity; To incorporate your ideas which are bolstered by past lessons; To publish a product that will be accepted by people in the area we serve; To report with accuracy and fairness; To serve advertisers with imagination and honesty. If we stumble along the way, tell us.

Your Community Newspaper

The Herald is proud of its grass roots approach to covering the news of its people in the Gratiot community. Hometown news for hometown folks. Personal items, individual achievements, keeping up with local governmental activities. And our schools are of special interest to us each week.

Join the ever-increasing family of neighbors who subscribe regularly to the Herald. A phone call to 875-4151 will begin a subscription delivered to your mailbox each week.

OBITUARIES

Bonnie Edgar



As an adult, she was a long-time member of PEO in the DE and later BE Chapters and was also a member of the Alma Woman's Club. Over the course of her memberships, she served in leadership in each organization. Later in life, on Friday mornings, she popped corn as a volunteer at Gratiot Community Hospital. Additionally, she and her husband were active members of the First Presbyterian Church of Alma for over fifty years. She particularly enjoyed the kirking of the Tartans, in which her grandchildren took part.

Throughout her life, she enjoyed reading, music, drama, and basketball. She was an avid swim team supporter, attending many swimming meets of her children and grandchildren. A full-blood Swede, she enjoyed researching family history and traveled twice to Sweden to meet relatives from the homeland.

She had a passion for teaching, and she educated thousands of Gratiot County students over the course of her more than 30 year career. She began in Gratiot County at the two-room Smith Allen School on Alger Road continuing later at Riverdale School outside Alma. She finished her teaching career in Alma Public Schools enjoying many years of 6th graders at Wright Avenue School then moving to the "new" Middle School where she taught 7th grade and shared her love of social studies, math and science. As many

educators do, she cared for her students in a variety of ways, sometimes bringing snacks like cheese and crackers to class. And she supplied her classroom with rulers, compasses, pencils and paper so everyone was prepared to learn the lessons of the day. She was the famous "red-headed" teacher, and laughingly warned her students not to get her temper riled up in the classroom!

She is preceded in death by her husband, Arlan Lee Edgar; her parents, Carl Arvid (Red) Anderson, and Vina Irene (Weburg) Anderson; as well as her sister, Viola Alfreda Misenhelder.

She is survived by her three children, Rosemary Leslie (Ken Hollingshead) Edgar, Amy Edgar (Cary) Wellington, and Andrew Lee (Karen) Edgar; and her dear grandchildren, Bonnie Vi Lindemann, Brian Hollingshead, Ross Edgar, Lauren Morrell, and Allison Edgar. She also leaves behind her brother, Carl (Mary) Anderson; and many nieces and nephews.

The family will hold a celebration of her life on Sept. 23rd at 1 p.m., on the Anderson Family Farm : 4629 E. Polk Road, Ithaca, Michigan.

Rather than flowers, the family asks that scholarship donations be made Bonnie's memory to the Alma PEO, Chapter BE, or Alma Women's Club.

On the morning of Sat., July 24th, Bonnie Jean (Anderson) Edgar passed away peacefully at home in Pleasant Lake, at the age of 92.

She was born on the family farm, on Polk Rd. outside Ithaca, to Carl Arvid (Red) and Vina Irene Anderson, Sept. 9, 1930. She attended the country Hetzmann School through 7th grade, then graduated from Ithaca High School in 1949. She received a BA in 1955 from Central Michigan University majoring in Educational Sociology. On March 30th of 1952, she married Arlan Edgar and together they raised three children, Rosemary, Amy, and Andy.

Throughout her life, she was involved in many activities and organizations. As a child, she was active in 4-H. At CMU she joined the Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority.

Frances Gyurnek



liked to collect antique pickle jars. She was a good cook and enjoyed fixing meals for her family and baking. She did lots of canning. Frances also liked doing embroidery and deer hunting.

She is survived by her husband, Tom; and four children, Maynard (Carol Jean) Wilson of Sumner, Dixie Jensen of Ithaca, Bill (Judy) Gyurnek of Sumner, and Brenda Gyurnek of Sumner; four grandchildren, Stacey Wilson, Casie Wilson, Heather (Bill) Smith, and Karen (Matt) Collins; six great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandson; one sister, Linda (Greg) Ziets; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Charles Denman; her mother, Ethel (Ira) Krick; her son, Howard (Linda) Wilson; two grandchildren, Gary Wilson and Jamie Wilson; and nine siblings, Carl Denman, Paul Denman, Wesley Denman, Shirley Stonerock, Chuck Denman, Bernard Denman, Floyd Denman, Ken Denman, and Robert Denman.

Memorials may be made to New Haven Church of God.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Ithaca, Michigan.



Frances Irene Gyurnek, 90, of Sumner, passed away Sun., July 16, 2023, at Sparrow Carson Hospital, Carson City.

Funeral Services will be held at New Haven Church of God at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, July 20, 2023, with Pastor John Hagerman officiating. Burial will take place at New Haven Township Cemetery. Visitation was held at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Ithaca, on Wed., July 19, 2023.

She was born in Alma, on Oct. 23, 1932, the daughter of Charles Wesley and Ethel M. (Lauer) Denman. On Feb. 21, 1959, she married Thomas W. Gyurnek in Elm Hall. They have been married sixty-four years. She enjoyed going to auction sales and shopping for antiques with Tom. She especially

Bonnie Overla



2023, at MyMichigan Medical Center in Alma.

she was born Dec. 22, 1953, in Alma. She attended St. Louis High School. She married Richard Overla Sr. on May 27, 1972, in St. Louis. She was a homemaker before working for the Comfort Inn for many years. She spent many Friday nights cooking at the VFW and volunteered locally throughout her life. She was a stroke and cancer survivor, and she was fiercely independent. She enjoyed gardening, participating in the Relay for Life and the Mackinac Bridge Walk, and always had the best holiday décor. She was an avid sports and NASCAR fan but most of all she loved spending

time with family.

She is survived by her children, Kevin (Kim) Overla, Cindy Overla, Penny (Al) Cartwright, Rich (Kendra) Overla; grandchildren, Patricia, Brien, Rebecca, Zach (Shelby), Jayce and Jenna; 10 great-grandchildren; sisters, Sarah Condon, Sue (Walt) Nichols, Laura (Roger) Morford, Kathy Troyer, Teresa (Gary) Lemert.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard; her parents and siblings, Jack, Ken, Deb and Jo.

Cremation has taken place with a family service to be held later. Please consider a contribution in Bonnie's memory to the Pardee Cancer Treatment Center www.mymichigan.org/cancercenter

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Lux-Moody-Wolfel Funeral Home, Alma. To view Bonnie's obituary online or to leave a condolence for the family please visit www.luxfuneralhomes.com.

A subscription to the Gratiot County Herald comes with Perks!! FREE Announcements!



Dorothy Lou Schmid, 90, of St. Johns, passed away peacefully on Fri., July 14, 2023, at the Laurels of Fulton, Perrinton.

In following her wishes, a cremation has taken place and a graveside service will take place on Tues., Aug. 1, 2023, at 11:00 A.M. at Union Home Cemetery, St. Johns, with Pastor Mona Kindel officiating.

She was born in St. Johns, on Jan. 8, 1933, the daughter of Anthony Thomas and Ellen M. (Gladstone) Stambersky. She graduated from Rodney B. Wilson High School, St. Johns, with the class of 1950. On June 24, 1950, she married Henry Schmid Jr., at the St. Johns Congregational Church. They were married for fifty-seven years prior to his passing on Aug. 6, 2007.

She worked at Motor Products in Owosso, for several years before retiring. She liked to stay at home, except for an occasional trip to a casino. She was an excellent cook, she loved to read, and do crossword puzzles.

She is survived by three children, Robert H. (Sue) Schmid Sr., of Middleton, Patricia A. (Richard) Ryan of Houghton Lake, and Michael L. (Janice) Schmid of St. Johns; and one son-in-law, Douglas Greer of Perrinton. She is also survived by her seven grandchildren, Robert (Jennifer) Schmid, Jr., Brian Schmid, Chanda (Mark) Dunn, Jennifer (Eric) Strayer, Steven (Dawn) Schmid, Toni Greer, and Scott Greer; and thirteen great-grandchildren, Elizabeth, Tristin, Hannah, Ethan, Madison, Jacob, Gage, Lauren, Olivia, Chas, Mason, Morgan, and Zachary; her sister, Jane Jolly; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Henry Jr.; her daughter, Barbara Greer; one granddaughter, Andrea Ryan; and two sisters, Mary Ellen (Sam) VanEtten, and Margaret (Robert) Waltz.

Memorials may be made to the Dementia Society of America.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Osgood Chapel, St. Johns.

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office is open
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Friday 9AM -
12PM

OBITUARIES

Gary Shook



Gary C. Shook Sr., 88, of Greenville, passed away Mon., July 10, 2023, at the Laurels of Carson City.

He was born April 25, 1935, in Chesaning, the son of Vernon and Ruby (Ackles) Shook. He started his career paving in Saginaw and later started his own company Flat River Paving Company. He enjoyed racing at Crystal in his car

number 56, racing snowmobiles, fishing, hunting and being with his pet dogs.

He is survived by his children, Gary (Deb) Shook Jr., Tim Shook, Tammy (Gary) Blair, Tandi (Douglas) Mosier; 16 grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren with another on the way; sister, Kathleen (Harry) Herington; brother, Jody Shook; and dog, Sequoia.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Sandy Shook; grandson, Mike Upton; brother, Jack Shook; and dogs, Sparky, Cody and Puppy.

Funeral services were held Sat., July 15, 2023, at the Lux and Schnepf Funeral Home, Carson City with Pastor Brian Wickes officiating. Interment followed in Fulton Center Cemetery. Visitation was held Saturday until the time of services at the funeral home.

To view Gary's obituary or to leave a condolence for the family please visit www.luxfuneral-homes.com.

Cindy Sanders



Cindy Lou Sanders-Piper - Feb. 17, 1954 - July 13, 2023

Cindy Lou Sanders, 69, of Sumner formerly from Bridgeville passed away peacefully with her family by her side after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's disease.

She retired from Fisher Body in 2008 and was a 1972 Ithaca High School graduate. She enjoyed traveling to Cheboygan and spending time at Camp Sandpiper where golf cart rides and berry picking were a summer ritual,

photography as well as trips with the 5th wheel camper visiting caves throughout Kentucky and Tennessee.

She is survived by sisters, Bonnie Medved of Ithaca, Wendy Sanders of Sumner; and brother, Larry (Sheila) Sanders of Ithaca; sisters-in-laws, Georgia Sanders of Middleton, Sally (Carl) Chapin of Stanton, and Dot (Jim) Bancroft of Maple Rapids; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Fred Piper; parents, Ronald and Maxine Sanders; sister, Elaine Piper; brothers, Terry Sanders, and Gary Sanders; and in-laws, Harry and Florence Piper; and brother-in-law, Leslie Piper.

Visitation was held Mon., July 17, 2023 at Barden Funeral Home in Ithaca. Funeral services were Tues., July 18, 2023 at Barden Funeral Home with interment following at Collier Cemetery.

Condolences may be left for the family online at www.barden-funeralhome.com.

Barden Funeral Home

Ithaca

Dennis Cole



Dennis M. Cole (Denny), born April 27, 1968, passed away suddenly on June 16, 2023, while working in West Palm Beach, Fla. He was a kind, easy-going, always happy to help, giving person. He worked pouring concrete for several years before switching gears to work alongside his brother-in-law for golf course architect Pete

Dye, building and renovating golf courses in several states across the country. A few of his known favorites were Old Marsh; Gulf Stream Golf Club, Delray Beach, Fla.; Grand Harbor, Vero Beach, Fla.; and Kiawah Island, S.C.

He was a graduate of Lansing, J.W. Sexton High School, Class of 1986. He resided in St. Johns.

He is survived by his parents, Cheryl Maury of Drummond Island, and Royce Cole (Marsha) of DeWitt; sister, Lynn Cole-Lutske (Chris) of French Lick, Ind.; and special friend and companion Mary Salazar of St. Johns; as well as many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He truly had a heart of gold and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. He was quite tall, 6'7" to be exact. So, to answer the two questions he was probably asked the most, one last time ... "I'm 6'7" and No, I don't play basketball."

Bertha Tuck



Bertha Lee Tuck, 93 of Wheeler passed away Sat., July 15, 2023, at McKellar's Adult Foster Care in St. Louis.

She was born July 14, 1930, in Muir, the daughter of Riley and Lillian (Smith) Keefer. After her father's passing when she was a baby, she was adopted by her great aunt and uncle, Bertha and Lee Baldwin. She was a graduate of Breckenridge High School and married Franklin Tuck on Jan. 1, 1952, in Breckenridge. She en-

joyed reading and baking. She especially loved spending time with her family.

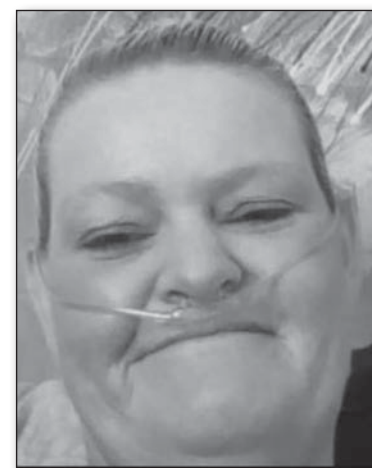
She is survived by her children, Jerry Tuck, Sharon (Rick) Burkhard, Kathy (Tom) Campbell; six grandchildren, Amanda, Jennifer, Mathew, Joshua, Aaron, Dan; ten great-grandchildren; and a sister-in-law, Audrey Keefer.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Franklin; parents; a brother, Basil Keefer; sister, Betty (Floyd) Mulnix; and her sisters and brothers-in-law, Ethel (Tom) Hall, Dora (Leo) Andrews, Edith (Louis) Burch.

Per Bertha's wishes cremation has taken place with a private family service to be held at a later time in Ridgelawn Cemetery, Breckenridge. Those desiring may make memorial contributions in Bertha's memory to the Howe Memorial Library.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Lux and Whiting Funeral Chapel, Breckenridge.

Adelle Brown



Adelle Rene Brown, 48 of Coleman passed away July 11, 2023 at home with family by her side.

Memorial services will be held on Sat., July 22, 2023 at Faith Life Christian Center in Alma Michigan, with Pastor David Wertz officiating.

She was born on May 9, 1975 in Alma, the daughter of Tim and DiAnne (Williams) Brown. She graduated from Beaverton High School, in Beaverton. She enjoyed playing cards, painting, and camping. She was also a salvation army girl guard. She also enjoyed working for the carnival.

She is survived by her mother, DiAnne Brown of Coleman; her daughter, Mary Catherine Ostrander Bigelow of Gladwin; her son, Brett Anthony Ostrander and wife Danielle of Gladwin; brothers, Paul and Tammy Brown of Breckenridge, and Rick and Robin Hanline of Cedar Lake.

She was preceded in death by her father, Tim Brown of St. Louis; and many aunts and uncles.

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Gratiot County Herald is also available at area news stands throughout the county.

Clip -n- Save

COMMUNITY

98th Birthday



Wanda Whitaker will be 98 years old on July 24th. Here family would like help celebrating her with a card shower. Please send cards to 7184 E. Washington Rd., Ithaca, MI 48847

Card of Thanks

Words cannot express our thanks to those who have remembered and prayed for my husband and his family, Jack Weatherby, since his death June, 28, 2023.

Our Family was given the best by God. Jack was a wonderful father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Jack never took a friend for granted. He was fortunate enough to earn most of his living at Total Refinery.

He will be missed for the rest of my life but you have made this transition easier for our family.

Thank you,
Pat Weatherby
Teresa Derry and family
Melinda Fall and family
Colleen Flicek's family

Gleaner Harmony Arbor # 273 Present check to Gratiot County Historical Museum



St. Louis, MI Gleaner Harmony Arbor # 273 member Linda Moffett presents a check to Elizabeth VanDyke and Carol Douglas from the Gratiot County Historical Museum and Genealogy Library. Elizabeth and Carol were the Speakers for the July 17th meeting.

Thing 1 & 2

the kittens. We love to play, run, and sleep. Come take us home for only \$55. The adopter will get back \$50 after we are fixed.



Gratiot County Animal Shelter can be contacted at 989-875-2221, or found on facebook.com/adoptgratiotanimals.

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COMING EVENTS

Alma VFW

Alma VFW Post 1454 is having...

- Burger Nite each Wed. from 5-7p.m. starting May 31st.
- Fish Fry the 4th Fri. of each month from 5-7p.m.
- Steak Fry the 3rd Sun. of each month from 12-3p.m.

Take outs available.

Ice Cream Social Fundraiser

Help send children to youth camp, July 22, 2023 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Pompeii United Methodist Church, 135 Burton St., Pompeii, MI 48874. Phone: 989-838-4159. Ice cream sundaes, toppings galore, pulled pork, desserts, beverages, free will offering.

2nd Time Around Sale

The Ladies Guild of Peace Lutheran Church is having their annual "2nd Time Around Sale." Thurs., July 20 & Fri., July 21, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 325 E. Warwick Dr., Alma. Clothes, Household, Games, Seasonal, Tools, ect. Something for everyone! Also stop at the Ladies Guild Bake Sale table for an assortment of homemade back goods!

Celebrate, Remember and Fight Back

The American Cancer Society and Relay For Life will be hosting a public event on Sat., Aug. 12th from 10a.m. - 10p.m. at the Alma College - Stone Recreation Center.

- 10 a.m. - Opening Ceremony
- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Silent Auction
- 5 p.m. - Survivor & Caregiver Ceremony

- Dinner to follow
- 7 p.m. Live Auction
- 9 p.m. Luminaria Ceremony

Live Entertainment All Day! Please Join Us.
www.relayforlife.org/gratiotisabella.

Ithaca Fire Department 150th Anniversary

Light parade Friday, Aug. 18th, 8 p.m. - Downtown Ithaca. Sat., Aug. 19th, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 9-10 a.m. - Opening Ceremonies at the Ithaca Fire Hall, Ithaca. 10 - 2 p.m. - Activities for the whole family! Fire truck rides, Bouncy house, Information stations, Face painting, hot dogs and chips.

Concert 4 A Cure

Edgewood Church Of God is hosting a Concert 4 A Cure on Wednesday July 19th at 6:30 PM., Music and singing by local talent. An offering for the American Cancer Society will be taken. Ice Cream Social will follow. Everyone welcome.

Harlow Family Reunion

Pioneer settlers in North Shade Township in the 1850s included Maria Harlow, brothers James and Henry Harlow, Rebecca and William Brice. Their descendants have met in reunion since 1925. The 99th family reunion will be held at the UM Church in Carson City on Elm Street at 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 23. Potluck dinner with beverages provided. Please bring names and dates of births, deaths and marriages. The reunion in 2024 will be the final gathering.

IHS CLASS OF '61 SUMMER GATHERING

Saturday, July 29 - The Ithaca High School Class of 1961 will meet at J J Ruby's Restaurant, three miles north of Ithaca on State Rd. The south room is reserved for 2:00 p.m. Spouses and guests of classmates are welcome.

Outdoor Craft Show and Homemade Ice Cream Party

Saturday, Aug. 5th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lincoln Rd. United Methodist Church, 9479 W. Lincoln Rd., Riverdale, MI. Homemade ice cream, hot dogs, chips, pop and water. Plus crafters and vendors with unique gift ideas! Come one Come All! All proceeds will go to the church's food pantry.

THANK YOU GRATIOT COUNTY FOR YOUR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE



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HEALTH

Sparrow Herbert-Herman Cancer Center releases findings of innovative TAPUR study

A top Sparrow physician and researcher recently spoke to a prestigious national conference about Sparrow's participation in a groundbreaking study of a cancer drug for patients with genetic mutations.

The results of the phase 2 Targeted Agent and Profiling Utilization Registry (TAPUR) Study were presented by Gordan Srkalovic, M.D., Ph.D., Medical Director of the Sparrow Herbert-Herman Cancer Center, at the annual American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) meeting. ASCO is the primary study sponsor and manages all aspects of the study.

The findings, based on responses from 28 patients with 16 different types of tumors, suggest the drug talazoparib may be effective in any cancer that has a BRCA1/2 mutation - which results in uncontrollable cell growth and the inability to repair damaged DNA. The results exceeded researchers' expectations.

"Nobody expected such a high response rate because these patients have advanced disease, and they were heavily pretreated and had exhausted all the other standard-of-care treatment options,"

Dr. Srkalovic said.

Women with BRCA1/2 genes have up to a 75 percent risk of developing breast cancer and up to a 50 percent risk of developing ovarian cancer during their lifetime. While risks in male carriers are not as high as female BRCA mutation carriers, they still face an increased potential of breast and pancreatic cancer, as well as an elevated risk of aggressive prostate cancer.

"This result opens an avenue for the treatment of cancers other than breast and ovarian," Dr. Srkalovic said.

The project is another example of Sparrow's dedication to improving care for our patients by participating in high-quality clinical research. Sparrow provides world-class clinical research right here in Mid-Michigan with highly skilled physicians and leading-edge medicine available only at the nation's leading medical programs.

The Sparrow Herbert-Herman Cancer Center is a leader in clinical trials nationwide, with over 35 currently active trials. For more information, go to Sparrow.org/Cancer.

Health Care Providers, Departments Receive Top Performer, 5-Star Performer Awards

Physicians, advanced practice providers and departments at MyMichigan Medical Centers in Alma, Clare and Mt. Pleasant were recently recognized by national health care research leader Professional Research Consultants, Inc. (PRC), with its Excellence in Healthcare Top Performer and 5-Star Performer Awards.

Thomas Claringbold, D.O., was recognized as a Top Performer. There were also several physicians and advanced practice providers recognized as PRC 5-Star Performers. They include Stacy Carstensen, C.F.N.P., M.S.N.; Thomas Claringbold, D.O.; Jenifer Garcia, P.A.-C.; Robin Hermes, P.A.-C.; Brandi McConnell, F.N.P.-B.C., M.S.N.; Michael Stack, M.D. and Sarah Trommater, O.D.

In addition, several departments were recognized as PRC 5-Star Performers. They include

the Emergency Departments at MyMichigan Medical Centers in Alma, Clare and Mt. Pleasant, Infusion Therapy in Alma and Mt. Pleasant, Radiation Oncology and Maternity in Alma, as well as MyMichigan Urgent Care Clare.

"At MyMichigan Health, providing excellent care to patients is at the very heart of what we do," said Michelle Brady, M.S.H.A.L., B.S.N., R.N., C.P.X.P., chief patient experience officer, MyMichigan Health. "These awards from PRC show just how dedicated our entire team is to ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors receives high-quality health care in a comfortable, state-of-the-art facility. We are so proud of all the physicians, providers and departments who have been recognized this year."

The Excellence in Healthcare Awards recognize organizations and individuals who achieve ex-

cellence throughout the year by improving patient experiences, health care employee engagement and/or physician alignment based on surveys of their patients.

"It is an honor to recognize MyMichigan Health with these Excellence in Healthcare Awards for their deserving work," said Joe M. Inguanzo, Ph.D., president and CEO of PRC. "It takes true dedication and determination to achieve this level of excellence in health care and MyMichigan has shown their commitment to making their hospital a better place to work, a better place to practice medicine and a better place for patients to be treated."

Those who would like to learn more about the 2023 Excellence in Healthcare Awards, including eligibility and criteria, may visit www.prcustomresearch.com.

Hospice Patients To Benefit from Butterflies in the Park Event

On Sunday, Aug. 6, MyMichigan Home Care will host Butterflies in the Park, its annual outdoor event giving community members an opportunity to remember or honor loved ones who have had a special and positive impact on their lives. The event will begin at 1 p.m., in Alma, Clare, Gladwin, Midland and Mt. Pleasant, and will include a brief commemoration presentation, butterfly release and music.

Butterflies in the Park is a time-honored tradition that has been meaningful for donors and patients alike. Held under the auspices of MyMichigan Health Foundation in parks across the region, individuals gather to reflect upon their loved ones and enjoy a beautifully symbolic, live butterfly release. This year's events will be held in the following locations: Wright Park, Tracy Band Shell,

520 Park Avenue in Alma; Shamrock Park, 221 Wilcox Parkway in Clare; Riverwalk Place, 777 W. Cedar Avenue in Gladwin; Emerson Park, Shelter C, 300 W. Main Street in Midland, and Woodland Hospice House, 2597 S. Meridian Road in Mt. Pleasant.

In addition to paying tribute to family and friends held dear, the funds raised at the event will support those patients in need of home care and hospice services, medication and medical supplies. Each \$25 donation releases a butterfly in memory or honor of a loved one.

Those interested in purchasing a butterfly may visit www.mymichigan.org/butterflies. Those interested in more information or to make a donation by phone may call the MyMichigan Health Foundation at (989) 839-1932.

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Legion Post 295 preps for state tournament

The American Legion Post 295 baseball team, which features 10 players from Gratiot County high schools, is now 8-11 on the season after going 0-3 at the Chin Music tournament last weekend in Lake Odessa.

Gideon Sacco from Alma had Post 295's lone hit in their opening 7-3 loss to the Lake Odessa team, a leadoff single. Noah Barr of Breckenridge took the decision on the mound for Post 295.

Grand Rapids Elite won the second game, 6-1. Sacco pitched and took the loss, while acquitting

himself well at the plate with two hits.

It was also 6-1 in Post 295's loss to Hillsdale. Alma's Braxton Schick was the losing pitcher, striking out five over four innings.

Prior to the Chin Music tournament, Post 295 lost a doubleheader to defending GCBL Champion St. Louis Spirits 10-1 and 3-2.

"St Louis is legit," Post 295 head coach Chuck Murphy said. "They're loaded with former college guys that can hit and pitch, and are experienced."

The second game was a heart-

breaker for the youngsters, as the Spirits won on a walk-off run following a passed all. Post 295 had led 2-1 in the bottom of the seventh inning. Then St. Louis reached on an error, put runners at second and third on a double, before tying it on a suicide squeeze.

Grant Vedrode drove in two runs on a base hit for Post 295. Sacco took the loss, striking out seven in seven innings of work while allowing five hits and two earned runs.

"Gideon has proven to be quite the bulldog on the mound," Mur-

phy said. "We just need to clean it up defensively and we'll be a tough out."

The Spirits jumped on Post 295 early in the opening game, with seven runs in the first inning. A pair of Breckenridge Huskis, Justin Pryor and Jaden Ostrander, put together back-to-back hits for their only run.

Post 295 was coming off a split with Beal City, beating Beal City 3-1 and then falling 12-5.

Schick had an RBI double, while Aiden Schoof drove in two runs on a single and Elliot Bass

had two hits and scored a run.

Camden Smith from Breckenridge was the winning pitcher, while Barr picked up the save.

Nine unearned runs doomed 295 in the nightcap. Alma's Jayden Warner had a double and single.

Post 295 travels to Flint to take place in the Slumbuster Tournament this weekend. It is their final tune-up before heading to the American Legion state tournament where they will represent American Legion Zone 3. Their first game is July 27 against Hudson Post 180.



Angelina Lanham, an Alma High School alumna, was academic all-conference in softball after her sophomore season for Mid-Michigan College.

Lanham honored, moving on

Angela Lanham, a 2021 Alma High School graduate, concluded not just a successful career on the softball diamond but in the classroom at Mid-Michigan College, where she earned all-conference academic honors from the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

As a sophomore outfielder and left-handed hitter, Lanham was the only Mid-Michigan player to appear in all 48 of the Lakers' games, and was their leading base stealer with 35, while being caught stealing just four times. Her batting average of .319 was third-best among their starters, as was her .400 on base percentage. Lanham was second in hits for Mid-Michigan with 46; second in runs scored with 34; second in bases on balls with 15; and second in home runs with six.

Having graduated from Mid-Michigan, Lanham, a pitcher and outfielder in her time at Alma, will attend and play for Aquinas College next season.

July heat at Crystal Motor Speedway

Nate Jones from Alma was the Pro Stocks Feature winner at the "Yes to Kids" Christmas in July Celebration races at Crystal Motor Speedway. Ryan Teeter was Pro Stocks runner-up, followed by Tim Raby, Jack Emmons and Jake Headley.

Alma's Shane Spencer was second in the Street Stocks feature, behind Kolby Rohn. Timothy DeGroft was third, Joel Field fourth and Tony Vinton fifth. Kevin Rohn had the fastest heat time but didn't finish the race.

Logan Nickerson from Vestaburg was the Late Models Feature winner. He finished ahead of runner-up Ryan Vanderveen, ahead of Scott Baker, Derrick Hilliker and Mike Vandermark rounding out the top five. Logan Love, also from Vestaburg, had the fastest heat times.

There was a local feel at Crystal Motor Speedway in the IMCA Modifieds Feature, where Crystal's Myron DeYoung started ninth but placed first. Jack Dalman was second, followed by Blake Edmonds, Austin Wonch, also from Crystal, and Kody Johnson.

It was a great evening for Derrick Stahl in the Flinn Stock Feature, where he had the quickest heat then finished second in the main race to Mike Currier. Amanda Currier was third, followed by Josh Ridgeway and Jeremy David.

In the Pro Trucks Feature, it was worth the trip from the Lakeshore for Muskegon's Curtis Rice who started 10th but finished first. Jim Beltz was second, Brandon Weber, third, Andrew Weber fourth and Curtis Dancer fifth. Dustin Sowles won the heats.

In the 6-9-year-old first Mini Wedge Feature, Waylon King of Lakeview won while Reagan Fraley was second after running in the fastest heat. In the seconds 6-9 Mini Wedge Feature Kraton Ward from Ionia took the top spot, with Jaylah Kequom second. Allie Bringer had the fastest heat.

Vestaburg's Jonathon Rose was the 10-14-year-old Mini Wedge winner, followed by Ella Bringer and Ryder Yelsis from Ashley. Mallorie Warnke was first after the heats.

Crystal Motor Speedway held two full days of racing to celebrate around Independence Day.

On the second night, Mike Vandermark from Cedar Springs won the Late Models Feature. Vestaburg's Ashley Scott had the fastest heat then was second behind Vandermark, with Scott Baker, Brennan Bowen and Jimmy Gal-



ABOVE: Logan Nickerson was the Late Models Feature winner at Crystal Motor Speedway. RIGHT: Ella Bringer was the 10-14-year-old Mini Wedge Feature winner.

lager rounding out the top five.

Ionia's CJ Reisbig had the second-fastest heat then won the race in the IMCA Modifieds Feature. Crystal's Myron DeYoung was runner-up, with hat winner Aaron Raby third, then Calvin Stemler and Brody Bowser.

The Street Stocks feature saw Muskegon's Josh Sternberg first across the finish line. Andre Fidler was runner-up, ahead of Vandermark, George Wease and fifth-place Kolby Rohn. Ryan Alexander had the top heat time.

Mike Currier from Fenwick won the Flinn Stocks Feature, after starting in the pole position and leading the entire way. Ronald Fuhrman took second, then Mike Dexter, Isaiah Hopkins and Kevin Rohn.

The Pro Stocks feature winner was Riverdale's Dustin Weber. Then came Jack Emmons, Jeremy Spencer, Ken Small and Rob Westergard. Ohioan Terri Lynn Murphy had the best heat.

Ithaca's Justin Noack had the fastest heat in the Pro Stocks Feature, then Curtis Rice out of Muskegon did as he does, winning the actual race. Jarred Decker was runner-up, Mike Coble third, Curtis Dancer fourth and Brandon Weber fifth.

In the 6-9-year-old first Mini Wedge Feature, Kade Fidler from Elwell started second and finished first. Crystal's Stormin Hale took



second. Carson Welman had the quickest heat.

In the 6-9-year-old second Mini Wedge Feature, Lakeview's Waylon King was first and Stanton's Bayley Sooy second. Brenton Mitcheltree was first in the heats.

Saginaw's Ella Bringer brought it in the 10-14-year-old Mini Wedge first feature to take the win, ahead of runner-up Joshua Stafford. Peyton Cunningham had the top starting place.

In the second 10-14-year-old Mini Wedge feature, Kolton Well-

man from Kent City was the winner, with the aptly named Race Smith second. Thomas Crews had the fastest heat.

Don't question the patriotism of Mike Vandermark Jr. as the Cedar Springs native swept the Late Models Features over the Independence Day weekend, winning both the race and heat on the first day of races. Derrick Hilliker was runner-up, followed by Logan Nickerson, Jimmy Gallagher and Wade Witherspoon.

See **SPEEDWAY** page 11

SPORTS

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Ithaca's boys track and field team was named Academic All-State by the state coaches association.



Ithaca's girls track and field team was named Academic All-State by the state coaches association.

Ithaca boys, girls academic all-state

Ithaca's boys and girls track and field teams swept the Tri-Valley Conference crowns in the spring. And they're as gifted sitting at desks as they are running, jumping and throwing, as the Yellowjackets earned Division 3 Academic All-State from the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association.

Ithaca had the fifth-highest boys team grade point average, 3.859.

Ithaca's girls team grade point average of 3.74 was 10th in the state.

Athletes from Gratiot County also made individual academic all-state.

In Division 2, Alma's Michel Howey and Jacoby Dunlap were academic all-state in addition to their state titles in the shot put and high jump, respectively.

The Panthers' Ezgi Kurt was academic all-state for Division 2 girls.

Individual academic all-state for Division 3 girls included Madison Montgomery, Libby Maurer, Natasha Nowakowski and Izabella LaLone from Ithaca, and St. Louis' Natalee Hoyt.

In Division 3 boys, Ithaca's Bronson Bupp, Nathan Mikesell, Nicholas Mikesell were academic all-state, as was St. Louis' Landon Pestrue.

For Division 4 girls, Breckenridge's Ally Schmitz, Kayla Goward, Raegyn Mayer and Bay-Leigh Clapp were academic all-

state. Zander Mapes from Breckenridge was Division 4 all-state for boys.

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AUCTION

Marc Van Atta Estate

To settle the estate of Marc Van Atta the following items will be sold at public auction located at 7051 S. Rolland Rd, Blanchard, MI 49310.

From Blanchard travel east on Blanchard Rd 3 miles to Rolland, then north 1 mile to sale site. From Edmore travel on Wyman Rd 10 miles to sale site (Wyman turns into Rolland after curves) Watch for Pioneer Auction signs! Guns sell at Noon Followed by Tractors!

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Ryan Teeter was the Pro Stocks winner at Crystal Motor Speedway.

SPEEDWAY *Continued from page 10*

In the IMCA Modifieds Feature, Sheridan's Chad Wernette from Sheridan took first after starting in the second position – flipping spots from the heats with second-place Ken Zeigler. Zac Gilliland was third, then Aaron Raby and Austin Wonch.

Stanton's Brent Teneyck was the Street Stocks Feature winter, followed by Timothy DeGroft, Tony Vinton and Kolby Rohn. Derick Neitling won the heats.

In the Flinn Stocks Feature, Fenwick's Mike Carrier maneuvered from his 10th starting spot to win the race. Trenton Dingman was runner-up, followed by Colin Preston, John Karston – all the way from Irvine, Calif. – and Josh Ridgeway. Elliott Warnke had the top heat time.

Crystal's Ryan Teeter won the Pro Stocks Feature after turning in the second-fastest heat. Jake Headley was second, Jack Emmons third, Dustin Weber fourth and Chris Nethers from Water Town, N.Y. took fifth. Edmore's James Sagryn had the fastest heat.

Curtis Rice started his Fourth sweep by winning the Pro Trucks Feature. Jarred Decker started first and placed second, ahead of Jim Beltz, Mike Coble and Brandon Weber.

Kraton Ward from Ionia won the Mine Wedge 6-9-year-old first feature. Crystal's Stormin Hale was second after winning the heats. Mt. Pleasant's Jaylah Kequom won the second Mini Wedge 6-9 Feature, ahead of runner-up Waylon King. Brenton Mitcheltree was first after heats.

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AUCTION

Terry Moon has decided to retire and will be selling the following Real Estate, Tools and Equipment from his shop and concrete business at public auction located at 9918 N. Luce Rd. Alma, MI 48801 (Forest Hill)

DIRECTIONS: From the US-127 and M-46 intersection in Alma, travel west on M-46 1 mile to Luce Rd, then north 2 miles to sale site. Watch for Pioneer Auction Signs!

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Real Estate Terms & Conditions: At the time of accepted high bid a \$5,000 Good Faith Deposit certified check made payable to Alma Abstract & Title Co) must be deposited by www.escrow.com before the day of the auction. Auction terms do apply. Contact Lane Leppink for more details and your viewing schedule.





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PROPERTY OF TERRY MOON

Auctioneers Note: Terry has been in the concrete business for decades and has built a reputation of quality work. We hope you'll join us at his retirement auction. Auction will be rain or shine and possibly two rings so please bring a friend. Bobcat will sell at 11:30 followed by trucks and trailers. Real Estate will sell at Noon! Loader available sale day. Lunch wagon on grounds. From the Moon Family and all of us at Pioneer Auctions, thanks for your time and we look forward to seeing you there!

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LANDMARK *continued from page 1*

Deacon Rick Warner, director of Parish Life for the Nativity of the Lord Parish, confirmed to The Herald he is meeting with William Scott Jr., an architectural historian, co-author of a biography on Peters, and a Frank Lloyd Wright expert. The Kentucky resident who also has a home in northern Michigan plans to visit the former church on his way through.

Warner said of Scott will look at the building and see what architectural elements “could or should be saved.”

Warner described the original roof design of being poor quality.

“This building has had a roof issue from the day it was built,” he said. “The design just does not work well in Michigan.

The steep slope of the steeples had shingled roofing replaced in 2006 at a cost of \$34,000.

Two years ago, moldy carpet and rotted wood were removed from the sanctuary, spacious enough to seat 700. Since then, the pews that had been covered in carpet as part of the architectural design have been removed.

In an email to The Herald, Scott suggested Deacon Warner and the diocese will be known for destroying “the most architecturally significant building EVER built in Alma.”

Scott and former Alma resident, Nancy Graham, had forged a campaign years ago to save the building. Today Scott claims it “a tragic situation.”

“There was a 95 percent chance and a reasonable budget, the church could have been resurrected,” he said. “Nothing about that church wasn’t custom designed. From the carpet to stained glass windows -- pews alone could cost \$100,000.”

At the local end, Deacon Warner has hosted several town hall meetings to outline a plan before parishioners. While some favored preservation no matter at what costs, which is estimated at \$5 million, Warner acknowledged that a former diocesan bishop had advised building a new chapel in Alma.

Warner foresees razing the building except for a circular section to function as a chapel seating a few hundred.

An addition would be built to connect to the gymnasium at St. Mary School next door. For

well attended functions and Masses, a connecting wall would open into the gym for overflow crowds.

Warner anticipates scheduling late Sunday evening Masses at the Prospect Street site for Catholic students at Alma College to attend along with families returning home from long weekends.

Rev. Paul Werley, Parochial Vicar at Mount Saint Joseph Church in St. Louis, also conducts Mass on Sunday evenings and during the week at the chapel on the Alma College campus.

Werley also functions as the college’s associate Catholic chaplain on campus, according to campus chaplain Rev. Dr. Alissa Davis.

How it began

The property had been purchased in 1903 from A.W. Wright for the purpose of building a Catholic Church, according to the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office.

Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception was dedicated in 1906.

A school was built in 1950 and, by 1967, the clergy at the time favored replacing the old church.

John Hiemenz, president of auto supplier Lobdell-Emory Manufacturing in Alma, as a church member served on a building committee.

He had commissioned architect Peters to design his private residence on Luce Road and suggested he design a church.

Peters was affiliated with the Taliesin Associated Architect of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

According to historical documents, design of the church incorporated the Wright belief in human dignity and respect between humans and nature.

St Mary Church was built on an angle and into the earth to symbolize how humans are rooted to the earth. The design also reflected the aspiration of people lifting their hearts and minds to God.

The new building was constructed at a cost of \$565,000.

Deacon Warner reported a timeframe for a capital campaign has not been set or defined. Plans must first determine actual costs, he said, “so that we have the real cost picture that we can share with the parishioners.”



Two years ago, moldy carpet and rotted wood were removed from the sanctuary, spacious enough to seat 700. Since then, the pews that had been covered in carpet as part of the architectural design have been removed.

FAIR *continued from page 1*

Tickets purchased at the event, which get attendees a steak dinner cooked on site, cost \$20. The main attraction of the evening, of course, is the presentation of the Farm Family and Agribusiness of the Year awards.

Having spent many summers playing AAU basketball throughout her youth, Reeves knows all that practice makes for a better show. Mary Sopocy, who began her second internship summer at the fair in May, is assisting in those efforts. She spends a lot of time posting social media updates and organizing the efforts of Kids’ Day, which will take place on Thursday, August 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Last summer, Sopocy, who will enter her junior year at Saginaw Valley State University in August, still participated in the fair. She’s aged out this year, so she said she’ll like-

ly spend time in the office and help put out fires (hopefully, not literally) throughout the busy week on the fairgrounds.

As someone who spent many summers showing animals, small and large, at the fair, Sopocy might just personify the work ethic that comes from participating in such events. The future elementary education teacher is particularly proud of the work she’s putting in with the Kids’ Day vendors, including the police, firefighters, and emergency service providers who will be putting on displays.

“Vendors will give out free things to the kids and there are a lot of learning activities,” Sopocy said. “We try to make it as educational as possible.”

As for the education and some fun days to come, the county fair is just about a week away.

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Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Gratiot County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on August 10, 2023. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Stephanie Jill Hernandez, an unmarried woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Date of Mortgage: August 26, 2021
Date of Mortgage Recording: September 1, 2021
Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$145,977.04

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of St Louis, Gratiot County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at a point in the center of the St Louis and Alma Road, which is 7 chains 30 links Northeastly from a point where said road crosses the South line of Northeast 1/4 of Southwest 1/4, Section 25, Township 12 North, Range 3 West, Gratiot County, Michigan; thence North 40 degrees West to Highwater Mark of the Bayou, thence

Southwesterly along said Highwater Mark of said Bayou to a point which is 4 rods at right angles away from last described line; thence South 40 degrees East to center of road; thence Northeastly along center of road to beginning. The above description being Lot 9, Assessor's Plat No. 5, City of St Louis, Gratiot County, Michigan

Common street address (if any): 1016 Michigan Ave, Saint Louis, MI 48880-1018
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: July 13, 2023
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1503458
(07-13)(08-03) 28t4

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

Bethany Township Minutes for Regular Meeting on July 11, 2023

Present: Fowler, Howd, Mikek, Devine
Absent: Humm

- Others: Jan Bunting, Terry Coyle, Russ Teeter
Meeting called to order by Mikek at 7:00 pm.
- Minutes for June 13th read and approved.
 - Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.
 - Bunting gave us a recap of the tour of the jail and the need for the study to access needs
 - Devine updated that our trash pick up is officially on Monday's now.
 - Teeter wrote two permits
 - Fowler will investigate a payment made in error.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm
Submitted by Tracy Howd, Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, GRATIOT COUNTY CASE NO. and JUDGE 23-129-DE

Court Address: 214 E. Center St.,
Ithaca, Michigan 48847, Phone No. (989)
875-5231

Estate Evelyn Elizabeth Gendron (aka Evelyn E. Gendron, Evelyn Gendron), Deceased

TO ALL CREDITORS:**
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Evelyn Elizabeth Gendron (aka Evelyn E. Gendron, Evelyn Gendron), died March 13, 2023.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Donna Fisher, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 214 E. Center St., Ithaca, Michigan 48847 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

7/13/2023
Donna Fisher
1024 Argyle Ct.
Alma, Michigan 48801
(734) 647-5169
Schmerberg Law
Luke A. Schmerberg P75413
209 E. Michigan Ave.
Saline, Michigan 48176
(734) 429-4936 29t1

NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S TRUST

State of Michigan, County of Gratiot
Decedent: GEHL HOFFMEYER
Date of birth: 2/1/1939
Trust name: GEHL HOFFMEYER
TRUST U/V DATED APRIL 16, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The above names decedent, Gehl Hoffmeyer who lived at 9505 E. Monore Rd., Wheeler, Michigan 48662, established the above named living trust during his lifetime. The decedent dies on 7/3/23.

Creditors of decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to the acting successor trustee, GARY HOFFMEYER at 9505 E. Monroe Rd., Wheeler, Michigan 48662, within four (4) months of publication of this notice, after which the trust assets will be assigned and distributed to the person or persons entitled to the same.

Gary Hoffmeyer
Successor Trustee
9505 E. Monroe Rd.
Wheeler, MI 48662
Drafted by:
Todd D. Fisher (P60966)
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 30
215 W. Saginaw St.
St. Louis, MI 48880
Phone (989) 681-3025 29t1

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate STATE OF MICHIGAN, GRATIOT COUNTY

In re the Gene E. Kanitz and Cora J. Kanitz
Loving Trust
Dated June 17, 1992, as Amended October
11, 1994

TO ALL CREDITORS: *
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Cora J. Kanitz, who lived at 409 E. Saginaw Street, St. Louis, Michigan 48880, died April 16, 2023.

Creditors of decedent are notified that all claims against the trust estate will be forever barred unless presented to Terry L. Martin and Chuck Sadler, Co-Trustees, within four (4) months of publication of this notice.

There is no probate estate.
Date: July 11, 2023
Terry L. Martin
409 E. Saginaw Street
St. Louis, MI 48880
Chuck Sadler
52575 Stafford Drive
Macomb, MI 48042
Larry J. Trigger
(P34465)
Katsoulos & Trigger, P.C.
45700 Village Boulevard
Shelby Township, MI 48315 29t1

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, GRATIOT COUNTY

CASE NO. and JUDGE
23-123-DE
HON. KRISTIN M. BAKKER
Court Address: 214 E. Center St.,
PO Box 217, Ithaca, MI 48847, Court
Telephone No.: (989) 875-5231
Estate of Kevin C. Hoepfner, decedent,
Date of Birth: * 04/16/1980

TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Kevin C. Hoepfner, died 04/23/2023.

Creditors of decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Vickie L. LaLonde, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 214 E. Center St., PO Box 217, Ithaca, MI 48847, (989) 875-5231 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

July 17, 2023
Vickie L. LaLonde
527 Handy Dr.
Bay City, MI 48706-4292
(989) 274-8097
Rhonda M. Clark-Kreuer (P49818)
111 N. Mill St, PO Box 147
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