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Jayden Hilding, a 16-year-old from Riverdale, spends some quality time with Bill, his 1,000-plus pound steer at the Gratiot County Fair for Youth, which began last Saturday and runs through Aug. 5.

County Fair Opens with Great Weather, Enthusiastic Crowds

By William Meiners
Herald Staff Writer

The 74th annual Gratiot County Fair for Youth kicked off in Alma last weekend and fortunately for the many attendees, as well as the feathered and furry creatures, the weather seemed far removed from what might often feel like the dog days of summer.

In fact, it proved downright inviting.

By late afternoon Sunday, everything seems in place with the start of the Still Exhibit auction. With many animals moved in on Saturday, horses and cows stood tall in stalls, people perused caged chickens and turkeys, and the goats and lambs passed the time in their pens.

See FAIR page 5



Kaylee McPherson, a 15-year-old from Ithaca, gave her equine a bit of a spray bath. She said this 3-year-old beauty is more of a show than a speed horse.

New Principal Steps Into 'Dream Job' at Ithaca's South Elementary School

By William Meiners
Herald Staff Writer

A year after returning home to Ithaca to teach second grade, Bethany Vozar will make the move to building administrator as the new principal of South Elementary School later this month. A "dream job" for the lifelong resident, she will spend much of August prepping for the role.



VOZAR

Following rather quickly on the news of David Kanine's retirement at the end of the school year, Vozar was named principal at the Ithaca School Board meeting in late June.

"Beth worked as a second-grade teacher for Alma schools for most of her career before coming to Ithaca last year," said Steven Netzley, superintendent of Ithaca Schools. "She is an Ithaca alum, her family lives in Ithaca, and her children attend Ithaca schools. I believe her background and familiarity with our community are important advantages that she brings with her into her new role as the principal at South."

Indeed, the dream may have first taken shape as Vozar set up her Ithaca classroom in August of 2022 after teaching in Alma Schools since 2007. She told The Herald she's had her master's degree in administration for about 12 years, so the homecoming and the opportunity to become principal proved to be good timing.

"South Elementary is a won-

derful place to work," Vozar said. "There are great teachers there and they have great working relationships. Everyone is supportive, kind, and willing to help each other out. When you step into a culture like that, it's very welcoming."

Kanine, who led by example in establishing that welcoming culture, simply advised Vozar to put those relationships first. In a preschool through second-grade setting, teachers and staff are also helping raise these kids, instructing them much more than subjects on a report card.

"That age is just a lot of fun," said Vozar, who has spent her entire career in early childhood education. "These children love school, and they love each other and their teachers. It's rewarding to work with that age group because they're very impressionable."

Those youngest learners are developing reading skills and even learning the rules, noted Vozar, who will have both a kindergarten and second grader of her own in the building of about 275 kids. What's more, she said, "there's always lots of hugs to go around," effectively brightening any bad day you might be having.

The most recent board president of the Highland Festival and Games, Vozar grew up with a love of her hometown and even married Joe Vozar, her high school sweetheart. The couple has four children: Nora, M.J., Judah and Mitchell.

See PRINCIPAL page 5

'THERE IS SO MUCH WORTH SAVING'

Architect Holds Out Hope After Reviewing Condition of Former Alma Catholic Church

By Rosemary Horvath
Herald Correspondent

"The building is in terrible, terrible shape," summed up architectural historian William B. Scott following his walk-thru visit of the former St. Mary Catholic Church in Alma last week.

The Kentucky-based architect is vice-president of Taliesin Fellows based in Scottsdale, AZ, and author of a William Wesley Peters biography, the architect who designed the church that opened in 1969.



SCOTT

Scott toured the damaged structure with Jim Grace, chair of the

Nativity of the Lord Parish finance council and Lisa Seeley, principal of St. Mary School which is located on the same Downie Street parcel.

Scott's visit comes after five years or more of a push-and-pull battle over restoring the building or razing it.

Several issues are being considered. One is this isn't an ordinary building. It stands, or rather it once stood, as a perfect example of Modernist architecture developed by Peters and his mentor, famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

But as Scott surmised, the problems brought on by sections of the building's flat roof have gone on for 20 years.

See CONDITION page 2



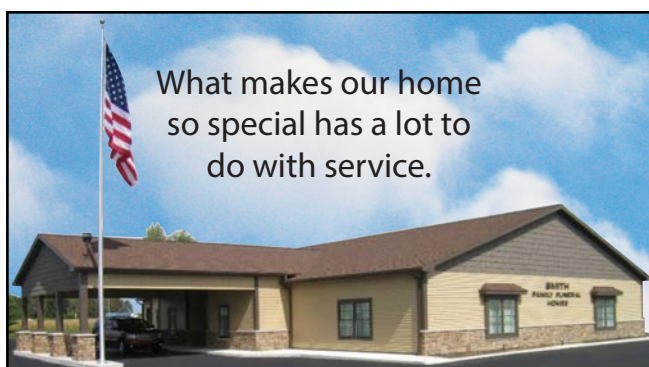
William B. Scott, a Kentucky-based architect and architectural historian, toured the former St. Mary Catholic Church in Alma last week.

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Historic Preservation Network Takes Stance Against Demo of Church

Editor's note: The following is a letter submitted to The Herald by Janet Kregger, founding member and current president of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network.

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) has learned that leaders of the Saginaw Diocese and Nativity of the Lord Parish who are overseeing the future of the former St. Mary Catholic Church in Alma are once again proposing demolition of this iconic building. The MHPN is writing to ask that another look be taken to preserve it, an idea supported by many both in Alma and around the state.



KREGGER

The MHPN is the statewide preservation organization that advocates for Michigan's historic places that contribute to the state's economic vitality, its sense of place, and our connection to the past. While we advocate for historic properties of all ages, we frequently are tasked with protecting the Modernist masterpieces of the recent past. These masterpieces are often threatened because the period of design is so familiar and can be dismissed as unimportant. "That can't possibly be historic. I remember when it was built!"

We would like people to recognize the important design tradition of which St. Mary is a part. Michigan is a global player in Modernism. The

state established its prominence because of the cutting-edge design work of the auto industry, the educational contributions of design programs such as Cranbrook, the architects being trained at such institutions as the University of Michigan, and the internationally-recognized designs of practicing architects such as Albert Kahn. Because of these powerful influences, evidence of very sophisticated Modernism is found all around our state, in big cities and small.

St. Mary is one of these highly sophisticated buildings. It was beautifully conceived by William Wesley Peters of Taliesin Associated Architects of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, with the first mass celebrated in 1969. The church was striking for the visual complexity created by its interlocking curved walls and sweeping cone-shaped spires. There is no one who visits Alma who does not see its spires among the treetops. Those who venture closer are stunned that such an amazing gem is just minutes off US-127. They also are stunned to learn that such a distinguished building – that other communities would be thankful to have! – is now threatened.

The MHPN is keenly aware that saving an historic property takes a community committed to its stewardship. We ask the Diocese and Parish to look at what it really would take. Has a preservation architect taken a look at its needs, and collaborated with a contractor who regularly works with historic buildings? Those who know how to work with historic buildings know the real cost of saving them. Returning St. Mary to use as a parish church, or reimagining a new use,

is not out of the question. This is especially true if the money that would be budgeted to demolish portions of the property, remove construction waste to a licensed landfill, and remediate the site become the first dollars applied toward restoration.

If stewardship is not possible for the Diocese and Parish, they have a cultural responsibility to turn its ownership over to another individual or group who will honor its history. There are examples of projects right in the city from which lessons are learned. For example, Alma College President Jeff Abernathy, Alma Mayor Greg Mapes, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and visionary private donors have shown a superb level of creativity in turning downtown's Wright Leppien Opera House Block into commercial retail space on the ground floor and student apartments on the two upper levels. St. Mary is no further away from the campus as the Opera House, and is part of a downtown that is thriving. Just because an adaptive reuse for St. Mary does not easily come to mind does not mean a talented team cannot release its potential and its economic benefits.

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network asks the Diocese and Parish to take another look at St. Mary. When an irreplaceable historic building is damaged or lost, our own connection to architectural excellence and an understanding of the past is weakened. We are charged with protecting this history. In the case of St. Mary, may preservation be practiced with the passion of faith.

CONDITION continued from page 1

"They should have been addressed when they saw the first water spot on the ceiling," Scott told The Herald during a phone conversation Monday.

Simply put, the flat sections of the roof were flawed from the beginning.

"A 3M product which was basically a rubber roof material could have immediately fixed the problem for a few hundred dollars at the time," he surmised.

Instead, roof leaks multiplied over the years, severely damaging parts of the interior and exterior.

But demolishing the building would not come easily.

Scott predicts a crane operator would need to disassemble beams in the ceiling that weigh several tons and estimates they are large enough that if one were to cut lose, it could severely damage the nearby school building or the parish office across Prospect Street.

However, he noted that the ceiling beams carry a "huge salvage value" today that could defray demolition costs.

Scott intends to meet with Deacon Rick Warner who was out-of-

town during his visit last Friday.

The deacon invited Scott to identify remnants of the interior that can be salvaged for an architectural collection or what elements can be reused in a chapel the parish has discussed building alongside the school gym.

Every inch of the concrete building reflected craftsmanship of the modernist design.

Scott was still processing his observations but felt the building could be restored over several years. It would take time for the interior to dry out once the roof-

ing flaws were repaired, he said.

"There's nothing I saw that can't be fixed," he told the Herald confidently. "The steeple came off the main section in the 80s and they redid the roof. There is no damage in the central part of the roof where the laminated beams are."

At the same time, he pointed out there is much that is worth saving to reinstall in a new chapel if one were to be built. "The craftsmanship of the interior can be refitted in a new building, There is so much worth saving," he said.

Mid Michigan Big Brothers Big Sisters Names New Director

The Mid Michigan Big Brothers Big Sisters Board of Directors has named Jeff Calhoun as the new Executive Director.

Jeff joins the Big Brothers Big Sisters team officially on August 7th and will bring his extensive experience and passion for our communities to serve Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Mecosta, Montcalm, Osceola and Roscommon Counties.

Before joining BBBS, Jeff was Director of Marketing & Business University Recreation at CMU for 11 years, Director of Marketing & Producer Development at Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan for

5 years and General Manager of the Lansing Lugnuts from 1999-2007.

Building relationships and partnerships where everyone wins has been a hallmark of Jeff's career.

Jeff has been a Big Brother with the same young man for more than 30 years. His belief in Big Brothers Big Sisters and the impact that the program has on the individuals and communities involved is profound and drove him to join the team.

"As a board we are excited to see how Jeff will help us to serve more families in the Mid Michigan area," said Sarah Kile, Board President.



CALHOUN

As the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 5 through young adulthood in communities across the country.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer at Big Brothers Big Sisters please call (989) 386-9304.

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THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Park Managers Tend to Grounds While Enjoying Great Outdoors

By William Meiners
Herald Staff Writer

There's not much of the Monday blahs for a couple of managers at the two biggest parks in Gratiot County — Reed and Hubscher.

Peggy Kosek and Michelle Stephan-Mayfield, managers at Reed and Hubscher, respectively, talked to The Herald about their daily routines throughout the grounds. Turns out those duties, for both, converge with a love of nature and simply being outside.

For Kosek, the early mornings are practically a moment of Zen. She describes the mist coming off the water at 7:30 a.m. as simply breathtaking. "I sent my family a little video," she said. "Here's your peace for the morning."

Stephan-Mayfield, about 20 minutes northwest in Ithaca, embraced the start of the week with the same enthusiasm. "I love the mornings. I just go around and clean. It's very peaceful," she said.

Other early risers, often walking their dogs, greet Stephan-Mayfield on her rounds. Like Kosek down in North Star, she'll spend much of Monday morning getting things back in order after a busy weekend.

"We had a fifth wheel in every campsite this weekend," Kosek noted.

Each park offers four campsites with electric hookups, which cost \$10 for the connection. Gratiot County residents can camp free, though a \$25 deposit is required. Leave the place clean and undamaged and your deposit is refunded.

Kosek said entire families often reserve the campsites at the same time. Six pavilions, all with electricity, can be reserved for reunions, graduation parties, and birthday parties. Most of those, she said, are reserved for every weekend throughout the summer.

Both Kosek and Stephan-Mayfield are in their third seasons at the parks. And like several of their coworkers, they work in schools (Kosek as the school librarian at South Elementary and Stephan-Mayfield as a paraprofessional in Carson City-Crystal Schools). So the May to Labor Day schedule, even with some prep time for managers in April) makes for a good summer job.

Reed Park tends to be a little busier. The once hidden gem in North Star now routinely attracts visitors from Lansing, St. Johns, Saginaw, Mount Pleasant, even Flint, Kosek said. With the summer heating up, the earliest swimmers are showing up for the beach. There's a beach in the back that's even dog friendly, though the hounds need to be on a leash. You can fish there, too.

Kayaks and paddleboards are available as rentals in the parks. You can drop your own in, too, but nothing bigger than a small, motorized boat. Around noon, Stephan-Mayfield greeted three gentlemen backing in a pontoon boat, ensuring they don't have a gas motor.

Pete Little, director of the county parks, which include the smaller parks of Luneack and Pompeii, works year-round. During busy summers, he checks the water each week to ensure that it's safe for swimming and fishing.

The grounds may be a little more sprawling at Hubscher Park. Stephan-Mayfield points out some of the fishing spots, including docks, where anglers are primarily pulling out bass, perch, and sunfish.

The boys and girls of summer can also enjoy baseball and softball on the well-kept, fenced-in fields in both parks. Kosek recalled a Sunday softball tournament last summer that drew enthusiastic teams and crowds.

Staying happily busy seems to be a priority for both women. Kosek works alongside fellow manager Kate Oosterhoff, who has been at it a little longer. Both Kosek and Stephan-Mayfield are in their third years at their parks.

Going from ranger to manager this year, Stephan-Mayfield noted the learning curve as almost every ranger was new. Though that routine, which includes great attention to detail, has crews hopping as they keep things pristine, clean up after storms, and help maintain order so all can safely use the park.

Open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, the parks, not surprisingly, see the biggest surge in visitors in the summer. Though they are open all year long for hikers and visitors. The last of the campers will check out by the end of September.



Michelle Stephan-Mayfield, a manager at Hubscher Park, finds peaceful work in her morning cleanup routines at the county park in Sumner.

Kosek and Stephan-Mayfield, by then back to their indoor school settings, may pick up some weekend work throughout September. Though it's those lingering summer days, underneath the canopy of trees, where each spent some delightful mornings, afternoons, and evenings. Some even worth texting home about.

Kosek points out a place on the Reed Park disc golf course. Someone actually talked about having a wedding out there, but it didn't pan out. Though there's a spot there within the shade of the first few holes that she finds heavenly. There are some branches from a storm a few days prior that need to be cleaned. Still, this is a good spot to catch her breath and breathe in the air.

"I love the activity," Kosek said. "I love walking and being outside. Just making the park look good."

Peggy Kosek, a manager at Reed Park, stays happily busy in her work, tending to the grounds and visitors of a well-kept county gem in North Star.



Public Hearings to Review Alma Parks Plan set for This Fall

By Rosemary Horvath
Herald Correspondent

In August, the Alma Parks Committee and city staff will review results of a recent park survey and comments shared at open houses. They will then recommend projects the city should tackle for improving the park system over the next five years.

This slate of priorities will be up for review at public hearings this fall, City Manager Aeric Ripley noted at the city commission meeting last week.

The last multi-year park master plan ended in 2021.

Of the 312 park surveys recently submitted, just under 40 percent were "somewhat satisfied" with the quality and current maintenance of public parks and recreation facilities.

Nearly 27 percent were "somewhat dissatisfied," while 9.4 percent was "very satisfied."

Of those surveys, 73.1 percent were submitted by Alma residents, while nearly 27 percent identified themselves from outside the city limits.

Of improvements completed over the

previous 5-year plan, such as new toilets at a few parks, a disc golf course, upgrades to parking areas and park structures, only 21.1 percent were very satisfied. Around 43.5 percent were somewhat satisfied, nearly 22 percent had no opinion, and nearly 10 percent were somewhat dissatisfied.

Some respondents expressed hope for improving King Park, as well as restoring the Pine River.

On another meeting matter, City Commissioner Daniel Wernick took exception to a second changeover that provided no explanation. He referenced a contract with McGuirk Sand & Gravel Inc of Mt. Pleasant to install an overflow drain across parking lots 4 and 8 behind the Alma College-owned Wright Opera House building. This extra cost totals \$152,205.30.

Ripley and Mayor Greg Mapes explained a larger drain will replace a drain buried only four years ago when the parking area was upgraded. Unfortunately, after heavy rainfalls, the undersized drain cannot handle the volume.

Ripley said this new drain should last 100 years, thus protecting nearby business-

es, as well as the century-old Wright building, during increased rain events.

This additional work will extend the initial parking lot rebuilding project by three weeks.

Wernick felt the change order ought to stipulate reasons for cost increases. If a better grade of dirt must be used or heavier equipment, then that should be noted on the change order, he said.

Public services director Dave Ringle was absent from the meeting.

In other business items, commissioners except for Laurie Harrison who was absent:

- Approved purchasing a 2023 4-wheel drive Chevy Tahoe police patrol vehicle through the state purchasing program. Cost is \$42,802.81 that also includes police equipment. This will replace a patrol vehicle in use.

- Designated additional financial institutions for city depositories: Michigan One Credit Union, Independent Bank, Fifth Third Bank/Securities, Gratiot Community Credit Union, and Gratiot Community Federal Credit Union. The city already deposits funds with large, local banking institutions.

- Finalized paperwork related to the creation of the new Gratiot Community Airport Authority.

- Listened as residents Les Rosan and Dawn Daniels expressed viewpoints during public comments.

Rosan cited what he defined as "safety concerns" that could attract curious youth. One is a burned-out structure on Eastwood Street and the other is a former sugar beet building on Woodworth Avenue. Both ought to be razed or bordered up, at least. He also called attention to entryways to the city along East Superior and Michigan Avenue that deserve upgrades as much attention as downtown, he said.

Daniels who owns and manages Ballyhoo Books and Brew expressed surprise at the extent of tree removal behind her business building where a parking lot is being rebuilt. She questioned whether the city has the right to retain the Arbor Day title "City of Trees" when it doesn't fulfill requirements. She went on to express concern over the possibility of the downtown area becoming decimated.

Health Department Confirms Harmful Algal Bloom at Hubscher County Park

During routine beach monitoring at Paul Hubscher Park in Sumner, it was noted and confirmed by The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) last week that an algal bloom had formed and tested positive for algal toxin microcystin.

MMDHD is recommending people and pets visiting the park avoid areas of the lake where the algal bloom is present, until the bloom dissipates. Warning signage has been posted in the impacted area.

Further inquiry by The Herald to MMDHD to learn more about the harmful bloom went unreturned by Herald presstime on Tuesday.

According to Michigan.gov, blooms can last days or months. They can also dissipate only to reappear weeks later.

Algae are naturally occurring plant-like organisms found in water. When conditions are right (during periods of warm temperatures, lots of sun, and high nutrient content), these organisms can increase rapidly to form an algal bloom.

Blooms can take on many appearances. They can be different colors, can look foamy or scummy, look like a mat on the surface of the water, look like spilled paint, have a green sheen to it, or even look clumpy. Most blooms are harmless, but some produce toxins, which can be poisonous to humans, animals, and aquatic life.

Actions to take where an algal bloom is present include:

- Obey posted public health advisory signs and/or beach closings.
- Do not let people, pets, or livestock near the shore or in the water in affected areas.
- Do not let people, pets or livestock drink the water.
- Do not let people, pets, or livestock eat scum on the shore.
- Rinse off people and pets with fresh water after contact with the water.

Breathing in or swallowing water containing harmful algal blooms and their toxins may cause the following symptoms in people: diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, headache, weakness, numbness, tingly fingers, dizziness, difficulty breathing, asthma-like symptoms, runny eyes and nose, allergic reactions, sore throat, headache, and allergic reactions.

Skin contact can cause rashes, blisters, or hives.

Animals, especially dogs, can become ill or die after contact with a harmful algal bloom. Signs of illness include vomiting, diarrhea, staggered walking, and convulsions.



A harmful algal bloom at Hubscher County Park in Sumner was detected in the water by the Mid Michigan District Health Department last week.



Rotary Presidential

Kim Hodge, owner of Daily Living Homecare, was recently named president of the Ithaca Rotary Club for 2023-2024. She is pictured here presenting 2022-2023 president Jared Macha, Branch Manager at Isabella Bank, a plaque with the Rotary Gavel for his dedication and leadership.



Don Rothenberger, left, Central Michigan chapter president of the Sons of the American Revolution, presented a check to Vic Simon, post commander at the Alma VFW in late July. The \$200 check will go toward the purchase of wreaths for the Wreaths Across America program. Bernie Grosskopf, right, the secretary/genealogist for the chapter, read a proclamation.

Sons of the American Revolution Chapter Donates Check to Alma VFW

By William Meiners
Herald Staff Writer

In late July, the Central Michigan chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) presented a check to the Alma VFW Post 1454 that will help honor veterans buried at the Riverside Cemetery in less than five months. The \$200 check will go toward the purchase of wreaths for the Wreaths Across America program.

On hand for the ceremony at the Alma VFW were Don Rothenberger, chapter president, who presented the check to Vic Simon, the post commander. Bernie Grosskopf, the secretary/genealogist for the chapter, was also there to read a proclamation.

On Monday, Grosskopf spoke to The Herald about SAR and the organization's philanthropic activities. "We honor veterans and support other patriotic organizations," he said.

All SAR members must be a direct descendant of someone who fought in the Revolutionary War. Grosskopf became a member since 2014 after finding out that his sister acquired the paperwork that proved a multiple great grandfather had fought against the British. As the chapter's genealogist who fields many inquiries from websites, he knows coming up with that proof is no easy task.

The Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in 1890 (one year after the founding of SAR), Grosskopf said, has about 10 times the membership of SAR.

A Montcalm resident with a Riverdale address, Grosskopf attends board meetings throughout the year at the SAR chapter that actively supports communities in Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Northern Newwaygo, Northern Oceana, Osceola, and

Saginaw counties.

Last December, The Herald reported on the Wreaths Across America event, then in its seventh season locally. Around 60 people braved winter weather on a Saturday to place nearly 200 Christmas wreaths at all the gravesites in the military section of Riverside Cemetery in Alma.

The national event, which was the brainchild of Maine businessman Morrill Worcester, began 30 years ago with a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Soon after, Wreaths Across America, a nonprofit organization, formed to expand upon that first Saturday event. Today, the wreaths are placed in thousands of veterans' cemeteries in all 50 states.

The event always takes place at noon on the third Saturday in December. Of course, with virtually the same ceremony happening at more than 3,700 locations across several time zones, it takes place hour after hour from east to west coast and beyond.

The Wreaths Across America ceremony included a 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps." Family members were allowed to say something about loved ones buried there, and then the crowd placed the wreaths on each grave. With each one placed, the person took a moment to thank that soldier for their service. In about a half hour, the crowd recognized the organization's mission to "remember, honor, and teach." After, those attendees were invited back to the Alma VFW for soup, coffee, and hot chocolate.

For organizations like SAR and the VFW, honoring service members is a year-round calling. Though it might seem like many months and temperatures from Christmastime in July, the \$200 donation will go a long way in recognizing those men and women in mid-December.

Community Foundation Awards \$65,267

The Gratiot County Community Foundation awarded \$65,267 during its Summer 2023 grant cycle.

- Child Advocacy received \$5,000 for the Shop with a Hero program to promote positive officer and youth relations, while assisting families in need during the holidays.

- Breckenridge American Legion #295 and Breckenridge Wheeler Township Volunteer Fire Rescue Department received \$3,091.55 to purchase and install an AED ma-

chine for the safety and wellness of the community.

- Alma College received \$4,050 for the Alma Enrichment Partnership Program to further encourage students at Alma's Donald L. Pavlik Middle School to explore and gain interest in Science at Alma College.

- Gratiot Emergency Housing received \$6,000 to aid Gratiot Residents who are facing a housing crisis and in danger of losing their residence or are in need of securing

a residence.

- Alma Police Department and City of Alma received \$15,000 to certify trainers in the area to provide age-based and appropriate self-defense courses.

- Alma College received \$4,625 to support community improvement projects in Gratiot County being led by high school students and their mentors.

- Healthy Pine River received \$7,500 to research the ongoing degradation of the impoundment waters of both St. Louis and Alma to seek to find viable solutions that can reverse the ongoing degradation.

- Ithaca Public Schools received \$5,000 to replace the existing volleyball equipment.

- His Place Family Enrichment Center received \$15,000 to revitalize the indoor community spaces.

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Alma's Kassie Acker Crowned 2023 Michigan Sugar Queen

Kassie Acker of Alma was crowned the 2023 Michigan Sugar Queen during a ceremony held Friday, June 16, at Sebewaing Village Park during the village's 58th annual Michigan Sugar Festival.

Kassie, 20, is a senior at Michigan State University studying agriculture, food, and natural resources education. She hopes to one day teach agriculture education at the middle school and high school levels. A 2020 graduate of St. Louis High School, Kassie is the daughter of Brian and Kathy Acker.

"Once again, Michigan Sugar Company is fortunate to have found a young woman who we know will be an excellent representative and ambassador for our company," said Rob Clark, Director of Communications and Community Relations for Michigan Sugar. "Kassie's knowledge of our company and agriculture in general, along with the quality of her character, shined through during the selection process. We are

looking forward to a great year with Kassie as the Michigan Sugar Queen."

Also crowned during the June 16 ceremony were two Queen's Court Attendants - Kylie Spiekerman, 21, of Saginaw and Maria Ivezaj, 19, of Macomb. They, too, are serving as ambassadors for Michigan Sugar Company for the next year.

The new Queen and Court Attendants jumped right into their year of service appearing in the Michigan Sugar Festival Grand Parade in Sebewaing.

"I am beyond excited and really grateful for this opportunity," said Kassie, who serves as a Michigan Grown Michigan Great Ambassador for the Michigan Ag Council, meeting with consumers to have meaningful conversations about where their food comes from. "I feel like my education and background in FFA has led me to this and I'm excited to bring my background in agriculture to the position.

"One of our partners at the Michigan Ag Council is Pioneer Sugar, so I'm looking forward to helping strengthen that connection as I travel the state both with the Michigan Ag Council and Michigan Sugar."

This year, Michigan Sugar Company received 17 applications through its Michigan Sugar Queen Scholarship Program.

Through the Michigan Sugar Queen Scholarship Program, a Queen and two Attendants are chosen to serve for one year as ambassadors for Michigan Sugar Company. Their duties include public appearances, community service projects, interaction with lawmakers and agriculture leaders, and helping to represent Michigan Sugar Company throughout the state.

After completing the requirements of the program, the Queen receives a \$2,000 scholarship and each attendant a \$1,000 scholarship to be used to help pay for college.



Michigan Sugar Queen Kassie Acker, of Alma, attended the Gratiot Fair for Youth on Sunday and posed for a photo with Mason Weburg, of Ithaca, who earned Grand Champion Honors for his sugarbeets.

FAIR *continued from page 1*

The dogs and cats already had their day — one Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, respectively — with shows in the covered arena.

Given that the fair is "for youth," and often billed as the "best week of summer," many young people spend some quality time with their animals. In the dairy barn, Jayden Hilding actually lounges on the back of

his steer, named Bill, even taking a selfie. A 16-year-old from Riverdale, Hilding has raised and bonded with Bill, a big fella just over halfway to a ton in poundage.

Although he has shown animals for five consecutive years in Montcalm County, Hilding noted this was his first in Gratiot County. He will lead Bill through the showmanship paces on Tues-

day and put him up for auction on Friday.

A three-sport athlete in Vestaburg Schools, Hilding may not think too much about football, basketball, and baseball during fair week. "I'm looking forward to hanging out with a bunch of friends," he said.

With Maple Leaf Amusements open for business after 5 p.m. Monday, no doubt Hilding will

spend some time with friends among spinning and high-flying rides. The carnival may not have been part of the party in the earliest days of the county fair, though the anticipation of spending time with friends had not likely changed in what's been nearly 75 years.

Last September, Linda Weburg told The Herald just how much 4-H clubs and the county fair brought young people together. She met her husband through the Beebe Beef 4-H Club, which celebrated its 70th anniversary last year. George Weburg even made the paper in 1955. Then at 14 years old, he was pictured in The Herald with his reserve champion steer at the county fair.

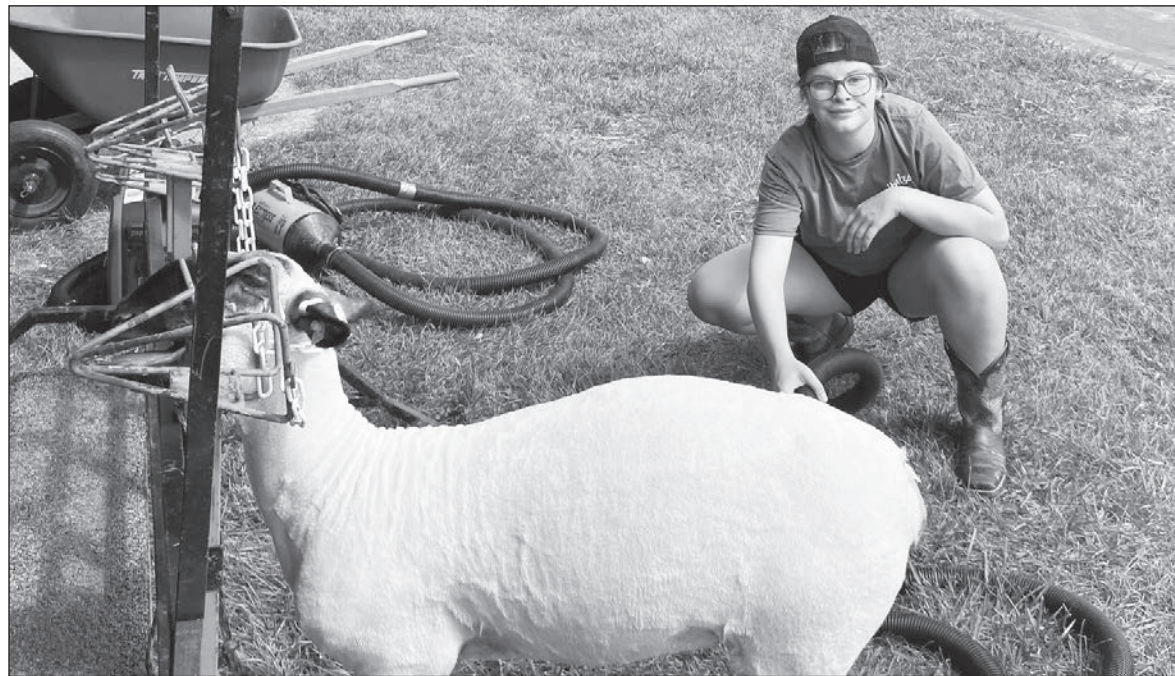
"We met each other through 4-H," Linda said. "We were both raised on farms, but we lived five miles apart and went to different schools. George went to St. Louis, and I went to Ithaca. I don't know if we would have ever gotten to-

gether if it hadn't been for 4-H."

Not long before the opening ceremonies in the covered arena, some folks took horses out to stretch their legs. A mother with a daughter who looked hardly big enough to ride, walked a tanned horse with blonde hair. A teenager rode a brown horse around the arena. And Kaylee McPherson, a 15-year-old from Ithaca, gave her horse a bit of a spray bath. It must be old hat for McPherson by now in her eighth year at the fair.

Not too far, Jennifer Davison watches her daughter McKia grooming her lamb Sassy. The 16-year-old from Alma said she's mostly looking forward to having some fun in her first time at the fair.

Through the next seven days, lots of Gratiot County youth will show off their agricultural skills, catch up with friends, and maybe make some new ones. In another 50 years, they may have some stories for their grandkids.



McKia Davison, a 16-year-old from Alma in her first year at the fair, does some last-minute grooming on Sassy, the lamb she was looking forward to showing on Tuesday.

PRINCIPAL *continued from page 1*

Netzley suspects that Vozar will take that family-like approach to her relationships at South Elementary.

"Beth is an experienced early childhood educator and knows how to connect with our K-2 students and their families," he said. "She has a servant's heart and a passion for serving our children and meeting their needs on an individual basis. She is well known and respected by the staff at South and within our community. Beth is a perfect fit for her new role as South Elementary principal and South will continue to be a very special place for our children and staff."

Within the next few weeks, Vozar might transition from summertime "mom" to newly hired prin-

icipal. Camping at the Gratiot County Fair For Youth on Monday, she would soon be watching a couple of her kids show chickens. Though in a building full of schoolchildren, the mothering instinct should come in handy.

School starts on August 28, but teachers and staff will be in a week prior to set things up. As for the new principal, Vozar is looking forward to continuing a legacy, both at school and within the community, of taking care of others.

"I feel very supported and welcomed," she said. "I'm excited for the opportunity to just keep serving families."

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Honoring Gratiot's Past Historical Organizations of Gratiot County Classic Car Shows in St. Louis



Shows of old cars have long been popular in Gratiot County and are still summer fun events. Streets are blocked so the cars can be displayed six-wide and as long as it takes. Old Car shows were part of the Fall Festivals in St. Louis and drew a large number of participants as well as folks who just wanted to walk among the cars and chat with the owners.

Below is an article that appeared in the State Journal out of Lansing. Date wasn't annotated, probably in 1960s.

115 Antique Cars Shown at St. Louis

A parade of 115 restored antique automobiles prompted nostalgic memories for hundreds of viewers at the fourth annual St. Louis Old Car and Classic meet Sunday.

President Forest Andrews of the sponsoring Central Michigan Old Car Club estimated that the participants and spectators numbered nearly 3,000.

Registrations, according to Secretary Waneta Hopkins, indicated the spreading interest in the growing event. Entries recorded included those from Detroit and several of its suburban cities, Lansing, Midland, Flint, Grand Rapids, Jackson, Muskegon Heights and Bay City.

Gaylord Kysen of Maple City, north of Traverse City, came the longest distance, driving his 1946 Hudson. The 1907 Maxwell, shown by Orin Hoxie of Elwell was the show's oldest entry.

A 1920 Buick won the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce "People's Choice" Trophy for Francis Burns of Charlotte whose 1913 Buick entry was second in the popular public vote.

Other trophy winners, announced by chairman James Schwartzmiller, were as follows:

Most Unusual – Roy David, St. Johns, 1923 Pierce Arrow Truck; best restored – Art Heist, Charlotte, 1926 Chrysler; best brass – William Nichols, Saginaw, 1912 Model T; best original wood wheels – Art Place, Saginaw, 1922 Studebaker; best leather – William Millard, Midland, 1930 Rolls Royce; best overall original – Vere Darland, Saginaw, 1936 Olds.

This year, Old Car shows started in late May in Ithaca with the Dust Off Car Show. St. Louis has a show "Classic Car Cruise In" in June, July and August. Last one of the season is August 9, 5 – 8 pm. In Breckenridge the car show was part of their 4th of July festivities.

And the "big" car show is the US 27 Cruise started 17th years ago and is coming to Gratiot County August 24th. The Cruise starts in Coldwater, Michigan and follows US 27 to Cheboygan over 6 days. The tour will be making stops in Ithaca, 11:15 – 1; Alma, 1:30 – 3; and then St. Louis 3:15 – 5. Another chance to enjoy history.

over the Back Fence

Bob MacDonald



While air conditioning appears to be a way of life and not a luxury, at least in business establishments, it does seem that especially restaurants keep the temperature far lower than need be. Probably it is because those persons working in the places of food dispensing are hustling around so rapidly that the coolness doesn't seem that bad to them.

Oh, well, it could be the other way around, and then we'd be complaining about that – or not even going into the place.

HERE WE GO into August and that means we are on the backside of summer. And what a summer this has turned out to be. Of course, I suppose not everyone is having a wedding in their family this

summer, but that one event can have a domineering influence on all other activity. The father of the bride does have some special functions which we will save for elaboration in a future column, if nerve will allow such a diversion from the regular role of dad.

WHY IS IT . . . that radio and television weather persons treat rain as an evil occurrence, when most of the time farmers are praying for water . . . that every time you go through and automatic car wash there's that sudden last look to see that all windows are closed . . . that you have to have an auto accident to show greater respect for intersections.

Published in 1977

**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

The renovation and opening of the former Opera House building at the corner of Superior and State streets in Alma has been delayed a few weeks. The historic structure will house Alma College students on the upper levels when it opens in approximately a month.

The annual Czechoslovak Harvest Festival will take place on Main Street in Bannister on Sunday, August 4. The event will include a traditional dinner, dancers, music, children's games, a beer tent and more.

20 years ago: 2003

Former Ithaca High School and Saginaw Valley State University baseball player Chris Ebright is pursuing his dream of playing the sport professionally and will be heading to Australia in September to play for the Morley Eagles.

Demolition has begun on the former Giant supermarket building east of State Street in Alma. The former Jorgenson's grocery, that was at one time also a Giantway store, was also torn down east of Woodworth Street. The work makes way for a potential riverfront redevelopment.

Joel Merchant of Ithaca hoped to raise \$1500 from the sale of his jar of championship dried corn at this year's Gratiot County Fair For Youth auction to donate to Make-A-Wish Foundation. Instead it was purchased by Cary's Pioneer Farm and Cary's Farm and Animal Supply in St. Louis for \$3200 after a lengthy bidding battle that had the crowd in a frenzy. The final bidders, received a standing ovation from spectators.

30 years ago: 1993

The first McCormick Day celebrated the arrival of new tractors to town. This year there won't be any new tractors, but there will be the same spirited celebration. The Ithaca Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the event, is hoping the wide variety of activities set for

August 14 in Ithaca and large number of participants will draw crowds as large as the "Agricultural Jubilee" of the early 19002.

After 26 years with eh Gratiot County Mental Health Services, Dr. Frederick (Fritz) Knarr has had his request for retirement approved. After suffering a stroke in March he is now committed to establishing a support group for stroke victims.

Saturday at 1:20 pm an Ithaca football player will hear his name called at the Spartan Stadium at Michigan State University and will take to the field in the 1993 Michigan High School East-West All Star Football Game. Jason Zamarron, a veteran of Ithaca High School athletics, was nominated for the honor by his varsity football coach, James Ahern.

40 years ago: 1983

Outstanding farm family honored at the annual Rural-Urban Day held last week was the family farm operation of the Roger Bovees and Leo Walkingtons. There were 1400 persons attending the event.

The St. Louis Lions Club has elected Dave Westlake, president; Bill Thiemkey, first vice president; and Greg Siefker, second vice president.

The \$27,000, 105 stall livestock barn at Alma Fairgrounds is officially opened with one scissor snip from Gratiot County Chairman Stu Strait. The ceremony took place Monday afternoon. The fair runs until Saturday.

50 years ago: 1973

Richard Allen, 39, of Ithaca, has been appointed director of the Michigan Tourist Council.

Foul shooting contest winners for the summer recreation program in Ithaca are: Tony Burch (4th grade league), Keith Clark (5th grade league), Brian Whiteman (6th grade league), John Church (7th grade league), Kip Beard (8th grade league), Sieman Bakker (9th grade league), and Joe Cook (JV winner).

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OBITUARIES

Dr. Kathleen Haley



Performance from the University of Michigan and was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Delta Omicron.

She went on to teach piano in the music departments at Cameron College, Lawton, Okla., and the University of Maryland. After a long and successful academic career, she changed course, completing the George Washington University College of General Studies Legal Assistant Program, and spent twenty two years with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Sutherland, Asbil, and Brennan, LLP, specializing in complex estate planning.

Known for her graceful nature, she was small in stature but powerful in personality. She was very well-read and had a great appreciation for the arts, and she was a wonderful host and tour guide to family visiting her in D.C. Traveling the world, discovering family history, playing bridge, enjoying spirited conversations about current topics, and spending time with her nieces and nephews and their families were always important parts of her life. She liked nothing better than laughing and reminiscing with her siblings.

Relocating to Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame in 2014 to be closer to her sister Winnie, she enjoyed her community, as well as the cultural opportunities offered

by the University.

Surviving are her sister, Mary Winifred Makris of South Bend, Ind., and her brother, Thomas (Patricia) Haley, of Amelia Island, Fla.; nieces and nephews who loved and admired her, Therese Dewar, Michele Dewar, Laurie Dewar, Susan Dewar (Sam) Price, and Thomas (Colleen) Dewar, Michael Haley, Lisa Haley Guida, Timothy (Cathy) Haley, Kathleen (Eileen Torres) Haley, Christine Haley MacNally, William (Krista) Haley, Andrew Makris, Carolyn Makris Smith, and Peter (Libby) Makris, and nineteen great grandnieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents; her sister, Marjorie Dewar; brother, Michael "Jim" Haley; sister-in-law, Marian Haley; brothers-in-law, Gerald Dewar and George Makris; niece, Maureen Dewar; and nephew-in-law, William MacNally.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Paul Catholic Church, Ithaca, with internment in the family plot in the Ithaca Cemetery at a future date.

Kathleen's family wishes to thank the staff and healthcare professionals at Holy Cross Village-Quinn-Dujarie, Memorial Hospital, and Heart to Heart Hospice for their kind and compassionate care.

Sandra Derrick



on March 16, 1974 in Alma, he survives her. She owned Country Friends Adult Foster Care in Summer, for 28 years. She enjoyed reading, crocheting, camping and was devoted to her family.

Surviving besides her husband of 49 years are their children, Janee (Jamie) Eller, Shelly (Tim) Springsteen and James Derrick; six grandchildren, Leah Springs-teen, Jeremiah Eller, Maddi Eller, Sarah Springsteen, Kaylee Eller and Kayden Derrick; her brother, Darwin (Joyce) Lindsey; sister-in-laws, Mary Lindsey and Sue Lindsey; also many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and brothers, Gordon and Robert Lindsey.

A Celebration of life Will be held on Aug. 12, 2023 at 5 p.m. at Tim and Shelly Springsteen's home.

Sandra Lee Derrick, 79, passed away on Mon., July 3, 2023 following a brief illness.

She was born in Carson City on Aug. 22, 1943 to the late Andrew & Elizabeth (Campbell) Lindsey. She married Rodney Derrick

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Berniece Wolfgang



Berniece Audrey Wolfgang, 89, of St. Louis passed away Fri., July 28, 2023, at Woodland Hospice House in Mt. Pleasant.

She was born on Nov. 1, 1933, in Flint, the daughter of Nelson and Anna (Parcells) Stevens. She married Ramon Franklin Wolfgang on Dec. 10, 1952, in Saginaw, a blessed union of 65 years until his passing in 2017.

She was a faithful and devoted Christian, accepting Christ as her Savior in 1964 at the Alma First Church of God, being baptized alongside Ramon. She served her church in many ways over the years. She sang in the church choir, served as the music librarian, taught Sunday School, and served as the Sunday School secretary and was president of the Women of the Church of God.

She also enjoyed volunteering with the hospital auxiliary and

was still currently volunteering with Stitch'n Stuff Sewing at the hospital for the past 27 years. She also enjoyed jigsaw puzzles, lunch with friends and classmates, walking and exercising. Her greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by two sons, Allen Wolfgang; Martin Wolfgang; four grandsons, Benjamin, Nathan, Christopher I, Joseph (Jenna); seven great-grandchildren, Collin, Madelien, Landon, Madison, Makenna, Christopher II, Connor; a sister, Phyllis Cline; and her brothers and sisters-in-law, Bonnie Russell, Janice (Paul) Holcomb and Dennis Wolfgang.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ramon; her parents; siblings, Clarence Stevens, Dorothy Pollock; and a brother-in-law, Ronnie Wolfgang.

Funeral services were held on Wed., Aug. 2, 2023, at the Alma First Church of God. A private family interment will be held at Pritchard Cemetery, Sumner Township. Visitation was held on Tues., Aug. 1, 2023, at the Alma First Church of God and continued on Wednesday until the time of services at the church. Those desiring may make memorial contributions to the Alma First Church of God.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Lux-Moody-Wolfel Funeral Home, Alma.

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COMMUNITY

95th Birthday



Ruth Smith will turn 95 years old on Aug. 4th. Her family would like to honor her with a card shower. Please send cards to Rosewood AFC, 1306 S. State Rd., Ithaca, MI 48847

5 Generations



Left to right Cierra Nixon (Mom), Robin Friesen (Grandma), Cheri Lounds (Great Grandma), seated Virginia Brauher (Great Great Grandma), Newborn Grayson James Nixon

90th Birthday



The family of Pauline McCaul would love to have you help celebrate her 90th birthday with a card. Her address is 10839 E Coe rd St. Louis MI 48880

In Memorium

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You are missed greatly and remain in our hearts and our thoughts

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.

Dun Day & Hot Dog Roast

Sat., Aug. 12th from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. At the Senior Activity Building (1011 E. North St.) & Atkinson Park

Fun games available: Croquet, Horseshoes, Ladder ball, Pickleball, Shuffleboard, and Walking Wanda's Walk

Reservations should be received by August 9th to be sure your hot dog will be waiting for you! Call 989-875-2135 or stop in at the SAB to reserve your dog! Bring a lawn chair – Donations accepted.

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.

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.

SLHS "Girls of '68"

The SLHS "Girls of '68" will host a summer get together for all SLHS Class of '68 classmates. Meet at Leppien Park in St. Louis at 1 pm. on Wednesday, August. 16th, (rain or shine) for conversation, re-connecting, catching up and to reminisce. Please help spread the word!!

St. Louis Gleaner Meeting

St. Louis MI Gleaner Harmony Arbor # 273 monthly meeting will be Monday August 21, 2023 at Forest Hill Nature Center at 5:30 pm.

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.

American Legion Meeting

The Alma/St Louis American Legion Post # 256 and Auxiliary will meet on Tuesday, August 15th, at 6:30 pm. The post is located at 1329 Michigan Ave., St. Louis, MI.

Gratiot Conservation District Announces

FREE Used Tire Collection Event for Gratiot County Residents Only

The Gratiot Conservation District is holding a free tire collection event to help Gratiot County Residents dispose of old unwanted tires.

Online Registration is REQUIRED.
Date: Saturday, September 16th, 2023
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Gratiot County Fair for Youth Fair Grounds

701 S. Lincoln Ave, Alma, MI 48801
Residents must register online. When arriving, please provide proof of residence in Gratiot County by showing us your current Michigan Driver's license.
www.gratiotconservationdistrict.org

Club News

Service clubs and organizations are invited to submit announcements of new officers, meetings and special events for publication in The Herald.

Due to space limitations dates cannot always be promised. Notices should be emailed to editor@gcherald.com or mailed to Gratiot County Herald, Box 10, Ithaca, MI 48847. Weekly news deadline for publication is Monday.

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HEALTH

Sparrow Carson Hospital welcomes Realtor Amy Murphy as new board member

Sparrow Carson Hospital is pleased to welcome Amy Murphy, a Realtor and former nurse and teacher, to our Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Board members help oversee Sparrow Carson, work closely with senior leadership, and bring broad experiences from various fields.

Murphy leads Team Real Estate RN at Keller Williams in Lansing and has been named to the brokerage's leadership teams for finance, technology, and education. She values philanthropy and co-founded an endowment at Sparrow's Herbert-Herman Cancer Center. Murphy's experience as an elementary teacher, an Intensive Care Unit and Critical Care Unit Registered Nurse, and Realtor bring an insightful and patient style of leadership to Sparrow Carson's Board of Directors.

She has three daughters, Clau-

dia, Olivia, and Maddy, and in her spare time, her favorite place is her cottage in Crystal.

In addition to Murphy, the 2023 Sparrow Carson Board of Directors includes Carol Wiles, chair; Daniyel McAlvey, vice chair; Roderick Coy, secretary; Kim Capps, treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, Sparrow Carson and Eaton; Mark Brisboe, Sparrow Carson Hospital President; Kira Carter-Robertson, SHS Senior Vice President, Regional Hospitals; Christopher Copp; David Freestone, M.D.; Michael Racine, M.D., Sparrow Carson Chief of Staff; Richard Schroeder; Renee Sopol; and Brent Wilson.

For more information on Sparrow Carson, go to Sparrow.org/Carson. To learn more about our governing boards, go to Sparrow.org/sparrow-community-health/about-sparrow/board-directors.

Sparrow Clinton Hospital awards scholarships to Clinton County students

Sparrow Clinton Hospital, on behalf of the Merten and Geraldine Whyman Health Careers Scholarship Fund, has awarded \$2,000 scholarships to five Clinton County students pursuing education in a health-related field.

The scholarships are being awarded with the hope of supporting the graduates in achieving their goals and, in turn, encouraging them to assist Sparrow Clinton's highly skilled caregivers in their efforts to provide leading-edge and compassionate care, close to home.

The Merten and Geraldine Whyman Health Careers Scholarship Fund, an endowment established in 1986, provides annual scholarships to Clinton County residents for education in a health-related field. The fund has grown thanks to additional contributions by community members. To

date, 336 students have received Whyman scholarships, representing a total education investment of more than \$385,600.

2023 Whyman Scholarship recipients are:

- Taylor Bierstetel, of Westphalia; Nursing at Davenport University.
- Erik Keisling, of DeWitt; Biology at Hope College.
- Faith Lutz, of DeWitt; Biomedical Science at Grand Valley State University.
- Zachary Pierson, of St. Johns; Pre-Medicine at Grand Valley State University.
- Lauren Schafer, of Fowler; Exercise Science at Grand Valley State University.

For more information on Sparrow Clinton Hospital, go to Sparrow.org/Clinton.

Sparrow Carson Hospital recertified as Level IV Trauma Center

Sparrow Carson Hospital has been redesignated as a Level IV Trauma Center, reflecting our level of expertise in providing crucial care to patients in our Emergency Department.

The designation from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is valid through June 2026. Sparrow Carson received its first Level IV certification in 2019.

This designation reflects Sparrow Carson's ability to assess, stabilize patients, perform diagnostic testing, and prepare patients for transfer to a higher-level trauma center for care.

"This three-year designation reflects much more than our state-of-the-art facility and highly skilled Emergency Board-certified physicians," said Julie Noreen, BSN, RN, Emergency Department and Trauma Program Manager. "To earn this designation, our nurses

and physicians collaborate on chart review of all trauma cases, engage with the community to educate on injury prevention, attend monthly meetings with the Trauma Performance Improvement Committee, as well as participate in ongoing education to ensure best practices are followed for the best possible outcome for patients."

The culmination of these efforts is reviewed during a one-day site visit from a nurse surveyor and physician surveyor, and a representative from the State Trauma Program. Surveyors review elements such as basic Emergency Department facilities, 24-hour laboratory coverage, the availability of trained trauma nurses and physicians upon the patient's arrival, and what transfer agreements have been developed for patients requiring a more comprehensive level of care.

"The trauma level designation

for Sparrow Carson Emergency Department further conveys our commitment to provide excellent care for our community. I'm proud of the dedication from our staff to uphold the standards of the American College of Surgeons for trauma care," said Sara Stadel, M.D., Emergency Medical Director and Trauma Medical Director.

Sparrow Carson's Emergency Department is currently ranked in the top 10 percent nationally for overall quality of care.

Hospital President Mark Brisboe said the Emergency Department team's "tremendous level of knowledge, skill, and compassion, combined with their over 300 years of department experience, showcase the level of dedication this team has in providing exceptional care to our community."

For more information on Sparrow Carson, go to Sparrow.org/Carson.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Partner to "oohed"
- Relaxing places
- Humorous monologue
- Simple elegance
- Bearable
- Disobedience
- Express delight
- Gov't attorneys
- Wake up
- A type of band
- Remain as is
- Turfs
- Battle-ax
- Volcanic crater
- The mother of Jesus
- One's life history
- "Rule, Britannia" composer
- Doubles
- Jacob __, American journalist
- House pet
- S. African river
- Broad sashes
- Establish as a foundation
- KGB double agent Aldrich __
- Part of a book
- Taxi
- Pancakes made from

CLUES DOWN

- Currency exchange charge
- River in Tuscany
- Breakfast dish
- Defunct European currency
- Upper class young woman
- Part of a purse
- Self-contained units
- Boxing's GOAT
- Legislators
- Flightless birds
- U. of Miami's mascot is one
- Floating ice
- Low, marshy land
- Seldom
- Lyric poems
- Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
- Full extent of something
- buckwheat flour
- Train group (abbr.)
- Frames per second
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal from a federation
- Guitarist sounds
- Greek war god
- 2,000 lbs.
- Helps escape
- __ Claus
- Naturally occurring solid material
- Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)
- Thirteen
- Partner to cheese
- Member of a Semitic people
- One thousandth of an inch
- Former CIA
- Most lemony
- Engage in
- Small Eurasian deer
- Provisions
- All humans have them
- Swiss river
- Famed Broadway lyricist Sammy
- Dutch colonist
- Full-grown pike fish
- Egyptian sun god
- Flute
- Flew off!
- Scottish tax
- Young women's association
- Populous Brazilian city
- Malaysian Isthmus
- Pointed end of a pen

CHECK BACK NEXT WEEK FOR THIS WEEK'S ANSWERS.

Join the Contest to Find Michigan's Biggest Trees

The 2023-2024 Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest is Underway

ReLeaf Michigan, the only statewide tree planting and education non-profit organization in Michigan, is seeking entries for the 16th biennial Michigan Big Tree Hunt contest. The 2023-2024 contest, which offers prizes for identifying the biggest trees in Michigan, is open to participants of all ages.

ReLeaf Michigan started the Michigan Big Tree Hunt in 1993 to celebrate our state's beauty and create a fun way to gather information about Michigan's biggest trees. The contest is an opportunity for all age groups to help track these vital historical living landmarks, and it is a great way to bring people, nature, and trees together in an engaging activity.

The largest trees in the state can be found anywhere: a backyard, a local park, or a hiking trail. The last contest received over 650 entries from 79 of Michigan's 83 counties, with over 100 certificates and prizes awarded. Winners are recognized for the largest tree submitted from each county, the overall largest tree in different age groups, and the largest White Pine (Michigan's state tree). The

contest also awards trees that may be the biggest of its type (for example, sugar maple). These are known as champion trees and are tracked at the state and federal levels. The state database is currently held and managed by the Michigan Botanical Society, while the national database is maintained by the American Forest organization.

As recently as 2012, Michigan had 23 registered champion trees, but today there are only five registered with at least one pending registration. Since hundreds of tree species don't yet have registered champions, the Big Tree Hunt is a great opportunity to add to this list and get Michigan trees noticed nationwide. Even if the tree you've found is not as large as the currently listed state champion of that species, we encourage you to still submit since the current champion may have died or have been removed.

More contest details and the entry form are available online at bigtreehunt.com. The contest will accept submissions until August 25, 2024. If you have a question, email bigtreehunt@releafmichigan.org or call (800) 642-7353.

Follow ReLeaf Michigan's Facebook page for updates and to see the "Big Tree of the Week," an entry from the contest posted every Monday starting July 31st. Paper entry forms will soon be available at over 200 libraries and natural areas across the state!

ReLeaf Michigan's Big Tree Hunt contest is only possible with the support of sponsors, and this year's Premier Sponsor is still available. Please contact Kevin Singer at 248-408-8266 to learn about the statewide exposure and engagement that a Premier sponsor will receive in association with the contest. Other sponsors include Consumers Energy Foundation and the Michigan Botanical Club. The contest also receives in-kind support from the Michigan Department of National Resources - Urban and Community Forestry Program and Michigan State University.

ReLeaf Michigan's contest is a fun activity for families, friends, or solo adventurers to participate in while enjoying the beauty of Michigan. Now grab your measuring tape, a friend, or a family member and head into the trees!

Biden-Harris Administration Takes Action to Advance Renters' Rights

The Biden-Harris Administration today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is advising landlords to inform people applying for and living in USDA-financed rental properties of their legal rights and protections.

Today's announcement is part of a series of actions to fulfill commitments made in President Biden's Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights that will increase fair housing practices and affordable rent prices for people across the nation.

"Ensuring people living in rural and Tribal communities have safe and affordable places they are proud to call home is a core part of USDA's mission," USDA Rural Development Deputy Under Secretary Farah Ahmad said. "That's why we are committed to advancing the Administration's actions to protect and educate renters and strengthen protections for people seeking affordable housing across rural America."

The Department is advising owners of USDA-financed rental properties to post a memorandum in common areas easily visible to all residents and visitors. It outlines legal requirements for property owners and/or landlords to:

- Promptly notify applicants in writing if their applications for rental housing are not accepted.
- Provide applicants copies of consumer screening reports that were used to determine if applications are not accepted.
- Disclose with applicants who are seeking rental housing the name, address, and phone number of the tenant screening company included in screening reports.

Today, USDA joined U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Federal Trade Commission and Federal Housing Finance Agency, to distribute guidance to landlords, operators, and stakeholders on their responsibilities to alert rental applicants about information that is collected in tenant screening reports.

USDA plans to host a listening session in Fall 2023 for rural tenants to discuss ways to advance renter protections.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate-smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

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Food with Friends

When: August 7th, 10:30 am to 1:00 pm
 Where: Atkinson Senior Park, 1011 E North St, Ithaca
 Each Food with Friends will have a team of seven representing their site participating in the games. There will be a "parade of nations" at 10:30 am at the Senior Activity Building with the games beginning at 11:00 am. Bring your favorite lawn chair and cheer for your team!

A picnic lunch of hot dogs, potato chips, baked beans, potato salad, watermelon and ice cream will be served at noon (suggested donation of \$2.50). Please call the COA kitchen to make your reservation, 989-875-5332.

We hope you will take this opportunity to enjoy the warm summer breezes, good food, fun and the company of friends. The other Food with Friends sites will be closed so all can participate in the games and picnic. We look forward to seeing everyone in Ithaca!

The Filling Station

Alma/St. Louis Site, 415 Park Ave., Alma

August means that the Alma/St. Louis site has officially been open for six months! Time has flown by, and I feel like I've known you all for years. Thank you again for welcoming me with open arms. It has been so nice getting to know you all and being a part of this wonderful community.

Friday, August 25th, the Filling Station will be closed. Please feel free to join one of our other sites for lunch!

Mondays, 10 am-12 pm: Sit and Stitch! Crochet, knit, sew, needle point, cross stitch, etc. All levels are welcome, bring your own supplies, and learn from your peers.

Wednesdays, 10:30 am: Chair Exercises. Beginner friendly!

Fridays, 10am: Morning Movies and Munchies! Bring your favorite munchies, and we'll watch some of your favorite movies together, or ones you've never seen!

- August 2nd, 12:45-1:45 pm: Bingo
- August 7th CLOSED due to Senior Summer Games in Ithaca. Come join us.
- August 9th 12:30 pm: Cooking for One. Join us for this fun class with Joanna Urban from MSU Extension.
- August 11th 12:45-1:45 pm: Karaoke
- August 15th 12:45 pm: Charger Plate Craft. Registration required
- August 16th 12:30 pm: Cooking for One. Join us as we wrap up this fun class with Joanna Urban from MSU Extension
- August 21st 12:45-1:45pm: Karaoke
- August 23rd, 12:45 pm: Painting class. Registration required
- August 25th CLOSED
- August 28th 12:45-1:45 pm: Bingo
- August 30th 12:30 pm: Pine Cone Wreaths. Registration required
- September 1st 12:30 pm: Pine Cone Wreaths. Registration required

Broadway Presents:

Funny Girl

Sun., Sept. 24, 2023

DeVos Performance Hall, Grand Rapids

The next trip will be heading to Grand Rapids to take in the touring Broadway show Funny Girl. At the time of publishing, tickets have not gone on sale, so the price and other details are yet to be determined. But, we don't want you to miss out as tickets will be limited! Call and sign up if you think this is a trip you would like to go on. More details will be in the September issue of the Senior Gratiot.

Funny Girl is a biographical musical comedy-drama loosely based on the life and career of Fanny Brice, a major Broadway, radio and pop music star of the 1920's and 1930's, and her relationship with entrepreneur and gambler, Nicky Arnstein. Fanny Brice is a girl from the Lower East Side who dreamed of a life on stage. Everyone told her she'd never be a star, but then something funny happened... she became one of the most beloved performers in history, shining brighter than the brightest lights of Broadway. Featuring one of the greatest musical scores of all times, you will hear celebrated classic songs, including "Don't Rain on my Parade", "I'm the Greatest Star", and "People".

If this sounds like fun, don't forget to call 989.875.5246 and get your name on the list as tickets are limited!

Gratiot Community Personal Needs Pantry

The residents of Gratiot County are continuing to be served by the Gratiot Community Personal Needs Pantry with supplemental personal care items which cannot be purchased with a Bridge/SNAP card during this difficult time. The pantry is able to provide a pre-packed bag containing 4 rolls of toilet paper, a tube of toothpaste, dish soap, 2 bars of soap, laundry soap and other items, if available, upon request. These items are available thanks to the generous donations received from individuals, churches, and non profit organizations.

The Personal Needs Pantry is open to all Gratiot County residents. A client may use the pantry every 28 days and will need to present identification when they come. Please come to the rear of the church and remain in your vehicle. A volunteer will meet you and provide you with your bag of items.

Location: St. Louis 1st United Methodist Church
 116 S. Franklin St., St. Louis (Next to the 7-Eleven)
 When: Every Thursday, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

A big thank you goes out to the volunteers of the community for their dedication to the pantry. If you have any questions, please contact the church at 989-681-3320.

Estate Planning Legal Assistance Only

Region VII Area Agency on Aging provides legal assistance to older adults in our community for estate planning. If you need legal assistance, contact Region VII's Legal Department, 800-858-1637. After getting some general information, the attorney will contact you within 7 to 10 business days.

Sharps Disposal Program

The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMD-HD) is pleased to announce that it is now accepting used sharps from people who live in Gratiot County.

Many people aren't aware that throwing used sharps in the garbage puts family members and others in the community at risk. The best way to help prevent injury and infection is to place all used or unneeded sharps in a proper container and take them to a collection site. Gratiot County residents may take advantage of this freeservice by bringing their sharps containers to the Health Dept., located at 151 Commerce Dr., Ithaca, Mon.-Fri. from 8:00-12:30 and 1:00-4:30. Once inside the building, follow the signs to the Environmental Health Department.

Sharps must be in a medical sharps container or hard sided plastic container (i.e. laundry detergent jug) in order to be accepted. You cannot use a water bottle or milk jug. To ensure everyone's safety, the container's lid should be closed tightly and taped shut. Check with your local pharmacy to purchase a medical sharps container.

This program is for Gratiot County residents only. Commercially generated sharps will not be accepted. If you have any questions, please call 989-875-1002.

Emergency Address Signs

Make sure first responders know where to find you in case of an emergency. Reflective address signs and numbers make it easy to find your house in case of an emergency. Police, Fire and emergency responders are recommending all homeowners, tenants and businesses display their address in a highly visible, reflective material for an accurate first response.

The Commission on Aging Home Chore department is able to install these signs at your home. The signs can be attached to an existing mailbox post or fence post where it can be easily seen from the road. There is no charge for the sign, however, if you need a post installed, you would need to pay for those materials. We will gladly accept donations for labor.

If this is something that you might be interested in having installed, please call Commission on Aging at 989-875-5246 and let us know. We will get the information to the Home Chore department and Dan and the crew will get a sign installed!

Loan Closet

Commission on Aging has the ability to loan adaptive equipment out, dependent upon supply. The loan closet is available to seniors (60 years of age or older) who live in Gratiot County and may be in need of adaptive medical equipment. This includes walkers, grab bars, bedside commodes, etc.

Also available (quantities are limited) are disposable bed pads and incontinent supplies. If you are in need of something, please call 989-875-5246 to see if we have the item available.

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7 8-10 SAB Coffee 10:30 Senior Summer Games and Picnic Lunch	8 8-10 SAB Coffee, Celebrate Linda's Birthday 10:00 EZ Motion 12:00 Soup & Salad Food with Friends Meal 7:00 VFW Post #7805	9 8-10 SAB Coffee 10:00 Knitting Group 12:00 Food with Friends Meal 12:45 Dominoes 1:00 Horseshoes or Cornhole	10 8-10 SAB Coffee 10:00 EZ Motion 11:00 Wii Bowling 12:00 Soup & Salad Food with Friends Meal	11 8-10 SAB Coffee 12:00 Food with Friends Meal 1:00 Otago Exercise Program	12 SAB FUN DAY 11:00-1:00 Games and Hot Dog Roast
14 8-10 SAB Coffee 12:00 Food with Friends Meal 12:40 Bingo 2:00 Dulcimers	15 8-10 SAB Coffee 10:00 EZ Motion 12:00 Soup & Salad Food with Friends Meal 1:15 SAB Board Meeting	16 8-10 SAB Coffee 10:00 Knitting Group 12:00 Food with Friends Meal 12:45 Dominoes 1:00 Horseshoes or Cornhole 7:00 A-Tractive Tractor Club	17 8-10 SAB Coffee 10:00 EZ Motion 11:00 Wii Bowling 12:00 Soup & Salad Food with Friends Meal	18 8-10 SAB Coffee 12:00 Food with Friends Meal 1:00 Otago Exercise Program	19
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Succession Plan

Walden follows Walden on Fulton sideline

By Stephen Bell
Herald sports editor

There will be one adjustment Fulton's varsity boys basketball players won't have to make when the 2023-24 season commences – they can still say “Coach Walden.”

Tyler Walden, a 2012 Fulton graduate, succeeds his father, Todd Walden, on the Pirates' bench, where in 27 seasons the coaching patriarch won 376 games and had three teams reach the state finals.

One of those teams, in 2011, made it all the way to the state championship game, memories that spur Tyler Walden to this day. Their Class D state semifinal win was a classic, coming from down 14 with under 6 minutes to play, to beat Detroit Westside Christian, 59-55. Walden would nail two free throws with under 10 seconds to play to seal it with his game-high 18th and 19th points.

“Those teammates are my best friends to this day,” Walden said.

And a group that has formed a prolific coaching tree, as Zach Baker, Corey Hungerford and Brandon Trefil have all coached varsity girls basketball, with Baker and Hungerford on the DeWitt boys staff last season. This will be Walden's first varsity opportunity after coaching seventh-grade for six years, then Fulton's junior varsity the past three seasons. Now, he hopes to give future generations of Pirate athletes similar memories.

By the time he graduated Walden was ensconced in the state record book with 272 career three-pointers. That's still good for ninth all-time,



Todd Walden (left), who retired as head varsity boys basketball coach at Fulton earlier this year, passed the reins to his son, Tyler Walden (right), a former Pirate standout who spent the last three seasons coaching the program's junior varsity squad.



tied with Foster Loyer. Another Todd Walden protégé, 2016 Fulton grad Colton Anes, is sixth with 292.

“This is special for me,” Walden said. “I've been around the program for as long as I can remember, as a water boy, to a player, to now coaching. I just want to do the best I can to give back to a program that's meant so much to me for 15, even 20 years.”

His time coaching middle school and JV ball as the head coach has helped the transition for Walden, to get to this point.

“You don't really understand until you're in that situation,” he said.

“It's probably more stressful than playing, you don't have control on the outcome of the game. You have to sit back and realize it's a long season and you can't get worked up over individual possessions and games. You're trying to build up and get better every practice, emphasize getting better every single day, and not put too much pressure on that one game, but work towards the goal in March.”

While his own man, and coach, Walden is also a grateful son, and echoes what others have said after playing for his dad.

“To work directly with my dad

the last three years was pretty cool,” he said. “It was different, coaching with him than playing for him, obviously I was a lot older, and that helped me see everything he'd told us come full circle, and really make sense. He's a great coach, but an even better person and dad, so that's been really special these last 10, 15 years. As a 14-, 15-, 16-year old kid, you might just think we're here to play basketball. But the stuff you really learn can take years to realize, lessons that you can use as you become an adult.”

The basketball itself may not look much different. If it ain't broke,

why fix it – and Fulton was a district and regional champion as recently 2022. While the 2023-24 squad will have graduated leading scorer and all-county guard Bruce Thelen, it should be a deeper team after various young players getting playing time last season.

“Our style will depend on personnel, obviously that will change year-to-year,” Walden said. “But defense will be an aspect that's always preached. We'd like to get up and down and score a lot, but if you can't guard anyone, you're not going to be successful.”

See WALDEN page 13

Local Post 295 third at American Legion state tourney

Featuring 10 Gratiot County high school players, the American Legion Post 295 baseball team finished third at the Michigan American Legion State Tournament in Escanaba.

Post 295, based out of Breckenridge, beat Gaylord 4-2 and avenged an earlier loss to Hudson, 12-2, to reach the semifinals via the losers' bracket only to fall to Gladstone 10-2. Trenton would beat Gladstone in the final. Post 295 battled back through the tournament after opening with a 12-2 loss to Hudson.

“It was a great experience and we couldn't have been more proud of our men and how they composed themselves throughout the season,” Post 295 manager Danny Smith. “Now that we've got a look at what it takes to win the state championship, we'll begin working towards that goal for the 2024 season.”

In their last game of the season, against Gladstone, Post 295 trailed 3-2 after three innings a 4-2 after a Gladstone solo shot after four innings. But it got out of hand in the top of the sixth when Gladstone combined three singles with three Post 295 errors en route to the game's final 10-2 score.

Grant Vedrode paced Post 295 with three hits. Jaden Ostrander from Breckenridge took the pitching loss.

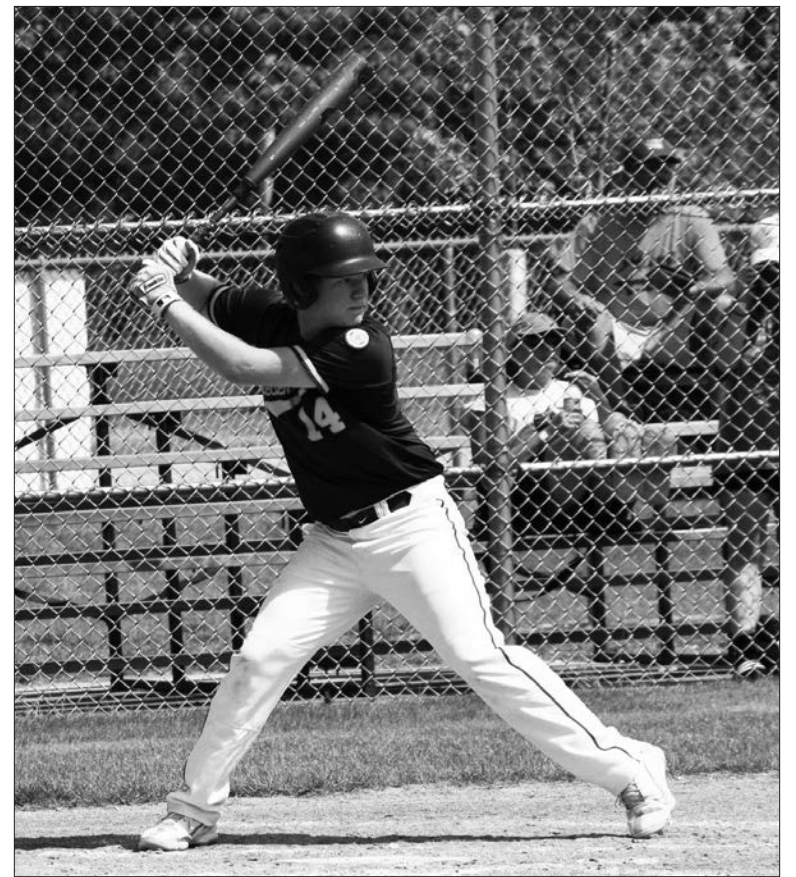


LEFT: Jaden Ostrander of Breckenridge pitches for Post 295 in the American Legion Baseball State Championship in Escanaba. RIGHT: Jayden Warner from Alma bats for Post 295 at the Legion State Championship. Post 295 finished third.

Post 295 took an early 1-0 lead in the top of the first in the tournament opening game with Hudson. Hudson opened it up putting five across in the bottom of the second, and won 12-2.

Breckenridge's Andrew Zuniga led Post 295 at the plate with three singles.

That sent Post 295 to their first elimination game, and they responded to the pressure against



Gaylord. Post 295 led 1-0 after the first when Braxton Schick's double drove home Alma's Jayden Warner. They trailed 2-1 going into the bottom of the fifth. Then Gideon Sacco of Alma singled,

followed by back-to-back doubles by Warner and Vedrode then a two-out double by Elliot Bass scored Sacco, Warner and Vedrode made it 4-2, a tally that would hold.

See POST 295 page 13

SPORTS

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Curtis Rice, seen last season, was Pro Trucks Feature winner last Saturday at Crystal Motor Speedway.

Crystal Motor Speedway results

Early morning rains gave way to a dry track by last Saturday evening for another round of racing at Crystal Motor Speedway.

Midland's Derrick Hilliker was the late Model A Feature winner, coming from his ninth starting spot to win for the second week in a row. Scott Baker was second, Mike Vandermark third, Garrett Wiles fourth and Jeff Kohn fifth. Jimmy Gallagher from St. Johns had the fastest heat time.

Ashlee Scott won the Late Models B Feature, with Michael Archer runner-up. Ithaca's Chris Rinard was third after winning pole position. JC Witherspoon was fourth and Alma's Eric Monk placed fifth.

Local Myron DeYoung from Crystal won the IMCA Modifieds Feature. Brody Bowser was second, Bree Wonch third, Austin

wonch fourth and Zac Gilliland fifth. Billy Free had the quickest heat.

The Street Stocks Feature went to Andrew Fidler. Gary Buskirk had the fastest qualifying time and placed second. Andrew Bogart was third, Timothy DeGroft fourth and Kolby Rohn fifth.

Mike Currier repeated as Flinn Stocks Feature winner. Kevin Rohn was second, Don Fenner third, Isaiah Hopkins fourth and John Karston fifth. Ronald Fuhrman turned in the fastest heat time.

The Pro Stocks Feature was won by Rob Putt. Chris Nethers finished second, Ryan Nethers third, Dustin Weber fourth and Ryan Teeter fifth. Mason Cowan from St. Johns had the top heat time.

Muskegon's Curtis Rice won the Pro Trucks Feature. He bested

Jim Beltz, third-place Ernest Strouce, Andrew Weber and Mike Coble. Jarred Decker earned the top starting spot.

The Great Lakes Lightning Sprints were won by Justin Ward, ahead of Jay Steinbach, Matt Cogley, Noah Wilfong and fifth-place Mack Erickson. Cogley had the fastest heat.

Allie Bringer of Hemlock started the race in pole position and finished in first in the Mini Wedge 6-9 Feature 1, ahead of runner-up Kade Fidler.

Trinity Rose from Vestaburg won the Mini Wedge 6-9 Feature 2. Reagan Haley had the fastest heat and placed second.

Vestaburg's Jonathon Rose won the Mine Wedge 10-14 Feature. Thomas Crews was second after placing first in the heats.



A member of Alma College's NCAA championship spirit squads in 2017-2018, Julia Bradfield was named the Scots' new head coach.

Alma taps national champion alumna as head spirit coach

Julia Bradfield has been hired as Alma College's fourth head spirit squad coach, as announced by Alma director of athletics Sarah Dehring last week.

"We are pleased to have Julia joining our staff to lead spirit squad," Dehring said. "This presents a very good opportunity to further develop and grow the program. We look forward to seeing the positive impact that Julia can have on Alma, and the student-athletes, as she continues to move the program forward into the future."

Bradfield returns to the Scots, after a three-year stint with Charlotte High School. After two years with the Orioles as an assistant coach, she had spent the 2023 season as the team's head coach. That 2023 season saw Charlotte earn a district championship, and Bradfield be named district coach of the year.

"I'm so excited to be named head coach of the Alma College spirit squad," Bradfield said. "I can't wait to meet the team and start working towards our goals. This team has shown such growth in their short time at Alma and I cannot wait to see what all we can accomplish together."

"Joining the coaching staff for Alma cheer and STUNT is truly a dream come true. I'm looking forward to meeting the team and giving back to the program that means so much to me."

Bradfield -- Julia Mocere during her time as an undergraduate -- is a 2019 graduate of Alma College, where she was a 4 year Cheer/STUNT student-athlete. In her 4 years as a Scot, she helped Alma to a pair of NCAA national championships in 2017 and 2018, as well as 48 STUNT victories, and four appearances at STUNT Nationals.

WALDEN *Continued from page 12*

Where Fulton has been particularly successful, is in the post-season. While the regular season records weren't always pristine battling for years against bigger Class C powers in the CMAC, March is when then Pirates shine.

"We only won the league twice, but we finished in the top half most of the time, and it certainly did a good job preparing us for the tour-

namment," Todd Walden said after his retirement. "We'd play six or seven games a year in the conference against teams that were better than anyone we'd play until the regional finals or quarterfinals."

Fulton won 11 district and five regional championships during that time, making that state championship game in 2011, losing to perennial state power Wyoming

Tri-Unity Chrsitan, and the Class D state semifinals in consecutive seasons, 2015 and 2016.

"Our coaching staff knows In January and February what buttons to push, what we're building up for," Tyler Walden said. "League championships are great, but we're trying to peak in early March, because anything can happen that time of year."

POST 295 *Continued from page 12*

Sacco pitched six innings for the victory. He struck out six while surrendering just three hits. Schick, also from Alma, came in to get the save shutting out Gaylord in the seventh.

Vedrode, the all-state football player from Merrill, had three hits.

That gave Post 295 the chance to pay back Hudson for the opening loss, which they did by a 9-7 score. They scored six in the bottom of the fourth for a 4-3 lead, then scored three more in the bottom of the fifth.

In the top of the sixth, Hudson answered with three runs of their own -- all with two outs on a flurry of a hit batter, consecutive errors and a walk.

With Schick having reached his

pitch limit, he was relieved in the seventh by Ostrander. After filling the bases, Hudson scored on a fielder's choice to make it 9-7. A walk again loaded the bases for Hudson's leading hitter. But Ostrander forced him into a check swing grounder back to the mound with a 1-2-3 double-play to win

the game.

Zuniga led Post 295 offensively with a pair of hits. Ostrander scored twice after reaching base three times on walks.

Post 295 finishes the season -- its first since 1996 before the program renewed this summer -- with a 13-15 record.

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LEGALS

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 Southwestly 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 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 24, 2023. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automat-

ically 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): Aaron D Buchanan, single man

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 11, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: August 16, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$182,639.09

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Ithaca, Gratiot County, Michigan, and described as: The South 160 feet to the East 193 feet to the South 1/4 of the North 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4, EXCEPT the South 33 feet thereof, Section 31, Town 11 North, Range 2 West, City of Ithaca, Gratiot County, Michigan.

Common street address (if any): 807 N Union St, Ithaca, MI 48847-1261

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 27, 2023

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515 1504342 (07-27)(08-17) 30t4

ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATE SERVICE STATE OF MICHIGAN IN THE 29TH CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF GRATIOT CASE NO. 23-0569-CH

VIRGINIA CAMP, Plaintiff v RICHARD L. AFTON and all predecessors in title to named Defendant, Defendant. Justin D. English (P71565) ENGLISH LAW OFFICE, PLC, Attorney for Plaintiff, 120 W. Exchange St., Ste. 104, Owosso, MI 48867. ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATE SERVICE BY PUBLICATION at a session of said Court, held in the City of Ithaca, County of Gratiot, State of Michigan, this the 13th day of JULY, 2023. PRESENT HONORABLE CORI E. BARKMAN A Complaint to Quiet Title for the real property located at in the City of Alma, County of Gratiot, State of Michigan legally described as:

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PREMISES SITUATED IN THE CITY OF ALMA, COUNTY OF GRATIOT AND STATE OF MICHIGAN TO-WIT:

LOT 2, BLOCK 5, Oak Grove Addition, City of Alma, Gratiot County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof in Liber 1, Page 109, Gratiot County Records. PARCEL ID: 2951-021-120-00, has been commenced by Plaintiff against the Defendant Richard L. Afton and all predecessors in title to named Defendant in the Gratiot County Circuit Court for the State of Michigan. Said Defendants, their heirs, assigns,

predecessors, or successors in interest, must answer or take other action permitted by law within 28 days after the last date of publication and serve the same on Plaintiff as required by law. If the Defendants do not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered against him, her or it for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Prepared by: Justin D. English, English Law Office, PLC, Attorney for Plaintiff, 120 W. Exchange St., Ste. 104, Owosso, MI 48867, (989) 472-4242, fax (989) 472-4747, justin@jdelawoffice.com 31t3

NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, GRATIOT COUNTY 23-121-DE

Hon. Kristin M. Bakker
ESTATE OF ELAINE K. MILLS, DECEASED, Date of Birth: 9-7-48

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Elaine K. Mills, who lived at 10490 S. State Rd., Ashley, MI 48806, died December 7, 2022.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Leon V. Mills, named personal representative, or to both the Gratiot County Probate Court, 214 E. Center St., Ithaca, MI 48847 and the personal representative within 4 months of the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: July 3, 2023
Leon V. Mills
154 E. Wilson Rd.,
St. Johns, MI 48879
(989) 640-3082
Christopher E. Goggin
(P68689)
P.O. Box 488
Alma, MI 48801
(989)463-3191 31t1



Gratiot County Herald

989-875-4151
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Ithaca, MI 48847

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Friday 9AM - 12PM

Blight Ordinance

(as amended)

AN ORDINANCE TO PREVENT REDUCE OR ELIMINATE BLIGHT, BLIGHTING FACTORS OR CAUSES OF BLIGHT WITHIN LeFayette TOWNSHIP, GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT HEREOF; AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION HEREOF; PURSUANT TO THE ENABLING AUTHORITY THEREFORE PROVIDED BY ACTS 344 (MCL 125.71 ET SEQ.) AND 246 (MCL 41.181 ET SEQ.) OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1945 AS AMENDED.

THE TOWNSHIP OF LeFayette, GRATIOT COUNTY, ORDAINS:

Section 1. PURPOSE

Consistent with the letter and spirit of act No. 344 of the Public Acts of 1945, as amended, it is the purpose of this Ordinance to prevent, reduce or eliminate blight or potential blight in LeFayette Township by the prevention or elimination of certain environmental causes of blight or blighting factors which exist or which may in the future exist in said township.

Section 2. CAUSES OF BLIGHT OR BLIGHTING FACTORS

It is hereby determined that the following uses, structures and activities are causes of blight or blighting factors which, if allowed to exist, will tend to result in blighted and undesirable neighborhoods. On and after the effective date of this Ordinance, no person, firm or corporation of any kind shall maintain or permit to be maintained any of these causes of blight or blighting factors upon any property in LeFayette Township owned, leased, rented or occupied by such person, firm or corporation.

A. Any parking, storage or accumulation of inoperable motor vehicles on any private property, unless that storage or accumulation is inside a completely enclosed building, or a fence made of such material as would hide said accumulation from view, or if such accumulation and/or storage is accomplished in such a manner as to conceal same from view from adjacent private or public property, including public or private roads.

No such storage or accumulation shall be permitted when such storage presents a hazard to public health or safety.

Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the storage, out-of-doors, of motor vehicles commonly licensed for farm use, whether such license is currently in effect or not, or recreational motor vehicles and trailers, whether currently licensed or not.

For the purpose of this Ordinance, an inoperable motor vehicle is defined as a motor vehicle not in operating condition and eligible for use in accordance with the requirements of the Michigan Vehicle Code. These requirements include, but are not limited to, an engine that runs, four wheels and four tires capable of holding air, current license plates, and a working battery.

B. The storage upon any property, outside of a fully enclosed building, of building materials. The outdoor storing of building materials is permitted at any retail or wholesale building supply establishment located in a commercial or industrial district. The outdoor storage of building materials is permitted in other zoning districts when stored for the purpose of construction for which construction, a valid building permit has been issued by the appropriate county or township building official and where said materials are intended for use in connection with such construction.

For the purposes of this Ordinance, the term "building materials" is defined to include lumber, bricks, concrete, cinder blocks, plumbing materials, electrical wiring or equipment, heating ducts or equipment, shingles, mortar, cement, nails, screws or any other materials used in constructing any structure.

C. In any area, the storage or accumulation of junk, trash, rubbish or refuse of any kind without a land-fill permit, except domestic refuse stored in such a manner as not to create a nuisance for a period not to exceed thirty days. The term "junk" shall include parts of machinery or motor vehicles, unused stoves or other appliances stored in the open, remnants of woods, metal or any other material or other cast-off material of any kind whether or not the same could be put to any reasonable use.

D. In any area the existence of any structure or part of any structure, which, because of fire, wind or other natural disaster, or physical deterioration is no longer habitable, if a dwelling, nor useful for any other purpose of which it may have been intended.

E. In any area, the existence of any vacant dwelling, garage or other outbuilding unless such buildings are kept securely locked, windows kept glazed or neatly boarded up and otherwise protected to prevent entrance thereto by vandals, or other unauthorized persons.

F. In any area the existence of any partially completed structure unless such structure is in the course of construction in accordance with a valid and subsisting building permit issued by the Township/City/Village and unless such construction is completed within a reasonable time.

Section 3. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

A. This Ordinance shall be enforced by such persons who shall be so designated by the Township.

B. Any violation of this Ordinance shall constitute a nuisance per se. Violation of, or any failure to comply with, the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or by imprisonment but not to exceed ninety (90) days or both. Each day that a violation of this Ordinance is continued or permitted to exist without compliance shall constitute a separate offense punishable upon conviction in the manner prescribed in the Section, provided no person shall be imprisoned for a period in excess of ninety (90) days.

C. In the event a Court Order is entered ordering the abatement of such nuisance, the Township designee may, if the Defendant fails to obey such Order, take such measures as necessary or as directed by the Township designee to abate such nuisance and the entire cost thereof including all costs and attorney fees shall, at the option of the Township designee, become a lien against the premises upon which the nuisance was located and shall be added to the tax rolls, or become a deficiency judgment to be enforced by levy, execution, garnishment or otherwise.

Section 4. SEVERABILITY

Should any provision or part of the within Ordinance be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable the same shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the balance of this Ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE AND ADOPTION

A. This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its publication as required by law. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

B. This Ordinance was adopted by the Township Board of the Township of LeFayette Gratiot County, Michigan at the Regular meeting thereof held on October 15, 2020.

[Signature]
Township Board

[Signature]
Township Clerk

Date: 7-11-23

Date: 7-11-23

Published Date:

Effective Date: September 1st 2023

The CLASSIFIEDS

Gratiot County Herald

Help Wanted

LAWN CARE NEEDED - Only 42 Inch. (989)763-9416 29t3

HELP WANTED: The Alma Public Library is currently seeking part-time Library Aides. 15-20 hours per week with scheduling flexibility required. Typing, computer and communication skills required. Starting pay is \$14.05 per hour. Deadline to apply is Friday, August 18th at 5pm. Interested applicants should submit a City of Alma Employment Application to: Cheri Rayner, Human Resources Manager, 525 E Superior Street, Alma, MI 48801 or email hrmanager@myalma.org. The complete job description and City of Alma Application can be found on the City's website: <https://myalma.org/employment.php>. 31t3



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LEGALS

ORDER TO ANSWER OR APPEAR
CASE NO. 23-001328-CH
JUDGE MANVEL TRICE, III
In the 10TH Circuit Court for the County of Saginaw
Melody Smith, Plaintiff,
v.
Albert A. Austin, and his unknown heirs, devisees, or assignees, Defendants.

At a session of said Court held in the courtroom thereof on July 13, 2023, PRESENT: HONORABLE MANVEL TRICE, III

A Complaint for Claim and Delivery having been filed with the said Court by Plaintiff, wherein it is alleged that Albert Austin moved to the State of Florida several years ago, and Plaintiff is unable to locate his status or whereabouts.

It appears from an Affidavit on file in said cause that Defendants cannot be personally served, NOW, THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED that the Defendants shall be and appear at the said 10th Circuit Court

located at 111 South Michigan Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48602 on September 8, 2023 (not less than 28 days After publication is completed) to answer to take other action as permitted by law or court rule.

Failure to appear will result in the entry of Judgment by default in favor of Plaintiff. This Order shall be published once each week for (3) consecutive weeks, beginning on July 27, 2023.
Dated: July 19, 2023
Prepared By:
Patrick J. Greenfelder (P 44663)
Attorney at Law
233 W. Broad Street
Chesaning, MI 48616
(989)845-4333 30t3

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN,
PROBATE COURT, GRATIOT COUNTY
CASE NO. and JUDGE

23-143-DE
Court Address: 214 E. Center St, Ithaca, MI 48847, Court Telephone no.: (989) 875-5231

Estate of TONY LEE RAUSCH, deceased, Date of birth: 11/22/1967
TO ALL CREDITORS:**
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Tony Lee Rausch, died 4/21/2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Tim D. Rausch, personal representative, or to both the Probate Court at 214 E. Center St., Ithaca, and the personal representative within 4 months of the date of publication of this notice.
7/25/23
Tim D. Rausch
531 Marys Lane
Lake, MI 48632
989-544-1434

HEATHER M. NEVILL P84243
601 Beech Street, Box 67
Clare, MI 48617
989-386-3434 31t1

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN,
PROBATE COURT, GRATIOT COUNTY
23-146-DE

Hon. Kristin M. Bakker
ESTATE OF ROGER K. ZIMMERMAN, DECEASED, Date of Birth: 5-16-46


TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Roger K. Zimmerman, who lived at 6386 E. Washington Rd., Ithaca, MI 48847, died May 13, 2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Debra C. Zimmerman, named personal representative, or to both the Gratiot County Probate Court, 214 E. Center St., Ithaca, MI 48847 and the personal representative within 4 months of the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: July 31, 2023
Debra C. Zimmerman
6386 E. Washington Rd.
Ithaca, MI 48847
Christopher E. Goggin (P68689)
P.O. Box 488
Alma, MI 48801
(989)463-3191 31t1

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