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"GRATIOT COUNTY'S LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER"

# Gratiot County Herald



THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022

GCHERALD.COM

NUMBER 2 • \$1.50



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## 91st Annual Baby Derby



Maverick Miles Townsend, the son of Madison (above) and Jason Townsend of St. Louis, and winner of The Herald's 91st annual Baby Derby, was the first county newborn to be delivered in 2022.

## St. Louis Parents Welcome Gratiot County's First Newborn

By William Meiners  
 Herald Staff Writer

The Gratiot County Herald's 91st annual Baby Derby went into a bit of overtime in early 2022, arriving shortly after publishing deadline last Tuesday.

Maverick Miles Townsend, a new resident of St. Louis, entered the world on Jan. 4 at 5:54 p.m. weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces, and stretching 20.5 inches from head to toe. He was delivered at MyMichigan Medical Center Gratiot to proud parents Madison and Jason Townsend.

Though baby Maverick may have pushed a newspaper deadline, he arrived about a week early of his due date.

"I had some high blood pressure at my doctor's appointment, so they sent me to the Alma Hospital," said Madison, 23, who

knew she was having a boy.

And if that wasn't stressful enough, Maverick had to be quickly whisked away to Sparrow Hospital to deal with a breathing issue after he was born.

Jason reported that his son had pneumothorax, a condition in infants that can adversely affect their lungs. So the new parents did not get much more than a quick hello and a couple of pictures before he left for Sparrow.

"I'm looking forward to holding him," Madison said last week.

Fortunately, both parents were holding and feeding their son within a few days at Sparrow. On Monday, Jason said, "We were expecting him to come home today, but the doctor wants to keep him one extra day.

See **BABY DERBY** page 5

## Velsicol Burn Pit to Receive Millions from EPA for Cleanup

By William Meiners  
 Herald Staff Writer

Eight days before Christmas, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a \$1 billion investment from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to initiate cleanup and clear the backlog of 49 previously unfunded Superfund sites and accelerate cleanup at dozens of other sites across the country.

The Velsicol Burn Pit in St. Louis is one of four Michigan Superfund sites selected to receive funding.

Until this historic investment, many of these were part of a backlog of hazardous waste sites awaiting funding. The other Michigan sites include the Charlevoix Municipal Well in Charlevoix, the Tar Lake Site in Mancelona Township, and Ten-Mile Drain in Saint Clair Shores.

"For more than 100 years, the upper Midwest was the nation's industrial center. But when factories and mills closed they left behind a legacy of toxic sites that are challenging to clean up," said EPA Regional Administrator Debra Shore. "The bipartisan infrastructure law will fund stalled cleanups at seven Superfund sites in Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Indiana and accelerate our efforts to restore and revitalize communities here in the Midwest."

According to an EPA press release, the infrastructure funds will be used to implement EPA's selected remedy for the main source areas of contamination within the former burn pit boundaries, including treating the source materials posing the highest threat, excavating ash piles, and hooking up several nearby residences to the municipal water supply as a precautionary measure. Once the source area cleanup is complete, EPA will evaluate the groundwater and create a plan to address the contamination.

See **BURN PIT** page 5

## 'Free Little Library' in Ashley Honors Lifelong Resident

By William Meiners  
 Herald Staff Writer



**KECK**

Keck, who spent most of her 90-year life in Ashley, may be best remembered as a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, even a great great grandmother. And she loved to read to all of those kids.

Sheila Keck, her daughter, spearheaded the project that her mother would have discouraged because she did not like the recognition.

See **LIBRARY** page 5

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# Community Collaboration During the Holiday Season

A collaboration of agencies made the holidays brighter for those involved in the local foster care system.

With help from the Department of Health and Human Services, Mid-Michigan Foster and Adoptive Coalition, Mercantile Bank, Consumers Energy and other community members, children and families involved in Child Advocacy's Caregiver Support Group were provided with a gift card, crafts, snacks, and more during the holiday season.

"The holidays can be extremely challenging for these families for a number of reasons, but each year a group of community members work to make it just a little bit easier," said Michelle Zombeck, who along with Morgan Rooy co-facilitate the Child Advocacy support group. "We truly value and appreciate the support from our sponsors and committee members."

The goal of the collaboration is to recognize the selflessness and dedication of caregivers, honor the stories each child brings with them, and help create positive memories during the holiday season.

Harmony Nowlin, Community Affairs Regional Manager for Consumers Energy, said "it was

an honor for Consumers to be a sponsor of the Child Advocacy Caregiver Support Group during the holidays. These individuals give back so much to those in need and it is a pleasure to help recognize them this time of the year."

Tammy Halfmann, Vice President and Mortgage Lender at Mercantile Bank added that the financial institution was "happy to sponsor the holiday event and hope that with our donation it brought comfort and peace during the holidays for each family."

Child Advocacy offers the Caregiver Support Group for Gratiot County residents raising non-biological children. The group provides social support, community networking of resources, group facilitation, and professional training.

Each month a new training topic is offered and can be used towards required training hours. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month from 6-8 p.m. Contact Child Advocacy at 989-463-1422 or visit [www.childadvocacy.net](http://www.childadvocacy.net) to learn more.

If you would like more information on fostering, contact the Foster Care Navigator Program at 855-MICH-KIDS.



Pictured front row from the left: Ana'Lisa Bovee, DHHS; Tania Allard, DHHS; Rita Eratinger, DHHS; and Sheila Barnaby, MMFAC. Middle: Morgan Roy, Child Advocacy; Heidi Barnaby, MMFAC; Michelle Zombeck, Child Advocacy; and Jennifer Leppien, CASA. Back: Jennifer Dockery, DHHS; and Lori Frerzo, DHHS.

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HERALD**  
(USPS 227-080)  
(989) 875-4151  
Fax: (989) 875-3159  
Email: [Editor@gcherald.com](mailto:Editor@gcherald.com)

Published weekly on Thursday at 123 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 10, Ithaca, Michigan 48847 by MacDonald Publications, Inc.

All Subscriptions Are Strictly In Advance

Postmaster: Send Address Changes To Gratiot County Herald, P.O. Box 10, Ithaca, MI 48847.

Gratiot and Adjoining Counties One Year \$52.00  
Gratiot and Adjoining Counties Two Years \$90.00

Elsewhere in Michigan \$55.00  
Outside Michigan \$60.00  
Electronic Subscription Only \$35.00

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## Letter To The Editor

### To the Editor:

In response to the letter that Randall Mead (who doesn't even live in Alma) wrote on January 6th issue of GCH.

I can un-appreciate that Mr. Mead has an opinion about "refugees" coming into a community that he himself doesn't live in or pay taxes in. The problem isn't "housing refugees", that's not what's going on here. This is Human Trafficking with government approval. It's so ironic that people walk around all day with computers in their hands but either refuse or don't know how to look at what is really going on at our southern border. In the month of April,

2019 we had around 20,000 illegal crossings where the person was apprehended. The very next year in the same month of April we had 178,000 illegal border crossings.

"Refugees" don't wait until the guy they like is in office to run away from danger and send their babies into the arms of coyotes that will most likely rape the children and or hold them hostage for money or sell them into the sex trade. That is the reality of what is going on down their. It's all about human trafficking and I don't wish my community to incentivize more of that, but that exactly what's going to happen.

This is all being orchestrated and

encouraged by our administration. They said in their primary that they would give free healthcare and free whatever else if they were elected, they literally told people to come.

My point is, if you give a man a fish, he will eat for a day, but if you teach a man to fish, he will eat for a life time. We can't "fix" the border issue by incentivizing more illegal border crossings. We are telling people in South America to send their children on a most dangerous journey and we will take care of them right? Well then we are responsible for everything that hap-

pens to them along the way then.

It's ironic that some think we are "helping" people by doing this. All we've done is made it possible for more "rape trees" to be made. If you don't know what those are than your opinion about this whole matter is irrelevant because of your ignorance. Get yourself informed and I don't mean by watching tv. To many good alternatives for honest news for people to be this misinformed and uninformed.

T.j. Weiler  
Alma

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J.N. McCall, publisher, 1892-1927

Romaine McCall and George McCall, co-publishers, 1927-1963

George McCall, publisher, 1963-1967

Robert MacDonald, publisher, 1967-1976

Robert and Patricia R. MacDonald, owners,  
Robert MacDonald, publisher, 1976-1993

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Published by MacDonald Publications, Inc.

Phone 989-875-4151

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# THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

## Firefighter Reflects on His Years With Alma Department

By William Meiners  
Herald Staff Writer

The windstorms of mid-December blew in some memories for Tyler Haase last month. In his waning days as captain of the Alma District Fire Department, Haase recalled a dangerous Mid-Michigan windstorm in May 1998 that convinced him to join.

"I remember walking around and wanting to help," Haase said as he surveyed the destruction and noted the firefighters and other first responders.

Though he said he was "kind of older than most" at 42 and 43 when he joined the fire department, the decision to do so has made a world of difference. For Haase, as well as the people he worked with and the people he helped.

"Tyler was a great firefighter and, more than that, he became a good friend to us," said Alma Chief Harold House. "He was a good leader, our lead man going in and fighting fires. He started out as a rookie and worked himself up to ranks of lieutenant and captain."

For others, like Mark Williams, now Alma's director of public safety, Haase was a "go to" leader. Williams, who started at the fire department in February 2011, quickly learned that Haase was a model employee, someone who led by example. "His attendance

was always at the top," Williams said.

The responsibility of being an on-call paid volunteer became a lifestyle for Haase, as it does for those most committed to the profession. Though that commitment to helping save lives had other benefits for the man who has worked at J&J Giles Tire Service since his graduation from high school. "You just bond with a bunch of people that you would not otherwise know," Haase said. "It's just like having another family."

Given his commitment to his fellow firefighters, Williams wanted to thank Haase's own family for sharing him with the department. Additionally, Williams said his old mentor served the community in many ways, first for the Sumner/Seville Rescue, then Alma District Rescue.

For House, the chief who began his firefighting days in 1973, the commitment Haase and others feel is understandable. "It just gets in your blood like any other job," he said. "It's the love for the job, the camaraderie of all the people, and doing something for other people. The fire department gives you a lot more than you can ever give back to it."

At 66 years old, Haase, though he can still physically do the job, thought the timing was right to retire at the end of the year. "For

the organization to keep getting better there's has to be change," said Haase, who continues in his day job.

Fortunately for the firefighting organization, Haase, through his leadership role, has helped train the next men making climbs up the proverbial ladder. "Tyler had some say in who was going to replace him," Williams said.

To that end, three men were recently promoted. Tim Snyder was promoted to captain, Chad Pratt named first lieutenant, and Cory Irvin was promoted to lieutenant. "They're all great people," Haase said. "And we've always had a very good officer team."

As for some newfound time on his hands, especially now that he's off the pager on weekends where he would normally have had to stay close to home, Haase is looking for renewed family and hobby time. He said he spent an unusual weekend bouncing around Mount Pleasant with his wife in the new year. Likely more carefree than he's been in two decades.

"One of my other passions is military history, World War II history in particular," said Haase, noting some war-era vehicles that he's working on restoring.

When the weather breaks in a few months, and they're washing the fire engines outside, Haase might drop by the Alma station to check in with some old friends.



Tyler Haase, captain of the Alma Fire Department, retired at the end of the year. Of the relationships he made, Haase said, "You just bond with a bunch of people that you would not otherwise know. It's just like having another family."

## St. Louis Police Chief Looks Forward to Renewed Focus on Training in 2022

By William Meiners  
Herald Staff Writer

It's tough to do policework online. Yet through the highs and lows of an ongoing pandemic, the members of the St. Louis Police Department have been able to adapt, improvise, and overcome the challenges of unforeseen problems brought on by a health crisis that's going on two years old. And that's probably what Chief Richard Ramereiz Jr. is most proud about.

"I went to school to be a cop, not a computer engineer," said Ramereiz. "We were really forced into the age of technology with COVID-19."

Adaptations included the use of Zoom to field complaints, as well as connecting with the public through Facebook video chats and other social media outlets. Ideally, Ramereiz would take any face-to-face conversation even over a phone call, given the importance of the information they're gathering. But that ability for his troops to "roll with the punches" pleases the chief to no end.

Ramereiz leads the efforts of five full-time patrol officers, one administrative sergeant, and four civilian staff in St. Louis. He does have an opening for one fulltime road position officer. Though he admits it's a hiring challenge likely faced by every law enforcement

agency in the nation.

As for what type of boss he is, Ramereiz said he would rather "lead from the front, not the back." Additionally, he would never ask someone to do something he is not willing to do himself.

What's more, in his leadership position, Ramereiz is quick to point out that he does not know everything about everything. "This job is ever changing and always evolving," he said. "If I don't know something I'll do my darndest to try and find the answer. And there's always room to improve."

Ramereiz, having wanted to become a policeman since he was "knee high to a grasshopper," has long focused on self-improvement. As a young child, he witnessed a family member dying in front of him and he felt helpless in not being able to address the situation. Ramereiz also idolized his cousin, Bill Martinez, a 30-year-plus policeman who ultimately retired from the Central Michigan University Police.

The lifelong resident of Gratiot County, Ramereiz began his police career in 1994. He was named chief of police in October 2014. In that time since, they've focused on relationships with the community and he's proud to say that folks will often reach out, or "flag down his guys," for matters

that are not criminally related.

Often, however, police officers are meeting folks who are not having their best days. Ramereiz shares the story of a man who had been a volatile alcoholic, someone he had to deal with on several occasions. Once he got himself cleaned up, Ramereiz said the guy expressed gratitude for treating him as well as he could under the circumstances. "I thanked him and shook his hand," the chief said. "He even waved to me with all his fingers this time."

Just as he learned from those older cops as he came up the ranks, Ramereiz knows those community relationships can make or break a department. "The community is going to be our biggest ally," he said. "They're either going to be there for us or be against us. To have that support is crucial in what we do."

In addition to strengthening those community relationships, Ramereiz hopes his department can return to its training strength. "For a long time, St. Louis has been known as a stepping stone for law enforcement," he said. "A huge number of officers who have trained here."

Just as the pandemic has squashed other aspects of life, it's made the critical police training harder to come by. Yet that emphasis may be top of mind for Ramereiz in 2022.



Richard Ramereiz Jr. (left), here with city councilman Bill Leonard, is a lifelong Gratiot County resident. He became a policeman in 1994 and was sworn in as St. Louis chief of police in October 2014.

## Ithaca Road Construction Scheduled for Spring Will Close U.S. 127 Ramp, Lanes

Motorists take heed of a spring Michigan Department of Transportation project which will close the Washington Rd. on-ramp to US-127 South in Ithaca.

Construction on the ramp and a portion of the highway in each di-

rection is expected to get underway in mid April and conclude prior to Memorial Day at the end of May, said Ithaca City Manager Jamey Conn. A detour will reroute drivers onto the US-127 business route through Ithaca and out to the high-

way interchange located at Polk Rd.

"Construction is always an inconvenience, but necessary to the longevity of our infrastructure," Conn said. "Local travelers are savvy enough to know there are other options than the Polk Rd. interchange

if they are wanting to head southbound on US-127. On a positive note (the project) will bring more out of town traffic past local businesses as the detour will run all the way down Center St. to the Eastern side of our downtown block."

The majority of the construction will consist of joint repairs and the milling and placing of hot mix asphalt. Traffic on the highway will be maintained with one lane open in each direction at all times.

# Making Better Mental Health a Priority in the New Year

By William Meiners  
Herald Staff Writer

The difficulty with New Year's resolutions may be the very timing of them. Coming out of the holidays and navigating some of the shortest and coldest days of the year can give anyone the blues. Perhaps knocking them off course for better health, jobs, and relationships. Given the kick in one's step we often feel with the beginnings of spring, maybe a May resolution would have folks better suited for improving themselves.

Regardless of the time of year, psychiatric professionals from MyMichigan Medical Center Gratiot suggest people seek help when they need it. For many, the stigma of mental health, or asking for help, may keep them trying to deal with problems on their own.

"We always tend to see an influx over the winter months for admissions with depression and suicidal ideation," said Justine Mizer, intake coordinator, psychiatric services at the Alma hospital.

Mizer is in charge of the therapy staff on the inpatient psychiatric floor, as well as the admission process. In that role she reviews referrals for people who may need inpatient services due to safety concerns. She likens the isolation sometimes felt during the COVID-19 pandemic to Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), which is also known as seasonal depression disorder.

The coinciding factors, from sadness to stress brought on by life and the pandemic, can lead to that uptick in patients. Mizer said they take referrals from across the state, and psychological distress takes place in both urban and rural areas.

Limited daylight hours may adversely affect anyone with seasonal depression. The general isolation of winter and the pandemic might keep someone from participating in social activities. So things like group therapy may help draw someone out of the isolation.

From seeking professional help to simply trying to care for themselves, Mizer recommends paying attention to our own mental health. "Sometimes we need to take a step back and categorize how we're really doing," she said. "It could mean taking a few minutes a day to work on what you enjoy, from reading to exercising to talking to a friend."

### Let there be light

For anyone suffering from SAD, there's little getting around the general dark days of January and February. The good news may be that the days are already getting longer. SAD is considered a depressive episode which reoccurs the same time each year, usually in the fall,

worsens during the winter months, and ends as daylight increases in the spring.

"Researchers have discovered that 75 percent of SAD sufferers are women with the disorder, typically beginning in early adulthood," said Michelle Lucchesi, M.A., L.L.P., therapist of the Psychiatric Partial Hospitalization Program at MyMichigan Medical Center Gratiot. "However, SAD can also occur in men, children, and adolescents."

Lucchesi points to findings from the National Institute of Mental Health, which documents that SAD occurs as a response to the decrease daylight during the winter months. Symptoms of SAD are similar to depression and may include sadness; loss of interest in usual activities; difficulty concentrating; irritability; feeling tired; lack of energy; weight gain, craving sweets and starchy food, and difficulty with sleep. While it is important to talk to a healthcare professional for a proper diagnosis and treatment of SAD, light therapy is found to be the most effective treatment.

"Light therapy is an alternative to using antidepressant medications for those who have mild SAD and do not want to take medications," explained Lucchesi. "Light therapy is used daily with individuals sitting for 30 minutes in front of a light box after waking up in the morning."

It is recommended that individuals begin light therapy each fall when symptoms of SAD often set in and continue every day throughout the winter months. Lamps for light therapy are widely available and much more affordable than when they first were introduced years ago.

In addition to light therapy, additional options to help reduce symptoms of SAD include spending time outside every day; eating a well-balanced diet; establishing a good sleep routine; getting at least 30-minutes of exercise a day, as well as staying socially connected with loved ones and community (as safely as possible during COVID-19).

Those needing additional help to overcome mood disorders such as SAD are encouraged to seek help from their health care provider. In addition, the Psychiatric Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) mental health day program at MyMichigan Medical Center Gratiot is available for those who need additional support. Those with questions may call (989) 466-3253. Those interested in more information on MyMichigan's comprehensive behavioral health programs may visit [www.midmichigan.org/conditions-treatments/MentalHealth](http://www.midmichigan.org/conditions-treatments/MentalHealth).

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# SEASONAL DEPRESSION


What you need to know about depression



**21 MILLION**  
American adults suffer from depressive illness during any one year period.




**WOMEN**  
experience depression **2x** as often as men.




Without treatment, depression can last weeks, months or years.


Symptoms of depression




Changes in appetite




Changes in sleeping patterns




Feelings of hopelessness




Persistent sad, anxious or "empty" mood



Recurring thoughts of death or suicide




Feelings of inappropriate guilt




Decreased energy, fatigue, being "slowed down"

Major depression is classified as a type of affective disorder or mood disorder that goes beyond the day's ordinary ups and downs, becoming a serious medical condition and important health concern in this country.


How can you beat holiday depression?




**Exercise**  
A daily 30-minute walk may help prevent depression – so take a brisk stroll down a snowy path!




**Enjoy the Sunlight**  
As little as 15 to 30 minutes of sunlight, best in the early morning, will go a long way to alleviating the winter blahs



**Get enough Sleep**  
A lack of sleep can take a toll on your mood – so aim for 7 to 9 hours of sleep each night.




**Moderate Alcohol Consumption**  
Two glasses of wine are plenty for the holiday party – one if you've already had the eggnog.



**Adjust Expectations**  
Don't let visions of perfection spoil everything. Learn that most things can be good enough – gifts, food, company, etc.

**Concerned about depression?**  
If the depressed mood is serious, leading to isolation, crying spells, not sleeping or eating, hopelessness and thoughts of death or suicide, **get help immediately.**



# BURN PIT continued from page 1



Taken from across the Pine River at the plant site in St. Louis, Velsicol's "Burn Pit" is shown in operation during the 1970s. Remediation of the main Velsicol Superfund site has been ongoing for years.

For lifelong Gratiot County residents like Jane Keon, the response has been a longtime coming. Keon is a founding member of the Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force, an EPA-sanctioned Community Advisory Group that is overseeing the cleanup of chemical contamination in St. Louis. She literally wrote the book, entitled Tombstone Town, about the first 16 years of the task force and its Herculean efforts to convince people at both local and national levels of the awful mess left by the chemical company.

"We've made a lot of progress," Keon said. "It's still slow. None of us had any idea how severe the problems were in St. Louis. Even the EPA didn't know. As they moved forward, they would find more problems."

With those problems finally acknowledged, the remedies remain forthcoming. "Many Michigan

families and local communities have been waiting way too many years to have toxic Superfund sites cleaned up in their own backyards. The recently passed infrastructure bill is going to finally make the cleanup of these sites a reality in Charlevoix, Mancelona, St. Louis, and St. Clair Shores," said Sen. Debbie Stabenow. "These are the kind of investments that will help strengthen our local economies and keep our families safe for generations to come."

Even local politicians were encouraged by the news. "EPA and EGLE have been working for many years to clean up the plant site and the adjacent area including over nine square blocks of residential property and the Pine River," said Jim Kelly in one of his final days as St. Louis mayor. "The last big step is to clean up the burn pit, one of the worst early Superfund sites. We look forward

to having this area cleaned; otherwise, it may continue to pollute our ground water."

What seems clear is the consistency in which Velsicol polluted both the Pine River and St. Louis. Back in the day, factory fumes literally peeled paint off nearby houses. And years later, as the waste had not been properly contained, Keon said, "We commissioned a bird study because a lot of people in the neighborhood were finding dead birds in their yards."

With a wildlife toxicologist from Michigan State University, they discovered 12 contaminated blocks after the published study in 2013. By 2015, The EPA was attempting to rectify it.

Time and money are factors in all of it. Though the latest news is encouraging, Keon said you can usually double the estimates on time resolutions from the EPA.

# BABY DERBY continued from page 1

"He is doing very well," Jason continued. "(Maverick) is off his breathing machine and everything else. He's eating very well, and we are excited to have him home soon."

At home, Maverick will meet big brother Blake, three years old, as well as half-brothers Mason and Jaxson Townsend, who are nine and six, respectively. Madison described the whole ordeal as a "little scary," but she was comforted by the doctor and nurses. Now she's anxious to have the whole family together as soon as possible for the winter bonding time.

As for the baby's name, Jason said they both liked Maverick, and his wife picked Miles. With a musical name like that, the possibilities of a career in any field look wide open.

Jason works for Tandem Specialized, a trucking company out of St. Louis. As the baby's due date drew closer, his company allowed him to work out of the office.

The Townsend family, soon after they settle back into home, will look into The Herald's prize package provided by a host of advertisers. From snuggle blankets to baby pictures to an oil change (maybe that's for the parents), Maverick Miles could be arriving in St. Louis on a bit of a lucky streak.

**Pictured with his father, Jason Townsend, Maverick entered the world at My Michigan Medical Center Gratiot weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces, and stretching 20.5 inches long.**



## GLENN MILLER CONSTRUCTION

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# LIBRARY continued from page 1

"My mother loved to read," said Sheila, describing the "his, hers, and ours" family with two batches of kids. "She had 10 kids and she read to all of us."

As those children gave way to other kids, of course Joan read to them, too. "We're talking 22 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren, and five great greats," Sheila said. "So there was a lot and she'd read the same book over and over as long as anyone wanted to hear it."

The children would often commit those books to memory before they could read themselves. Sheila wanted to recognize that legacy. Cleaning out her mother's house after her death in October 2020, she may have rediscovered the many books left behind. A "little library" project began to take seed then.

Sheila said she found an old wooden laundry hamper with a clip-up lid that her father had built sometime in the mid-1970s. Her mother had used it for storage. Sheila had already enlisted the help of her boyfriend, Gary Allen, a man handy in such projects, and he asked about the wooden hamper.

Given its sentimental value, they agreed the hamper could be repurposed as the library. Sheila painted it blue (her mother's favorite color) and gold to match the colors of Ashley Schools, which both her parents and all their children attended.

The sign for the dedication is from her grandfather's homemade cutting board, crafted years before Sheila was born in 1970. The lattice is from her mother's front porch. Thankfully, Allen pulled it all together.

"I love the sentimental touches that brought this little library to

life," Sheila said. "It connects us to our past."

The Keck family indeed has some historic resonance in Ashley's tiny village. The Roger Keck Pavilion had been dedicated to Sheila's older brother, who is still around. She hopes residents will soon find the books tucked into the back of that pavilion.

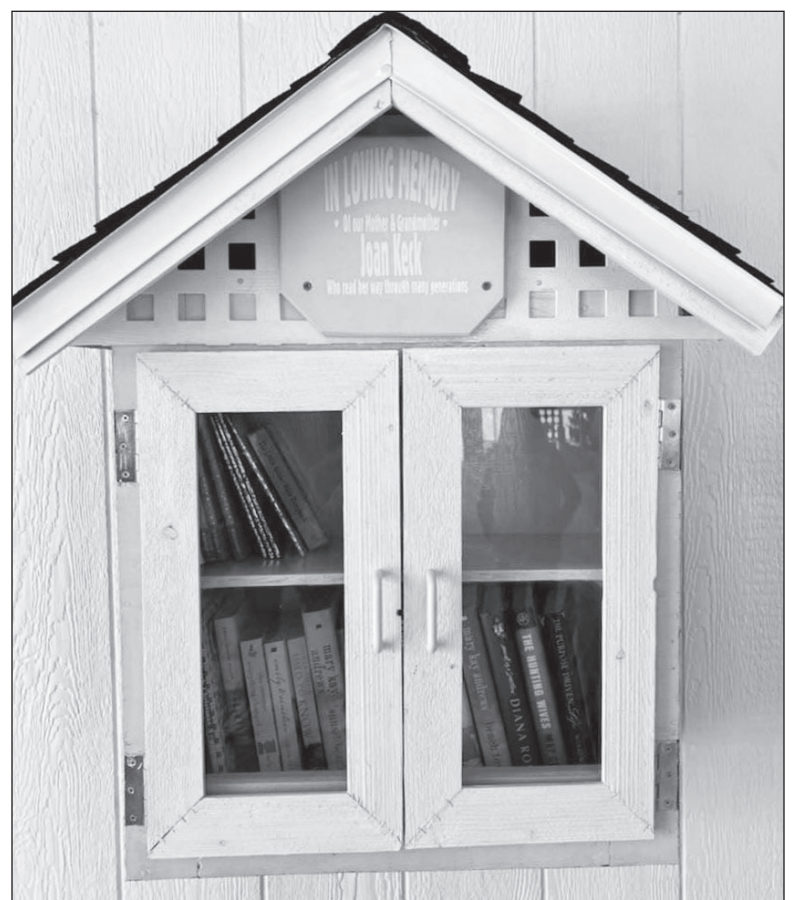
Though she's quick to point out that this "little library" is not competing with the bigger ones. "Please continue to support the local libraries," she said. "This is simply an added measure for people of all ages to enjoy the love of reading and sharing any time."

Sheila herself has liked these informal libraries. "Ithaca has one and North Star used to have one," she said.

Her mother's affection for books extended throughout her entire life. "She loved escaping into the adventure they brought," Sheila said. "She also loved reading biographies on interesting folks, and she inspired many generations to explore them as well."

That passion continued until her eyes could scarcely carry her through the pages. "About three or four years ago, she was reading The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, which had been on her list for years," Sheila said. "I called her to ask how she was doing. She replied, 'I just got off the river!' Totally engrossed in her book."

And though she'd like the gesture of the little library, Joan Keck would be mortified to have her name associated with it. "She would not like this at all," Sheila said. "I'm sure I'm going to have a few lights flickering here in my home soon."



On the second day of the year, a "free little library" was dedicated to the memory of Joan Keck, a lifelong booklover and Ashley resident. Encouraging residents to both leave and borrow books, the library resides in the Roger Heck Pavilion in the village.

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# OUT OF THE HERALD ARCHIVES



Pictured is the 1920-21 Alma College basketball team that included future president of the American Medical Association, Dr. Charles Hudson, and five other future physicians. Some other names might be familiar to Gratiot County residents. From the left: Wilbur VanPage (Breckenridge), Dr. Carl W. Dahlgren, Richard Waggoner (St. Louis), and Dr. F. Oswald Kirker. Back row: James S. Beattie, Dr. Hudson, coach Edwin S. Steele, Dr. Robert Scott and James Geo Howe.

## Honoring Gratiot's Past Historical Organizations of Gratiot County

### GRATIOT COUNTY HISTORY ONLINE

Gratiot County Historical and Genealogical Society now has a YouTube channel. There are currently 8 of Gratiot County historian Dave McMacken's talks uploaded. Titles available are: "Researching Gratiot County," "Mineral Springs of Gratiot County," "How Ithaca became the Gratiot County Seat," "Gratiot County in the Civil War" and 4 more. These presentations were made possible with materials from the collections of the St. Louis Historical Society, the Alma Public Library, and Liz VanDyke who did the work to establish the channel.

Rene Rubin, Chief Deputy Clerk for Gratiot County did a presentation about some of the vital records held at the Court House that would be beneficial for anyone doing family research. Rene's presentation was videoed by Gary Johnson and it is also uploaded and available for viewing.

If you are a new YouTube user, here's how to access the videos:

1. Search on Google or another search engine for "YouTube.com"
2. In the search bar at the top of YouTube's homepage type in "Gratiot County Historical and Genealogical Society" and click the search icon.
3. A list of videos will then come up.

Become a subscriber

When you watch your videos, there will be a red "subscribe button" below the picture.

Click on that to subscribe to the channel. There is no cost, but the latest videos will appear in your feed. Ideas?

If you have an idea for something to add to the GCHGS channel, send an email to [info@gchgs.org](mailto:info@gchgs.org) or stop in at the Genealogical Library on Tuesday afternoons from 1-5 or the museum, when it opens again in the spring, on Wednesday from 1 - 4.

#### Local Historian's Sites for Gratiot History

Jim Goodspeed, local teacher and historian has had a blog online since 2017. Goodspeed's Gratiot County Historical Blog "is an attempt to educate, stimulate and bring Gratiot County's history to interested readers. What you view here is always a work in progress. I seldom ever intend to tell the whole story behind these posts, and I invite readers to provide comments corrections, additions, and feedback. While my primary focus is on Gratiot County during the early 20th century (1910-1950, or pre-World War I through World War II), the 20th century is a gold mine of history, information, and stories pertaining to Gratiot County's past. I invite you to 'jump on board and catch a ride.'"

To get to the blog type <https://goodspeedgratiotcountyhistorical.blog/>. Or just type "Goodspeed Gratiot" in the search box. You will be presented with a list of websites. Once you've selected the Goodspeed blog the most recent posting will be shown. If you want to look at other postings, at the top of the page is a search box to enter name or other key words to see what else might be in earlier articles.

To ask a question of send additional information click on "contact," enter your name and email plus your message.

The last three entries have been: The St. Louis Christmas Bells, Pearl Harbor and the Seaver Hotel in Ithaca.

Another online way to follow Gratiot History provided by Goodspeed is on Facebook. Log in to your Facebook account and in the search box type "Gratiot County History Time Machine." See posts from newspapers over the years or pictures documenting roads in the county. Recently Goodspeed has been helping his students locate families of deceased service men and woman for a project they have for one of his classes.

# SUDOKU

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. One point east of due south
  4. City in Maine
  10. Inquire too closely
  11. Make dirty
  12. Small Greek island
  14. Bitterly regret
  15. Millisecond
  16. \_\_\_ the ante
  18. Without value
  22. Eurasian ryegrass
  23. Authentic
  24. Having a mournful quality
  26. Not out
  27. Salvador \_\_\_, Spanish artist
  28. Cargo (abbr.)
  30. This (Spanish)
  31. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
  34. Slang for trucks with trailers
  36. Helps you hear
  37. Steer a boat
  39. British School
  40. Genus of olive
  41. Computer term (abbr.)
  42. Horse gear
  48. Give off
  50. A type of salt
  51. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
  52. One who watches birds
  53. Sailboat
  54. A major division of geological time
  55. Sodium
  56. American state
  58. Soak in water
  59. Thin decorative covering of fine wood
  60. Affirmative
  64. Atomic number 45
- CLUES DOWN**
1. One of the four seasons
  2. Its sultan is famous
  3. A lens for correcting defective vision in one eye
  4. College degree
  5. Soldiers need it
  6. Japanese car manufacturer
  7. A way to address
  8. Obstruct
  9. Atomic number 45
  12. Ill-mannered
  13. Opaque gem
  17. Indicates before
  19. Remove
  20. Populous Argentine city
  21. More cunning
  25. Rich dessert
  29. Payment (abbr.)
  31. Footwear
  32. Famed Alabama city
  33. Sheep's cry
  35. Arrogance
  38. Clergical vestment
  41. Serving no practical purpose
  43. An evening party
  44. Print errors
  45. Not good
  46. Egyptian Sun god
  47. Industrial German city
  49. Scottish island
  56. Early multimedia
  57. Atomic number 18

## CHECK BACK NEXT WEEK FOR THIS WEEK'S ANSWERS.

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**Raymond Feyan**

Raymond J. Feyan, 89, of Carson City, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022.

Ray was born Nov. 3, 1932, to James and Catherine (Keary) Feyan. Ray served his country in the U.S. Army, and deployed to Germany during the Korean War.

He was a lifelong farmer. Ray inherited an amazing Irish work ethic, and often encouraged younger men to work hard and always do the next right thing. Ray was proud to have been a member of Alcoholics Anonymous for over 43 years. He was also a member of the VFW, American Legion, and Knights of Columbus.

Ray liked watching baseball and golf, and, during his later years, he loved going to singles clubs and dances.

Ray is survived by two children, Keary Richardson and Danny Feyan; seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews, friends and family who will miss him dearly.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Rose Mary and their daughter, Anna; wife, Beverly and their children, Michael,



Krystal, Marty, and Melody. He is also preceded by his beloved dogs, Bear and Sheba.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held for Ray on Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Carson City. Burial occurred at MaryKnoll Catholic Cemetery following the funeral.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Lux Funeral Home, Carson City.

To view Ray's obituary online or leave a condolence for the family, please visit [www.luxfuneralhomes.com](http://www.luxfuneralhomes.com).

**OBITUARIES**

**Virginia Teachman**

Virginia Mary Teachman, age 100, of Farmington, formerly of Ithaca, promoted to glory on Monday, Jan. 5, 2022, at American House Senior Living Communities, Farmington Hills.

Virginia was born in Ithaca, on Feb. 2, 1921, the daughter of Carl Watson and Lottie Eleanor (Mills) Husted. She graduated from Perrinton High School with the class of 1938. She married Gwendell Vernon "G.V." Teachman on June 29, 1941 in Ithaca, they were blessed with 69 years of marriage; prior to his passing on Aug. 30, 2009.

She and G.V. moved to Detroit, after they were married and lived there for over 30 years. They were members of Covenant Baptist Church in Detroit, where she taught Sunday school and was a Girl's Guild Leader; and also a Deaconess. She worked a part-time as a Nursery School Teacher, a clerk at Hudson's Department Store, and did various types of



election work in Ithaca. After she moved to Ithaca, she was a member of Ithaca United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her son, Michael Carl and Elizabeth Teachman of Farmington; three grandchildren, Timothy and Claudia Teachman of Granada Hills, Calif., Melissa and Brandon Dawe of Livonia and Jeremy and

Mahsa Teachman of Kalamazoo; and she is also survived by seven great-grandchildren, Titan, Brandon, Emilia, Merica, Mason, Anderson, and Colin.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, G.V.; and her daughter-in-law, Patricia Teachman.

A memorial service will be held later in the spring at Smith Family Funeral Homes, Ithaca. A private burial was held at North Star Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Ithaca Senior Activity Center, where G.V. and Virginia were the founding members of this organization and started it out of the basement of their home.

Online condolences may be made at [www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com).

The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Ithaca.



**Sandra O'Shay**



various jobs during her time there. When her family was younger, Sandra helped with Cub and Boy Scouts, was a member of the Lincoln Road United Methodist Church and enjoyed needle point, weaving and doing ceramics.

She is survived by her husband, Danny; sons, Philip (Brigitte) O'Shay and Kelly (Rochelle) O'Shay; 7 grandchildren and brother, Joseph (Marcia) Holcomb.

Sandra was preceded in death by her parents, Forrest and Margaret.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022 at 11 a.m. at the Doig Chapel inside the Masonic Home, with Pastor Steve Swem officiating. Visitation will be held Thursday from 10 a.m. until time of service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Elf Khurafen Children's Hospitals or St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

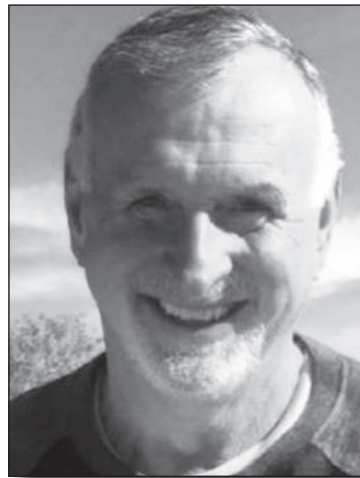
Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Lux-Moody-Wolfel Funeral Home, Alma.

To view Sandra's obituary or to leave a condolence for the family please visit [www.luxfuneralhomes.com](http://www.luxfuneralhomes.com).

Sandra Lynn O'Shay, 79, of St. Louis, passed away Friday, Jan. 7, 2022 at the Masonic Pathways in Alma.

Sandra was born March 12, 1942 in Alma, the daughter of Forrest and Margaret (Brownridge) Holcomb. She graduated from Alma High School with the class of 1960 and then attended Northwood University and Ferris State University. Sandra married Danny O'Shay on May 11, 1965 in Lansing. She was currently working at the Masonic Pathways in Alma for 51 years and held

**Frederick Mailand III**



Frederick William Mailand III (1948-2021) passed away peacefully on Dec. 25, 2021 in Flower Mound Texas after a courageous fight with Lung Disease. His positive, daily approach fighting this disease was an inspiration to family and friends.

Fred was born on Oct. 21, 1948 in Alma to Fred and Inabeth Mailand. He graduated from St. Louis High School in 1966 where he was a member of the football, basketball and track teams. Fred earned all conference honors in football land track and was the recipient of the Lions Club All Sports Award presented to the high school's top athlete. Additionally, he was part of The Boy Scouts of America where he earned their highest rank of Eagle Scout, instilling qualities of leadership, work ethic and integrity into his life. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Michigan University he played football for two years before knee injuries ended his career. After college Fred started his business career with General Telephone in Michigan. Fred was quickly recognized in his new position for his hard work and leadership style.

When asked about his success, he was quick to give credit to his parents for their guidance, love and support throughout his life. Fred's career spanned several company mergers, promotions and relocations taking his family to their final destination of Flour Mound, Texas. During his years with Verizon, Fred held Director and Vice President positions, leading large organizations in reaching their goals. Fred enjoyed golf, hunting, and fishing in his spare time. However, most importantly he treasured the time he spend

with his loved ones, especially his children and grandchildren. He loved watching each of his grandchildren participate in sports and cheer them on, and he rarely missed an opportunity to join his family out on the lake in the boat.

Fred is predeceased by his father, Fred; brother, Steve; and his sister, Michelle.

He is survived by his son, Chris (Heidi) Mailand; daughter, Laura (Galen) Zimmerman; mother, Inabeth Mailand Bratfish; brother, Rick (Debbie) Mailand; loving companion, Robyn Williamson; grandchildren, Fredi and Cooper Mailand; Mai, Ava and Parker Zimmerman; niece, Melissa (Clay) Condrey; and grandnieces, Ella and Charlotte Condrey.

Fred was adored by his family. His quick wit and smile will be missed immensely We take comfort in knowing he is at peace and in our Savior's loving arms.

To honor Fred's life, in lieu of flowers, Tribute Gift donations can be made in his name to the American Lung Association. Please sent the gift notification and cards to Inabeth Mailand Bratfish, 4382 Hickey Creek Rd., Roscommon, MI 48653.

**Robert Peters**

Robert Howard Peters peacefully passed away on Jan. 8, 2022, after a brief illness.

He was born on Jan. 10, 1952, making his life just two days short of 70 years. He was the only son in the small family of two children born to Howard and Josephine (Inman) Peters. He spent his growing up years in the rural Ithaca area working for his Dad who owned a masonry and construction business. He was baptized into the Church of God in Christ, Mennonite on July 14th, 1968, by Minister Richard Litwiller.

On June 24, 1972, Dad married Mom, Wanda Benner. In the spring of '73 they started a new venture becoming lifelong Dairy farmers. We as children are grateful for the farming lifestyle and that we had the opportunity to have Dad around through our growing up years. Dad remained active in farming until his life took a sudden turn in January of 2009, when he suffered a massive stroke. During this time, we as a family had anxious hearts and we thought we were going to have to say our goodbyes. After Dad recovered and realized how near he had come to death, he understood

that our Merciful Father had granted him a "second chance."

We as a family are now comforted during this time of loss with the knowledge that Dad made "sure steps" and renewed his vows with God. Although Dad remained semi handicapped and his active days were over, we feel that these were some of Dad's very best years.

He was an inspiration to many with his smile and upbeat attitude. Dad was known as a giver and one to always encourage. His outgoing personality and interest in others won him many friends. He found fulfillment in doing the small things he could and was known to many as a prayer warrior, lifting up those of family, friends and even

relative strangers up to his Loving Father. He took an interest in his children and grandchildren and became particularly close to one of his grandsons who lived just down the road. They shared many days together back in the woods, by the creek or just at the house.

Those left to cherish fond memories are his wife, Wanda of Ithaca; his mother, Josephine of Ithaca; his five children, Chad (Shelly) Peters of Ithaca, Avery (Christine) Peters of Fowler, Trent (Kristina) Peters of West Union, Iowa, Ashley (Rebekah) Peters of Riverdale and Laura (Paul) Brady of Bridgewater, Maine; 22 grandchildren; and his sister, Sherry Thompson of Lansing. Also

left behind are brother-in-law, Gary Benner, St. Johns; sisters-in-law, Joyce and Jim Decker, DeRidder, La.; Gloria and Orlie Friesen and Mary and Tobie Yoder, Barron, Wis.; Marta and Joel Unruh, Ronan, Mont.; Diane and Andrew Lambdin, Scotia, Neb.; step-mother-in-law, Maxine Benner, Middleton; and her children Mike and LuAnn Petoskey, Lake Providence, La.; Michelle and Gregg Fitzpatrick, Carson City; and Kirk and Marilyn Petoskey, Goshen, Ind.

He was preceded in death by his father, Howard.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. at the Newark

Mennonite Church with Ministers Darin Litwiller, Mike Litwiller, Doug Salsbury, and Greg Friesen officiating. The family will receive friends on Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the church. Burial will take place at the Hayes Road Cemetery.

Those desiring, may make contributions in Robert's memory to Mapleview Retirement Community, 4396 S. Luce Road, Ithaca, MI 48847.

To view Robert's obituary online or to leave a condolence for the family please visit [www.burkhead-green-kilgo.com](http://www.burkhead-green-kilgo.com)

The family is being served by the Burkhead-Green-Kilgo Funeral Home.



**Funeral Directors**  
 Nicholas P. Lux | Laura E. Krebs | Paul C. Lux  
 Scott Kilgo | Christopher Krebs | Rodger D. Whiting

**Assistant Directors**  
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In Your Hour of Darkness let us be Your Light

**Alice Benson**

Alice Marie (Ensign) Benson, 87, of Alma, died Jan. 5, 2022, at Masonic Pathways in Alma.

She was born on Jan. 28, 1934, in Ypsilanti, the daughter of Elbert Edwin and Esther Mary (Crawford) Ensign.

She married Clyde G. Benson on Dec. 22, 1956, in Ypsilanti.

Mrs. Benson graduated from Ypsilanti High School, attended Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State University and received a B.A. in Business Administration from Central Michigan University.

Mrs. Benson volunteered at the Gratiot Schools Federal Credit Union, precursor to GraCo Federal Credit Union, in the late 60s, then accepted a paid position as Assistant Treasurer in May of 1970. In January of 1971 she was promoted to manager and served in this role until her retirement in February 1988. Under her leadership the Credit Union grew from 341 members with \$146,000 on deposit to 2,363 members with over \$2.4 million on deposit.

In her pastime she was an avid reader and enjoyed solving



crossword puzzles.

She is survived by her son, Tim (Joan) Benson of Crystal; grandson, Tyler (Kristy) Benson; great-granddaughters, Olivia, Annie and Charlotte; great-grandson, Parker; grandson, Joshua (Bronwyn) Benson; great-grandson, Galen.

Her son, Stuart (Susan) Benson of Howard City.

Her son, Andy (Kathy) Benson of Alma; granddaughter, Heidi (Nate) Williams; great-granddaughter, Chelsea Wise (Caleb Silorey); great-great-

granddaughter, Scarlet and great-great-grandson, Grayson; great-grandson, Brandon (Jessica) Wise; great-great-granddaughter, Ella Rose; great-great-grandson, Jackson; granddaughter, Jill (Matt) Moreno; great-granddaughter, Mia; great-grandson, Nolan; granddaughter, Melissa Awsung; great-grandson, Jason.

Her daughter, Mary (John) May of Stanwood; grandson, John Clyde.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Clyde; a brother, Thomas; and her parents.

Memorial services were held on Jan. 12, 2022, at the Masonic Pathways, Doig Chapel. Interment will be held at a later date in Riverside Cemetery in Alma, Michigan.

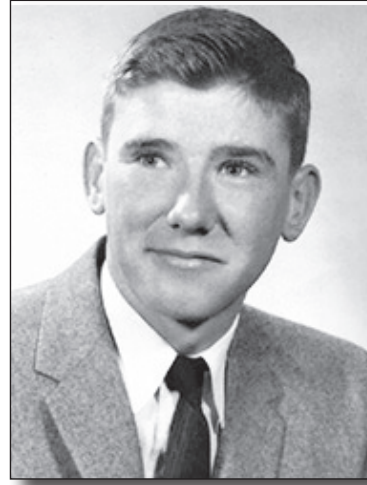
Those desiring, may make memorial donations in Alice's memory to the American Cancer Society.

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

To view Alice's obituary online or to leave a condolence for the family, please visit [www.luxfuneralhomes.com](http://www.luxfuneralhomes.com).

# OBITUARIES

**Michael Glynn**



– hunting and fishing with family and friends like his brother Tom and friend Butch Mates, snowmobiling, boating, and particularly farming near North Star with brother-in-law Ron Stone. Trips to the Upper Peninsula to go deer hunting and to Canada fishing were highlights of Mike's recreational life. The annual family-reunion and fish-fry following the Canadian fishing trip were looked forward to by all!

Mike retired early to care for his wife Phyllis as her health deteriorated. After her heartbreaking passing, Mike took solace in his hobbies, driving (slowly) around Ithaca, cocktail hour with longtime friends at his brother Tom's place telling tall tales, and coffee and cookies with the Stone's and sister, Jeanne. Mike looked forward to his Sunday tradition of driving to Alma with his son Jeff, eating Arby's dinner overlooking the river, returning to Ithaca for ice cream, and taking the back roads home to the farm. Mike enjoyed a rich and full life, well-lived.

Surviving to cherish Mike's memory are his sons, Jeff (Ithaca), Mike (Tiffany) Thum, (Dublin, OH) and Brad (Vicki) Thum (Ithaca); grandchildren, Matt, Sean, Aydin, Lexie, Nick, Samantha, and Zack (Thum). He also leaves his sisters, Jeanne Glynn and Judy (Ronald) Stone (Ithaca). "Uncle Mike" also leaves many nieces and nephews that loved him dearly.

He was predeceased by his loving wife, Phyllis; parents, John and Fannie; brothers, Richard (Dick) and Thomas (Tom); and daughter-in-law, Molly (Siggins) Thum.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to all those who cared for Mike during his illness.

Passionate about local history, the family would appreciate any memorials in Mike's name be made to the Gratiot County Historical Society.

Funeral services for Michael will be 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 14, 2022 at the Barden Funeral Home in Ithaca. Bill DeVuyst will officiate and burial will follow at North Star Cemetery. Visitation will be 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, January 13 at the funeral home.

Condolences may be left for the family online at [www.bardenfuneralhome.com](http://www.bardenfuneralhome.com).

**Barden Funeral Home**  
Ithaca

Michael Page Glynn, Ithaca, loving husband, father, brother and grandfather passed away peacefully in Alma, on Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, after an extended illness. Michael was 80 years old.

Michael (Mike) was born in the family home on Oct. 22, 1941, the son and fourth child of John and Fannie Emily (Page) Glynn in Ithaca, Mich., Gratiot County. He married Phyllis White on Aug. 19, 1967 in Rockford. She predeceased him on Oct. 9, 2002.

Mike and Phyllis were blessed with a son, Jeffery John in 1968. Jeff joined half-brothers Mike and Brad Thum who Mike raised as his own.

Mike spent much of his boyhood years hanging out in the neighborhood garages of Ithaca getting his hands dirty with life-long friends Doug Williams, E.J. Potter, Tom Lockwood, Kendal Foster, Bill Hubbard, Fred Schaub, and future brother-in-law, Ron (Pebble) Stone. Possessing extraordinary mechanical skills, Mike rebuilt his first engine at the age of 13. Upon graduation, he pursued his love of mechanics by becoming a skilled heavy equipment mechanic/diesel technician/welder-fabricator for several road-construction and excavating companies including Meuhlenbeck Construction, Holloway Construction, and C. J. Rogers Construction, a career spanning over 35 years and a proud member of the Operating Engineers, Local 325. Mike especially enjoyed life-long friendships with co-workers Kendal Foster, Jerry Ferguson and Ronnie Pung. Traveling daily to construction projects around the state, Mike logged well over a million miles on just one of his work trucks, a testament to his mechanical skills.

He also enjoyed many hobbies

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## NEW Lifelong Learning Classes Announced!

Mid Michigan College offers Lifelong Learning opportunities for community members that cover a wide range of interesting hobbies and important topics.

- **Basic Dog Training** | January 17 in Harrison
- **Yoga for Beginners** | January 17 in Mt. Pleasant
- **Basic Dog Training** | January 20 in Mt. Pleasant
- **Healing through Writing** | January 27 in Mt. Pleasant
- **Valentine Cookies with Royal Icing** | February 1 in Harrison
- **Valentine Cookies with Royal Icing** | February 3 in Mt. Pleasant
- **Guitar Fundamentals I** | February 8 in Mt. Pleasant or Online
- **Financial Seminar: Rules of the Road** | February 8 in Mt. Pleasant or Online FREE
- **Top Scams: Romance, Tech Support, & Lottery/Sweepstakes** | February 16 | Multiple Locations
- **Grant Writing Basics** | February 22 in Mt. Pleasant
- **Mental Wellness Strategies for Everyday Use** | February 22 | Online via Zoom
- **Online Scams & Identity Theft** | February 23 | Multiple Locations
- **St. Patrick's Day Cookies with Royal Icing** | February 28 in Harrison
- **Storytelling Workshop** | March 1 in Mt. Pleasant
- **Imposter Scams** | March 2 | Multiple Locations
- **St. Patrick's Day Cookies with Royal Icing** | March 2 in

Mt. Pleasant

- **Genealogy** | March 3 in Harrison
- **Financial Seminar: Focus on Fixed Income** | March 8 in Mt. Pleasant or Online FREE
- **Local Scams** | March 9 | Multiple Locations
- **Internet Smarts Part 1** | March 16 | Multiple Locations
- **Basic Dog Training** | March 17 in Harrison

The College is also offering a new opportunity for those who love to read! Mid's Good Book Club is available to any and all who would like to participate. The club will meet remotely on the last Thursday of each month 3:30pm-4:30pm. For details visit [midmich.edu/lifelonglearning](http://midmich.edu/lifelonglearning).

"Mid is committed to offering learning opportunities that appeal to lifelong students in our surrounding communities, and feature local artisans and experts as instructors," noted Scott Mertes, Vice President of Community Outreach & Advancement at Mid. "Lifelong Learning classes are affordable, offered online, on-campus, and in our local communities, and are focused on topics that spark creativity and pique interest. From artistic endeavors to dog training, the class you're looking for is coming soon."

For the most up-to-date class schedule, more information about lifelong learning, or to register for an upcoming class, visit [midmich.edu/lifelonglearning](http://midmich.edu/lifelonglearning) or contact us at [lifelonglearning@midmich.edu](mailto:lifelonglearning@midmich.edu) or (989) 386-6651.

# COMMUNITY



### 72nd anniversary

Cecil and Dorothy Becker (Moulton) celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary on Jan. 11. They are blessed with five children, 17 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. Cards of celebration may be sent to them at 2087 E Washington Rd., Ithaca MI 48847.

### Card of Thanks

#### THANK YOU

I would like to thank all of my family and friends for all the cards, phone calls, well wishes and gifts for my 90th birthday. God Bless everyone.

Joan Netzley



### 80th birthday

Larry Porter will be celebrating his 80th birthday on Jan. 26. His family would like to celebrate with a card shower. Cards may be sent to him at 202 Terranova Blvd., Winter Haven, FL 33884.

### Card of Thanks

#### THANK YOU

I would like to thank my friends, neighbors and family for the many cards, phone calls, and gifts I received to celebrate my 90th birthday. I so enjoyed each and every one of them! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Eleanor O'Boyle

## COMING EVENTS

### PANTRY

**Thursdays:** The Gratiot Community Personal Needs Pantry is open every Thursday from 12 to 1:30 p.m. and 5 to 6:30 p.m. The pantry is located at the St. Louis 1st United Methodist Church, 116 S. Franklin St., next to the 7/11. This pantry is available to Gratiot County residents with ID and a Bridge/SNAP card or registration in the Hunger Network at a food pantry. Clients are asked to come to the rear of the church, remain in their vehicle and a volunteer will bring out a pre-packed bag containing 4 rolls of toilet paper, 2 bars of soap, 1 bottle of dish soap, a tube of toothpaste and a bottle of laundry soap.

### FREE BOARD GAME EVENT

**Jan. 15:** Alma Arbor of Gleaners Presents: Free board game event, games & prizes, noon to 5pm, at Alma Public Library.

*Get the Gratiot County Herald for all your local news, sports and community events!*

# HEALTH

## Due to COVID surge, Sparrow to limit patient visitors

Due to the prevalence of the COVID virus within our region and increased transmission of the Omicron variant, Sparrow is modifying its inpatient visitor policy throughout the Health System in order to better protect caregivers, visitors and patients.

The following is effective Tuesday, Jan. 11:

- Only one visitor allowed per patient each day. Patients or their representative will be asked to coordinate with their family and friends so the appropriate visitors are allowed access. Currently, two visitors are allowed per patient.
- Patients in Pediatrics and Wom-

en's Services units can have two visitors designated throughout their stay. There is no change in the policy for these units.

- There is also no change in policy for patients in the Emergency Department, who may have one visitor once they are in a room.
- Comfort Care/End-of-Life patients will be addressed on a case by case basis.

Reducing the number of visitors into the health system helps to limit the potential spread of the virus as we experience a record high number of COVID positive patients and caregivers. We will re-evaluate the policy when COVID

numbers decline. Although the increase in COVID positive patients and caregivers may warrant tighter restrictions, Sparrow believes visitation is an important part of the healing/caring process.

All COVID-19 positive patient visitors must set up an appointment by calling 517.364.2514.

All visitors are required to properly wear face masks at all Sparrow locations. If a mask is not being properly worn, the individual will be asked to leave the facility and may lose their visitation rights.

For more information about everything related to COVID, go to [Sparrow.org/COVID](http://Sparrow.org/COVID).

## What may be behind a loss of smell

Do you suffer from anosmia? It's not a loss of memory - that is amnesia. However, anosmia does involve the loss of something else, namely your sense of smell.

Chances are at some point in your life you have experienced a period of anosmia, which is the partial or complete loss of smell. Few people give thought to what loss of sense of smell means until they are nose-deep in that loss. Anosmia can be permanent or temporary, and various things could be behind it.

### Allergies or a cold

A cold or allergies are two conditions that irritate the delicate lining inside of the nose, interrupting olfactory receptors. In addition, swelling of the nasal membranes likely also plays a role in loss of smell, which is common with respiratory illnesses and allergic rhinitis and chronic sinus infections, according to

Healthline.

### Head trauma

The Monell Center, which studies and treats issues related to taste and smell, says that between 20 and 30 percent of head trauma patients have some type of problem with smell. Olfactory nerves pass through small openings in the cribriform plate, a honeycomb-like bone between the nose and the brain. These nerve fibers can be crushed or severed when the force of a head injury causes the brain to collide with the skull.

### COVID-19

Anosmia has been identified as a side effect of the COVID-19 virus. In fact, temporary loss of smell is the main neurological symptom and one of the most commonly reported early indicators of the disease, says Harvard Medical School. Research teams found infection of nonneuronal cell types - those that support

neurons - are responsible for anosmia in COVID-19 patients. The good news is the neurons are not affected, so sense of smell can recover over time.

### Other causes

There are other medically sound reasons why loss of smell may occur. These range from exposure to chemicals that burn the inside of the nose to an underactive thyroid to long-term alcoholism. Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease also have been linked to anosmia. However, there are many other conditions that obstruct the nasal passages or cause damage to the brain or nerves involved in sense of smell.

Anyone who experiences loss of smell should consult with a doctor, especially if a COVID-19 test comes back negative. Such a loss could indicate a minor situation or be a symptom of a more serious illness.

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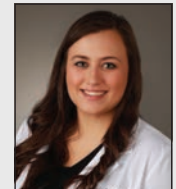
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# SPORTS

## WRESTLING

ALMA • ASHLEY • BRECKENRIDGE • FULTON • ITHACA • ST. LOUIS

### Homeboys: Sharks second at Threlloff Invite

St. Louis, with three individual champions, represented well on its home mats last Saturday, finishing second to Clare at the Threlloff Invitational. Colin Kuhn, Martine Wiggins and Justice Onstott all won their weights for St. Louis, which finished with 206 points to Clare's 221.

Alma, with a split squad, was ninth at the Threlloff Invitational, Breckenridge 10th and Fulton 11th.

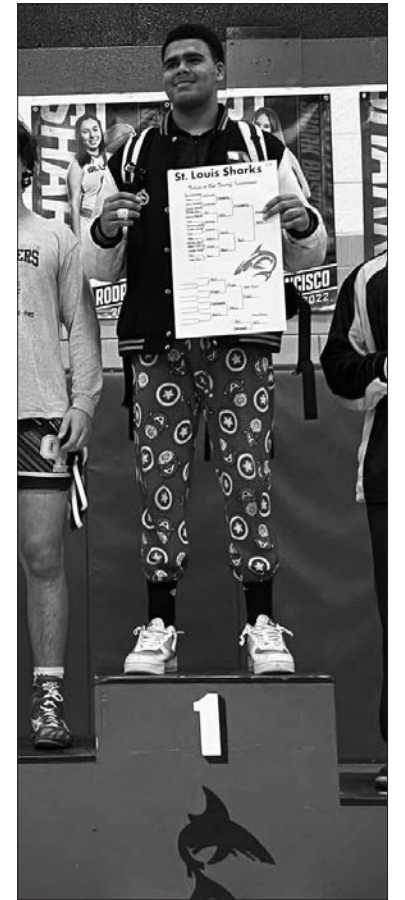
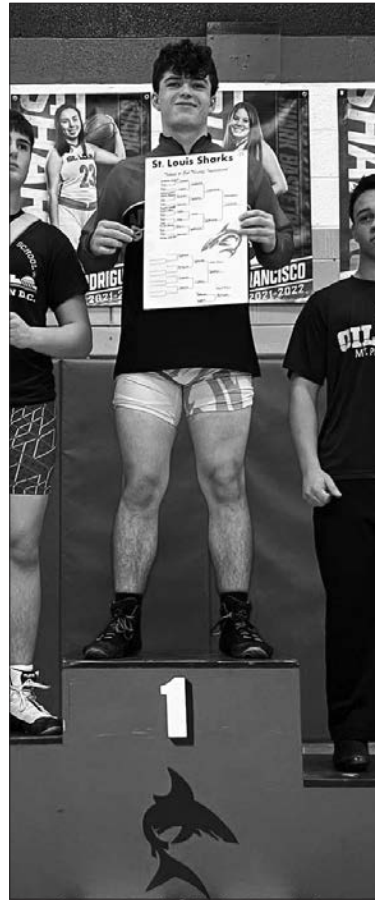
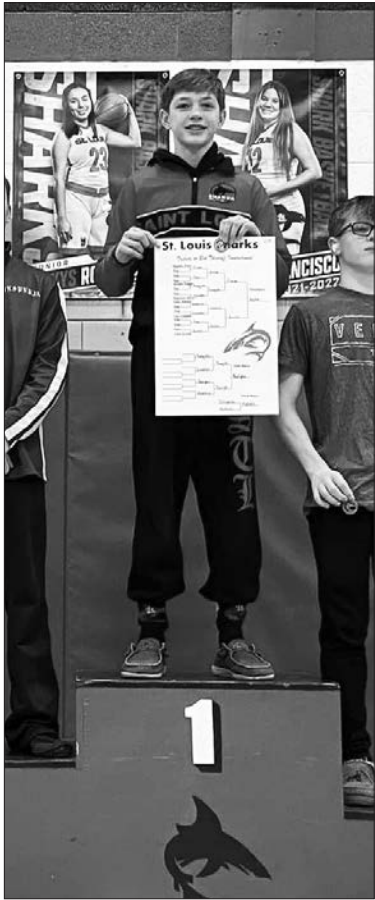
Kuhn, a freshman wrestling at 103 pounds, won by fall in 2:52 over Hesperia's Stephen Priebe in the final match. In the semifinals he pinned Clare's Ryan Moreno in 3:26.

Also a freshman, St. Louis' Wiggins took an 18-5 major decision over Ovid-Elsie's Gavyn Perry in the 140-pound championship match. He won his first two matches by pin, including in 2:11 against Hesperia's Scott Quinn in the semifinals.

Also at 140, Alma's Brenden Everdeen was third after pinning Bullock Creek's Kaden Forshee in 32 seconds in the consolation final.

At 189 pounds, Sharks junior Onstott beat Bay City Western's Ethan Spencer by pin in 1:49 to win that flight's final match. That completed a sweep of wins by pin for Onstott, doing it in 40 seconds in the quarterfinals and 1:26 against Bay City Western's Hayden Sparks in the semifinals.

Alma had one champion, senior Kory Bell, who defeated Ovid-Elsie's Colin Fluharty 14-3 in the



**Champions at St. Louis' Bob Threlloff Invitational (from left): St. Louis' Colin Kuhn at 103 pounds; St. Louis' Martine Wiggins at 140 pounds; St. Louis' Justice Onstott at 189 pounds; and Alma's Kory Bell at 215 pounds.**

215-pound championship match. Bell won all three matches by fall, in 58 seconds in the quarterfinals and 4:54 over Fulton's Garner Akin in the semifinals.

Also at 215, Breckenridge's Ethan Hill took a 4-1 decision from St. Louis' Ben Dousuah for third place. Fulton's Akin was sixth,

dropping the fifth-place match to Mt. Pleasant's Lucas Frost.

St. Louis' Genaro Soto was the runner-up at 125 pounds. In the championship match, Ovid-Elsie's Cole Workman won a 12-1 major decision. Soto won his first two matches by pin.

Other wrestlers scoring for

St. Louis were Robert Long-Terwilliger, third-place after pinning Hesperia's Dominic Smith in 1:20; Josh Dew fourth at 145 pounds; Braden Ball fourth at 285 pounds; Josh Voories fifth and Jon Campbell sixth at 119 pounds; Dylan Marr fifth at 135 pounds; and Conner Daniels fifth at 152

pounds.

Breckenridge's top finish came at 135 pounds, where Derek Mayle was third, defeating Ovid-Elsie's Maxwell Spiess in the consolation final.

Also placing for Breckenridge at St. Louis, Blake Sumner was fifth at 112 pounds.

### Panthers capture New Lothrop Hall of Fame title

Alma had three individual champions and finished in first place at the New Lothrop Hall of Fame Tournament. Cole O'Boyle, Isaiah Mullins and Fabian Facundo all won their weight classes for the Panthers, who finished with 184.5 points. Hudson was the runner-up with 150.5.

There were 23 teams total competing at New Lothrop.

O'Boyle, an Alma sophomore, pinned Richmond's Kevin McKiernan in 2:39 in the 171-pound championship match. He won his first matches by pin as well and is 18-2 on tie year.

Alma senior Mullins blanked Lake Fenton's Clay Cook in the 112-pound championship match 7-0 to improve to 19-2 on the season. Mullins won his first two matches at New Lothrop by fall.

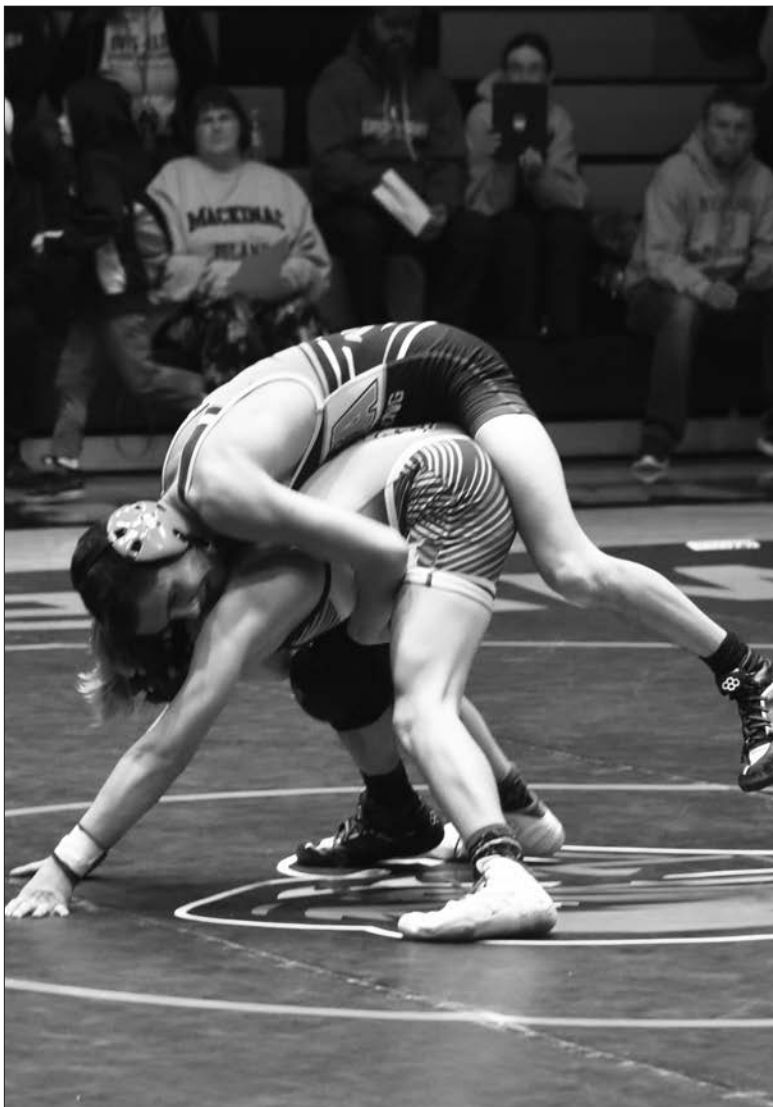
Just a freshman, Facundo is already 18-2 after pinning Union City's Landyn Crance in under a minute in the 125-pound final match. He saw a bit of everything at New Lothrop, winning his other two matches by technical fall and major decision.

Alma had three wrestlers win their third-place matches. Jacob Munger edged Richmond's Wesley Peters with a 3-2 decision in the 189-pound consolation final.

In the 130-pound third-place final, Buddy Leonard, another freshman, won a 4-2 decision over Hudson's Austin Marry.

Gianni Tripp reached the third-place match for 135 pounds, winning by forfeit.

Losing in the third-place matches for Alma were Josiah Baltierra, by fall to Hudson's Payton Rogers;



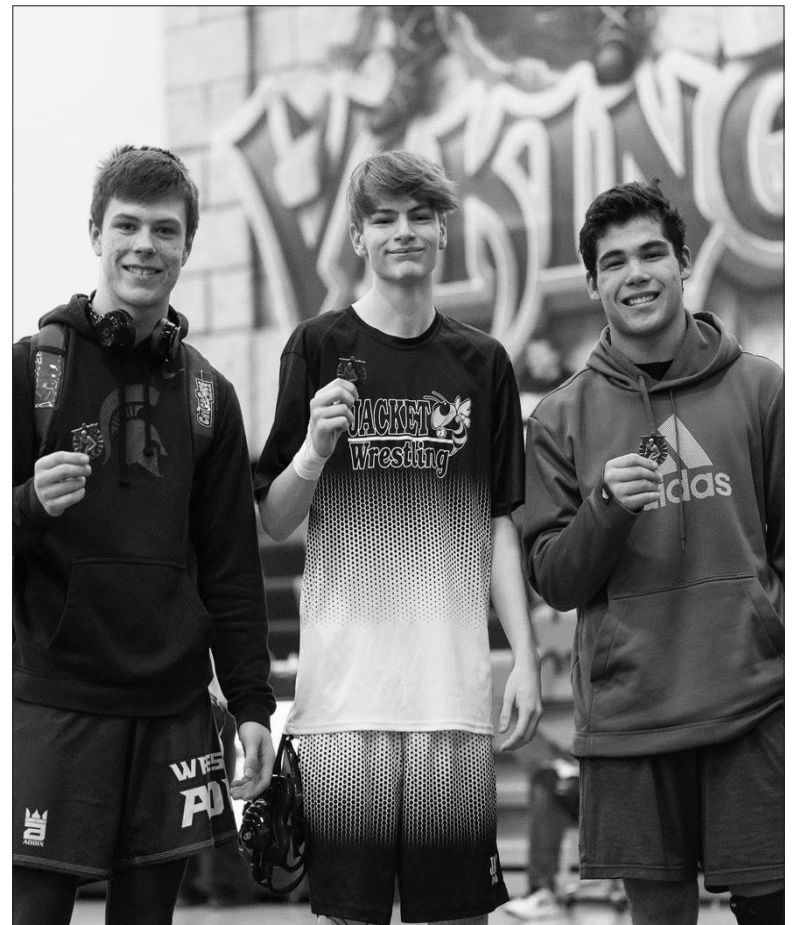
and Adam Garcia by fall to Lapeer's Matthew Bollman.

Scoring with sixth-place finishes for the Panthers were Landon Bethka, who dropped a decision to Lapeer's Austen Murphy in the 145-pound fifth-place match; and

Jaden Morrow, who was defeated by decision by Hudson's Calix Campbell in the 160-pound fifth-place final.

#### Ithaca 4-1

The Yellowjackets had three



**LEFT: Alma senior Isaiah Mullins was one of three Panthers to win their weight class at the New Lothrop Hall of Fame Tournament. ABOVE: Ithaca's (from left) Joe Dawes, Adam Santana and Noah Risner all finished 5-0 at Grayling's team tournament.**

wrestlers go undefeated, 5-0, and went 4-1 at Grayling's team tournament. Ithaca beat the host, Grayling, 55-18; Manistee, 54-30; and Oscoda, 45-36. Whittemore-Prescott beat Ithaca, 45-27.

Going 5-0 for Ithaca were Joe Dawe, Noah Risner and Adam Santana.

Finishing 4-1 on the day for the Jackets were Mason Vancamp, Brandon Pass, Owen Mikulka and Austin Mitchell.

"We showed a lot of improvement over winter break and I was really pleased how these guys performed," Ithaca coach Daryl Dawe said.

# SPORTS

## BASKETBALL

ALMA • ASHLEY • BRECKENRIDGE • FULTON • ITHACA • ST. LOUIS

### Prep basketball standings

Boys CMAC			Girls CMAC		
School	League	Overall	School	League	Overall
Potterville	3-1	3-1	Portland St. Pat.	6-0	9-0
Fowler	2-1	4-1	Fowler	3-1	6-1
Pewamo-Westph.	2-1	3-3	Dansville	3-2	6-3
Laingsburg	2-1	2-2	Potterville	3-2	5-2
Bath	2-1	2-2	Pewamo-Westph.	2-2	5-2
Fulton	2-2	2-3	Saranac	2-3	4-4
St. Patrick	1-2	1-4	Bath	1-3	1-5
Saranac	0-3	1-4	Laingsburg	0-3	2-4
Dansville	0-3	1-4	Fulton	0-4	1-5
<b>Jan. 4</b>			<b>Jan. 7</b>		
Fowler 56, Fulton 55			Dansville 48, Fulton 21		
<b>Jan. 6</b>			<b>Jan. 12</b>		
Fulton 64, Dansville 46			Fulton at Bath		
<b>Jan. 11</b>			<b>Jan. 14</b>		
Bath at Fulton, <i>ppd.</i>			Fulton at Potterville		
<b>Jan. 13</b>			<b>Jan. 17</b>		
Potterville at Fulton			Merrill at Fulton		
<b>Jan. 19</b>			<b>Jan. 19</b>		
Fulton at Montabella			Fulton at St. Patrick		
MSAC			MSAC		
School	League	Overall	School	League	Overall
Montabella	4-0	5-0	CC-Crystal	5-0	5-0
CC-Crystal	4-1	5-1	Coleman	4-0	5-1
Breckenridge	3-1	4-1	St. Charles	3-1	5-2
Sacred Heart	2-1	2-1	Breckenridge	3-2	3-4
St. Charles	2-2	2-4	Sacred Heart	3-2	5-3
Vestaburg	1-2	2-3	Vestaburg	2-2	2-3
Merrill	1-4	1-5	Montabella	1-4	1-6
Coleman	1-4	1-6	Merrill	1-5	2-7
Ashley	0-3	0-4	Ashley	0-6	1-7
<b>Jan. 6</b>			<b>Jan. 4</b>		
Breckenridge 30 Carson City 28			St. Louis 39, Breckenridge 26		
<b>Jan. 11</b>			<b>Jan. 5</b>		
Akron-Fairgrove at Ashley			Sacred Heart 71, Ashley 18		
Sacred Heart at Breckenridge, <i>ppd.</i>			<b>Jan. 7</b>		
<b>Jan. 13</b>			Carson City 47, Breckenridge 29		
Ashley at Vestaburg			Coleman 52, Ashley 11		
St. Charles at Breckenridge, <i>ppd.</i>			<b>Jan. 11</b>		
<b>Jan. 17</b>			Akron-Fairgrove at Ashley		
Ashley at Coleman			<b>Jan. 12</b>		
<b>Jan. 19</b>			Breckenridge at Sacred Heart		
Breckenridge at Saginaw Arts Science			<b>Jan. 14</b>		
			Breckenridge at St. Charles		
			Vestaburg at Ashley		
			<b>Jan. 18</b>		
			Breckenridge at Beaverton		
TVC-8			TVC-8		
School	League	Overall	School	League	Overall
Alma	3-0	6-0	Frankenmuth	4-0	7-1
Freeland	3-0	5-0	Freeland	3-0	6-2
Frankenmuth	4-0	6-1	Swan Valley	2-1	6-2
Swan Valley	1-2	2-5	Alma	1-2	3-4
Garber	1-3	1-6	John Glenn	1-2	2-6
Birch Run	0-3	1-4	Bridgeport	1-2	1-6
John Glenn	0-3	1-4	Garber	1-3	5-3
Bridgeport	0-3	1-4	Birch Run	0-3	0-5
<b>Jan. 4</b>			<b>Jan. 4</b>		
Alma 50, Shepherd 38			Alma 41, Shepherd 29		
<b>Jan. 7</b>			<b>Jan. 7</b>		
Alma 60, John Glenn 51			John Glenn 47, Alma 41		
<b>Jan. 11</b>			<b>Jan. 11</b>		
Alma at Freeland			Freeland at Alma		
<b>Jan. 14</b>			<b>Jan. 14</b>		
Alma at Bridgeport			Alma at Bridgeport		
			<b>Jan. 19</b>		
			Lansing Waverly at Alma		
TVC-10			TVC-10		
School	League	Overall	School	League	Overall
Carrollton	5-0	6-0	Standish-Sterling	4-0	5-1
Standish-Sterling	4-0	6-0	Hemlock	3-1	4-2
Ithaca	3-1	5-1	Saginaw Nouvel	3-1	3-3
Hemlock	3-1	4-1	Valley Lutheran	3-2	4-2
Saginaw Nouvel	2-2	3-3	Ithaca	2-2	4-2
Millington	1-2	2-2	Bullock Creek	2-2	3-3
Bullock Creek	1-3	2-4	Lutheran Seminary	2-2	3-3
Valley Lutheran	1-4	2-4	St. Louis	1-3	3-3
Lutheran Seminary	0-4	1-4	Millington	1-3	2-3
St. Louis	0-3	0-4	Carrollton	0-5	2-5
<b>Jan. 7</b>			<b>Jan. 7</b>		
Ithaca 53, Millington 41			Ithaca 37, Millington 26		
Carrollton 78, St. Louis 53			St. Louis 50, Carrollton 46		
<b>Jan. 11</b>			<b>Jan. 11</b>		
Ithaca at Lutheran Seminary			Bullock Creek at St. Louis		
St. Louis at Bullock Creek			Lutheran Seminary at Ithaca		
<b>Jan. 14</b>			<b>Jan. 14</b>		
Standish-Sterling at Ithaca			Standish Sterling at Ithaca		
St. Louis at Hemlock			<b>Jan. 18</b>		
<b>Jan. 18</b>			Nouvel at Ithaca		
Ithaca at Nouvel					
St. Louis at Lutheran Seminary					



Fulton's Walker Eyer drives against Ithaca. He had six points, seven rebounds against Fowler.

## Pirates smack around Aggies

After a pair of one-point losses, to Ithaca and then Fowler, Fulton's boys basketball team didn't leave anything to chance last Thursday against Dansville, winning the CMAC home game 64-48.

Joe Iung had 20 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Pirates. Bruce Thelen scored 15 with four boards for Fulton and Xander Ramsey had 14 points and six rebounds.

Jared Bristle led Dansville with 19 points. Two days prior the Pirates suffered a heart-breaking loss at Fowler, in what Fowler coach Kam Riley said felt like a March game in January. Fulton went up late, 55-54, on a three-pointer by Zach Saller. But Fowler answered with a game-winning three-pointer, 56-55, with 6 seconds to play from Alex Hamilton.

Iung, Fulton's leading scorer last season now back from injury, had 24 points and nine rebounds. He also had a key steal and assist to Ramsey that put Fulton up three with under two minutes to play. Ramsey scored 11 with six boards,

Bruce Thelen had eight points, five rebounds and Walker Eyer had six points, seven rebounds.

Fowler led at the half, 26-22, with Fulton taking the lead going into the fourth, 44-43. Jacob Halfmann had 19 points for Fowler.

### GIRLS Ithaca wins

Delaney Seaman scored 13 of her game-high 15 points in the first half, leading Ithaca to a 37-26 TVC-10 win over Millington.

Lauryn Humphrey scored 10 for the Yellowjackets, who are 4-2 overall, 2-2 in the conference going into Tuesday's game with Lutheran Seminary.

### Panthers split

Jordan Cleveland scored 17 points and Zoe Jackson had nine for Alma, which dropped a TVC-8 game last Friday to Bay City John Glenn, 47-41.

Gracie Mellinger added nine points for the Panthers.

Earlier last week Alma won a non-conference contest at home

with Shepherd, 41-29. Alma's defense limited the Bluejays to just four points in the final stanza.

Cleveland scored 14 for the Panthers. Jackson had six points and Eliana Rodriguez scored five.

### Bears drop pair

Coleman sits atop the MSAC girls basketball standings alongside Carson City-Crystal for a reason. The Comets remain unbeaten in the league after their 52-11 win over Ashley, which was held scoreless in two quarters.

Ashleigh Jelinek had four points and seven rebounds for Ashley. Jenna Wirt scored four and Alexys McAllister had three points.

Sacred Heart beat Ashley, 71-18. Jenlinek had eight points, five blocked shots and three steals. Wrt scored seven.

"We struggled against Sacred Heart's press in the first quarter and gave up too many easy buckets," Ashley coach Joe Shaw said. "I thought we played with a lot more effort in the second half and competed."

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# SPORTS

BASKETBALL/VOLLEYBALL

ALMA • ASHLEY • BRECKENRIDGE • FULTON • ITHACA • ST. LOUIS



LEFT: Ithaca's Dalton Seaman had 11 points against Millington. RIGHT: Ithaca's Brendan Wood scored 17 points against Millington, a game Ithaca won 53-41 to improve to 5-1 on the season.

## Panthers, Ithaca rolling

Alma went into Tuesday's TVC-8 boys basketball showdown with Freeland undefeated, 6-0, but it wasn't easy to get there clean. Last Friday the Panthers went to Bay City John Glenn, where they found themselves starting down 11-0 before rallying to win, 60-51.

Alma was still down five midway through the fourth quarter, before closing the game out by outscoring John Glenn 18-5.

"I'm very proud of the way our guys answered after starting out the game down," Alma coach Chris Brown said. "Our guys did a fantastic job of staying even keel, answering their runs and playing hard through adversity."

Helping the Panthers' cause was their marksmanship from the foul line, where they sunk 19-of-25 free throws.

Michael Howey led Alma with 20 points and added nine rebounds. Sam Leppien scored 15, had nine rebounds himself and blocked seven shots. Connor Lemerand turned in a double-double effort of 11 points and 10 rebounds, while Mason Stambaugh contributed five points and four assists and Sam Rosales seven points, five rebounds, five assists and three steals.

John Glenn, 1-4, was led by

Sean Wesoleks' 14 points.

Earlier last week Alma beat its nearest Northern neighbor, Shepherd, 50-38, avenging last year's district loss to the Bluejays. Alma got up early, 13-7 after the first quarter, and went into halftime with a 25-18 lead.

"It was a great win against a tough rival," Brown said. "I was extremely pleased with our team defense and the way our entire team prepared for the game. Our posts did a strong job in the point."

Those posts, Howey and Leppien, had 16 points, nine rebounds and two steals and 16 points, eight rebounds and two blocked shot, respectively. Lemerand finished with 11 points and four steals.

It was the 200th win for Brown coaching Alma – the fifth at the varsity level.

### Ithaca improves to 5-1

After being held scoreless from behind the arc in the first half, Ithaca exploded with six third-quarter three-pointers and four more in the fourth for a home TVC-10 win over Millington last Friday, 53-41.

Brendan Wood made four three-pointers en route to his team-high 17 points. Dalton Seaman connected three times from deep

and scored 11 and Shawn Parker scored 10 on the strength of three three-pointers.

Kaden Wisenbach scored a game-high 18 points for Millington.

### Sharks drop a pair

Carrollton improved to 5-0 at the expense of St. Louis last Friday, beating the Sharks 78-53.

Ignatius Jackson scored 24 and Michael Baysah had 12 points for St. Louis, which fell to 0-4 overall, 0-4 in the TVC-8.

Marco Hernandez had the hot hand from Carrollton, sinking three first-quarter three points and finishing with 18 points. DJ Volt added 14 points and Art Gomez had 11 for Carrollton, which saw everyone on the roster score.

St. Louis dropped another league road game last week, 57-49 at Saginaw Valley Lutheran. It was close the whole way, with the Sharks trailing 29-24 at halftime.

Thomas Zacharko scored 14 points for St. Louis, while Jackson scored 13 and Demetrius Alspaugh had 10 points.

For Valley Lutheran, which got its first conference victory, Elijah Wolter scored 16 points, while Alex Gray had 15 points and six rebounds.

## Sharks claim first league win

St. Louis' girls basketball team improved to 3-3 overall while gaining the Sharks' first TVC-10 victory of the season last Friday against Carrollton, 50-46.

Josie Schrot and Kerregan Wilson both scored 17 points for the Sharks, with Wilson adding nine rebounds. Kiersten Francisco did it across the stat book six points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

For Carrollton, Latoya Boyd had 17 points and 13 rebounds, while Joy Boyd, Destiny Sanders and Nia Baldwin all scored eight points.

Earlier last week St. Louis took a home non-leaguer from Breckenridge, 39-26.

Wilson and Francisco both scored a dozen points for the

Sharks, who jumped out to an 11-4 first-quarter lead and were up 17-10 at the half.

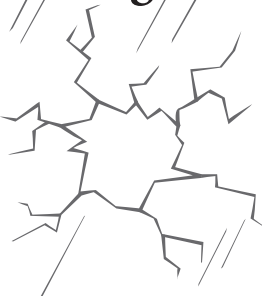
For the Huskies, Megan Goward scored seven and Kara Whiting and Morgan Westall had six points apiece.

Breckenridge would then drop

an MSAC contest at Carson City-Crystal, 47-29, after leading 8-7 at the end of the first quarter.

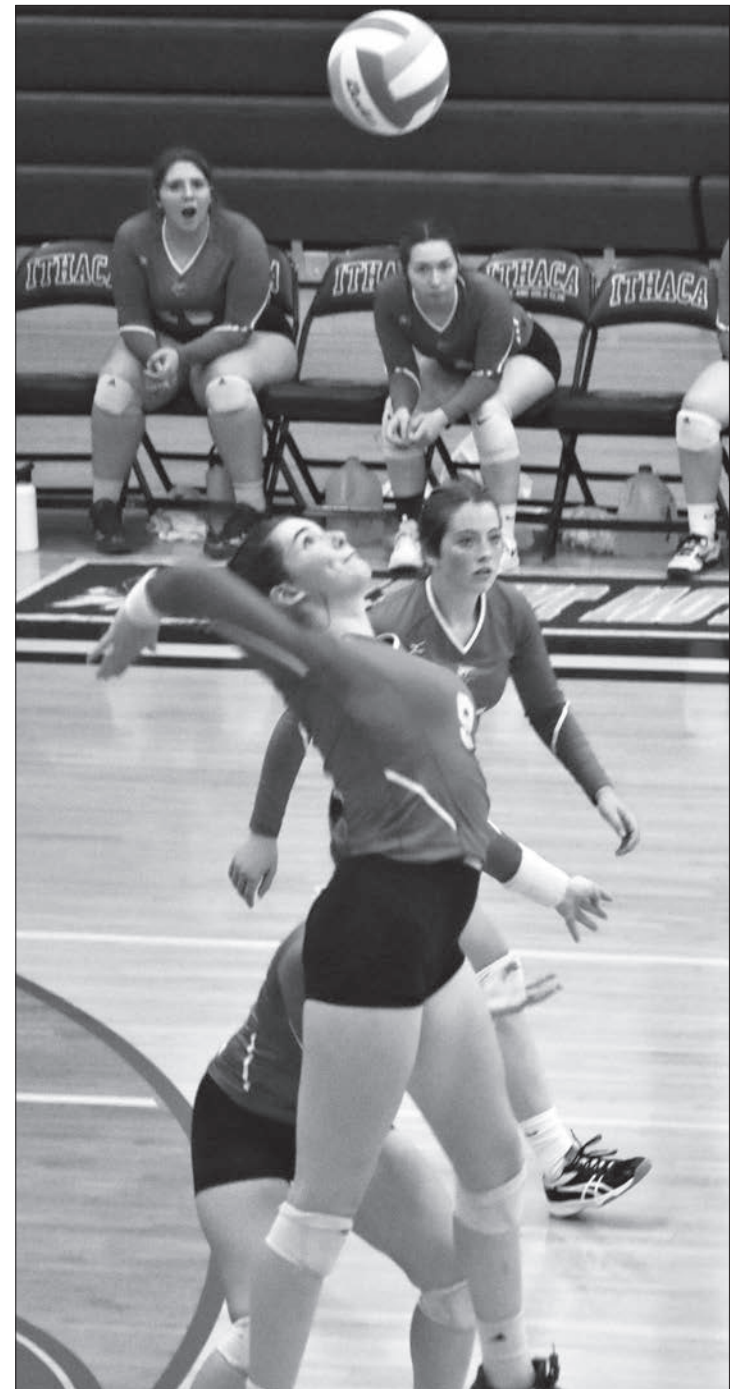
Kara Whiting led Breckenridge with nine points, while Goward and Allison Smith scored eight points apiece.

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## Gratiot County Volleyball Player of the Year

### Korah Honig

St. Louis, 12th

St. Louis has a proud volleyball tradition, and Honig carried the torch for the Sharks through the 2021 campaign. A 6-foot outside hitter, Honig concluded a four-year varsity career with a big senior season. First-team all-conference and all-region, she had 465 kills, 24 blocks, 71 aces and 239 digs. She had 35 kills in one match, tying the St. Louis school record.

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# SPORTS

## VOLLEYBALL/SWIMMING

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# All-County Volleyball

## First Team



**Brynn Bootsma**  
Ithaca, 11th

It was Bootsma's third varsity season and second earning All-TVC honors. The Jackets' outside hitter was also an all-region selection. She led Ithaca with 234 kills and 80 aces, with a hitting percentage of .203 and serving percentage of .915. Bootsma had 253 digs and nine blocks.



**Avreigh Holmes**  
Alma, 12th

An outside hitter, this Panthers team captain was honorable mention in the TVC-8 after totaling 319 kills and 71 aces, while defensively she had 343 digs and 34 blocks. Holmes will play next season for Alma College.



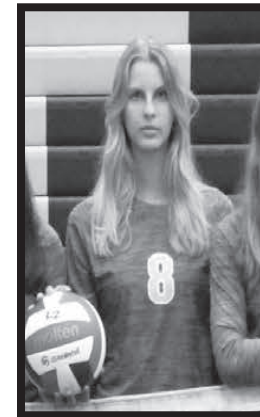
**Kya Horman**  
Breckenridge, 12th

She was first-team all-league in the MSAC as a senior. In league play the Huskies' libero and co-MVP had 159 digs. For her career, she finished with over 1,300 digs. Horman served at 92 percent with 18 aces in MSAC competition.



**Jada Munro**  
Alma, 11th

She was an all-region and second-team all-conference pick after helping lead Alma to a district championship and regional final berth. Munro led the Panthers with 390 kills, 72 aces and 32 blocks, and had 368 digs.



**Olyvia Saxton**  
Ithaca, 11th

The Yellowjackets' middle hitter, Saxton led the team with 43 blocks and earned all-conference honors in the TVC-10. She was second for Ithaca behind fellow all-county selection Brynn Bootsma with 216 kills and 74 aces. Saxton also made 160 digs.

## Second Team



**Stephanie Bielaga**  
Alma, 12th

The Panthers' libero, Bielaga earned honorable mention honors in the TVC-8. Her 498 digs were a team-best and she served for 59 aces. "She's a scrappy player who gives amazing effort on the court," Alma coach Kristi Lippert said.



**Jordyn Smith**  
Ithaca, 10th

The Yellowjackets are in good hands for the future, as their second-year setter was just a sophomore when she earned honorable mention TVC honors. She had 642 assists to lead Ithaca. She served at .903 percent with 41 aces and had 29 kills, 187 digs and nine blocks.



**Katie Steinhaus**  
Breckenridge, 12th

The Huskies' middle hitter capitalized on her big-time ups to become a second-team selection in the MSAC. In conference play she had 40 kills, 35 digs and 10 aces while serving at .930 percent for Breckenridge.



**Morgan Westall**  
Breckenridge, 12th

A three-sport athlete, it clicked for Westall on the volleyball court as a senior, making second-team all-league in the MSAC. In conference play she had 21 kills, 16 assists and 32 digs, while serving at .910 percent with 14 aces.



**Kara Whiting**  
Breckenridge, 12th

Whiting's versatility proved invaluable for the Huskies, as she was solely an outside hitter her first two seasons but moved to setter as well as a senior. She was first-team all-league in the MSAC, a team captain and co-MVP. In league play, Whiting had 69 assists, 66 kills, 53 digs and 34 aces while serving at .890 percent.

## Panthers dominate against Chesaning

Alma swimmers were first in 11 of 12 events last week to defeat Chesaning, 94-66.

Winning races for Alma were Connor Adams, Jack Chiodini, Keegan Crowe and Ben Cary in the 200 medley relay; Adams in the 200 freestyle; Crowe in the 200 individual medley; Chiodini in the 100 butterfly; Adams in the 100 freestyle; Cary in the 500 freestyle; Corey Yates, Nolan Monroe, Winn and Barnes in the 200 freestyle relay; Crowe in the 100 backstroke; Chiodini in the 100 breaststroke; and Adams, Cary, Crowe and Chiodini in the 400 freestyle relay.

In the 50 freestyle, Yates was second and Barnes third.

Winn was third in the 100 freestyle, as were Monroe in the 100

backstroke and Monroe, Winn, Barnes and Yates in the 400 freestyle.

In the Panthers' previous meet, at Ludington, Chiodini won the 100 breaststroke and qualified for the state meet in the process thanks to his time of 1 minute 3.6 seconds.

Chiodini was also first in the

200 freestyle, while Cary won the 500 freestyle.

Runners-up for the Panthers were Adams, Chiodini, Crowe and Cary in the meley relay; Crowe in the 50 freestyle; Adams in the 100 freestyle and the 100 backstroke.

Ludington beat Alma 79-68, and Manistee won 97-50.

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# LEGALS

## EX PARTE ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIAL DISTRICT, 29TH DISTRICT CIRCUIT COUNTY PROBATE

**Court address** 29th CIRCUIT COURT, 214 E. CENTER ST., ITHACA, MI 48847. **Court telephone no.** (989) 875-5225. **CASE NO.** 21-5703-DO

MARIA SANCHEZ, Plaintiff, 516 W. WASHINGTON, ST. LOUIS, MI 48880 (989) 285-0165 v. JOSE SANTOS SANCHEZ, Defendant, 709 OCOEE APOPKA RD., OCOEE, FL 34761-2166

RICHARD D. GAY (P-13886) Plaintiff's attorney ATTORNEY AT LAW P.O. BOX 215 ALMA, MI 48801 (989) 463-3888

TO: JOSE SANTOS SANCHEZ  
IT IS ORDERED: 1. You are being sued in this court by the plaintiff to OBTAIN A JUDGMENT OF DIVORCE. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before February 1, 2022. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.

2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in GRATIOT COUNTY HERALD for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

3. A copy of this order shall be sent to JOSE SANTOS SANCHEZ at the last-known address by registered mail, return receipt requested, before the date of the last publication, and the affidavit of mailing shall be filed with this court.

Date: 12-20-2021  
/s/ Shannon L.W. Schlegel (P-63191) Judge 51t3

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF GRATIOT 21-288-DE

ESTATE OF ZELDA MAYEBELLE WHITFIELD Date of Birth: MAY 2, 1922

**TO ALL CREDITORS:**  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Zelda Mayebelle Whitfield, died November 27, 2021.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kathy A. Fletcher, 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: December 21, 2021  
Kathy A. Fletcher  
Personal representative  
3482 Ramshorn Dr.  
Fremont, MI 49412  
(231) 924-1091  
Daniel L. Blauw PLC  
Daniel L. Blauw, P37283  
Attorney for Trustee  
2040 Raybrook SE, Ste 205  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
(616) 336-5098 2t1

**PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING FOR NAME CHANGE STATE OF MICHIGAN, 29th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - FAMILY DIVISION, GRATIOT COUNTY**

# LEGALS

**Court address:** 214 E Center Street, Ithaca, Michigan 48847 (989) 875-5231.  
**CASE NO. and JUDGE:** 21-285-NC Hon. Kristin M. Bakker

In the matter of Soren Lee Guild-White.

TO ALL PERSONS, including: whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

**TAKE NOTICE:** A hearing will be held on 01/31/2022 - 2:45pm at Probate Courtroom, Courthouse, 214 E. Center Street, Ithaca, Michigan before Judge Kristin M. Bakker to change the name of:

Soren Lee Guild-White to Soren Lee Guild. 2t1

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF GRATIOT ESTATE OF SARAH J. BENTLEY, DECEASED. Date of Birth: 01/12/1927 NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The

decedent, Sarah J. Bentley, who lived at 1700 Tartan Trail, Alma, Michigan 48801, died November 30, 2021.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust estate will be forever barred unless presented to William Goggin, P.O. Box 488, Alma, Michigan 48801, named successor trustee, within 4 months of the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 01/06/2022  
William E. Goggin (P-14081)  
P.O. Box 488  
Alma, Michigan 48801  
(989) 463-3191 2t1

**PUBLICATION OF NOTICE STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF GRATIOT FILE NO. 21-280DE**  
In the matter of ROBERT WILLIAM CONN, DECEASED TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:\* whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the follow-

ing: **TAKE NOTICE:\***  
The decedent, Robert William Conn who address was 5771 North Lumberjack, Riverdale, Michigan 48877 died on September 22, 2021. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Carolyn Jackson, 5771 North Lumberjack, Riverdale, Michigan 48877, named personal representative or to both the Gratiot County Probate Court, Courthouse, PO Box 217, Ithaca, Michigan, and the personal representative within 4 months of the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 1/4/2022  
Carolyn Jackson  
Petitioner  
5771 North Lumberjack  
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William E. Goggin P-14081  
PO Box 488  
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## Notice of Public Hearing – North Shade Township Planning Commission

The North Shade Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 31, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the North Shade Township Hall, at the corner of Roosevelt and Warner Roads, Carson City, Michigan 48811. All interested parties will be heard on the request for a Special Land Use Permit for a Wind Energy Facility submitted by Heartland Farms Wind Project, LLC, by its authorized agent Invenergy, LLC. The Special Land Use Permit application proposes 7 wind turbine locations, access roads, underground electric power collection cables, transformers, underground communication cables, and other ancillary facilities, improvements, and structures.

The Special Land Use Permit application is available by request to Kathy Keiffer, Clerk, 11666 Cleveland Rd., Carson City, MI, 48811, (989) 584-6000, or online at <https://spicerplanning.wordpress.com>.

- The following properties in North Shade Township are the subject of this request:
- 10-001-002-02, W GRANT/RICH RD
  - 10-013-003-10, 8413 S PENDELL RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-001-008-00, 6637 S PINGREE RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-013-004-00, S PENDELL (8000) RD
  - 10-001-009-00, 6245 S PINGREE RD
  - 10-013-005-00, 8366 S PENDELL RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-001-011-01, GRANT & PINGREE RD
  - 10-013-008-00, 8100 S PENDELL RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-001-012-00, S PINGREE (6000) RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-013-011-10, 6805 W ROOSEVELT RD
  - 10-001-014-01, 6674 GARFIELD RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-013-013-01, W ROOSEVELT (6000) RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-001-016-00, 6379 W GARFIELD RD
  - 10-013-013-10, 8711 S PENDELL RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-001-017-00, 6612 S RICH RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-013-014-01, W ROOSEVELT/PENDELL RD
  - 10-012-001-00, 6379 W GARFIELD RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-013-014-10, 6682 W ROOSEVELT RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-012-004-00, S RICH (7000) RD
  - 10-013-015-00, 8742 S PENDELL RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-012-005-00, 7348 S RICH RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-013-017-00, W ROOSEVELT & S RICH RD
  - 10-012-006-01, W GARFIELD RD
  - 10-024-002-04, 9424 S RICH RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-012-006-15, 7421 S PENDELL RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-024-004-02, W ROOSEVELT (6000) RD
  - 10-012-006-20, 6379 W GARFIELD RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-024-004-10, 6439 W ROOSEVELT RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-012-009-10, S PINGREE & W GARFIELD RD
  - 10-024-005-00, S PINGREE (9000) RD
  - 10-012-011-00, S PINGREE/W CLEVELAND RD
  - 10-024-006-00, W ROOSEVELT (6000) RD
  - 10-012-012-00, 7607 S PENDELL RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-024-007-00, S PINGREE (9000) RD
  - 10-012-013-00, W CLEVELAND & S RICH RD
  - 10-024-007-10, 6805 W ROOSEVELT RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856
  - 10-012-015-00
  - 10-024-008-00, W ROOSEVELT (6000) RD
  - 10-013-001-00, 6287 W CLEVELAND RD
  - 10-024-009-00, S PINGREE (9000) RD
  - 10-013-002-00, S RICH & W CLEVELAND RD
  - 10-024-014-00, W TAFT/S RICH RD
  - 10-013-003-01, S PENDELL RD, MIDDLETON, MI, 48856

Written comments on the application will be received by the Township Clerk at 11666 Cleveland Rd., Carson City, MI, 48811 or by e-mail to [northshadetownshipclerk@gmail.com](mailto:northshadetownshipclerk@gmail.com), up to and including the day of the public hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services who are planning to attend the public hearing should notify the Township at (989) 584-6000 at least two days in advance of the public hearing.

**Kathy Keiffer**  
North Shade Township Clerk  
(989) 584-6000

# Salvation Army Looking for Pathway of Hope Clients in Gratiot County



The Salvation Army's Pathway for Hope program helps families with children under 18 years of age in the household become more self-sufficient.

The Salvation Army is hoping to find clients for its Pathway of Hope program in Gratiot County. With a focus on helping families with children under the age of 18 in the household, the program works on self-efficiency to turn lives around.

You might think of the Salvation Army mostly around the holiday season. Indeed, the volunteer bell ringers help fill red kettles with cash that serve more than 25 million people throughout the year. Yet Pathway of Hope represents a specific service. In fact, Christopher Lowell, who has dual roles as the director of social services and the Pathway of Hope case manager, is eager to meet with families who can benefit from the program.

"We're trying to address some of those intergenerational poverty issues," said Lowell, who has worked with the Salvation Army for almost a year. "A lot of individuals seeking help may have grown up with poor money management skills."

For his part, as well as the other case workers, Lowell works on goal setting and strategic plans for improving those skills. For example, someone who has trouble paying the energy bill in the middle of the

month might get some guidance on budgeting.

Lowell, who meets with clients once a week over a yearlong program, described it as a path they walk down together. "We hold the client's hand, walk the path, and teach them," he said. "By the end, we're not holding their hand as much."

The program covers four counties, including Gratiot, Ionia, Isabella, and Montcalm. A large geographic area, but one with families throughout who can use the assistance.

Born and bred in Alma, Lowell is passionate about getting this program up and running. It's a chance to give back to his own community. Having worked in social services with the elderly, he is happy to help entire families make changes that might break the cycle of poverty.

Though he said he's not a miracle worker. "As social workers, we can't fix anything," Lowell said. "The individual needs to be willing to put in some work. But I also have an extensive research list, and I may know someone who can help."

It is those inter-agency collaborations that are crucial in effecting real change throughout the county. Low-

ell pointed to the "wonderful community support," as he goes about building up a potential client base. "It's great to have all of these coalitions and boards," he said. "We meet once a month, looking for ways to collaborate within the community."

The shared and similar goals of some of those people may ease the pain of their clients and consumers. One of the things families in crisis may have trouble dealing with is simply navigating the governmental agencies that provide support. That's where Lowell and his team of caseworkers can help — from filling out documents from Health and Human Services to figuring out social security benefits. All of which can be confusing, even for folks who have experience with the process.

If you are someone who might benefit from the Pathway of Hope program, or would simply like to learn more about it, you can check out the details on their national website: [www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/overcome-poverty/](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/overcome-poverty/). You can also call Lowell directly at (517) 420-1564. If you know someone who might benefit from the program, Lowell hopes you will help spread that news.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications from interested citizens to serve on the following board(s). Applications are being accepted through January 31, 2022 to 4 p.m. Appointments will be made at an upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting in March.

Current Term Ends	Board/Committee	Term Length	Contact Name/No. for Information and Meeting Dates & Times
07/31/2022 and 07/3/2023	Veterans Affairs Committee Vacant Seats	3 Years	Nancy Bozzer 989-875-5258
12/31/2021	Commission on Aging District 1 and District 4 Vacant Seats	3 Years	Jen Cook 989-875-5246

Please contact the Clerk's Office for an application or on line at [www.gratiotmi.com](http://www.gratiotmi.com) and mail/deliver/fax to Angie Thompson, County Clerk, 214 E. Center St., Ithaca, MI 48847 Fax 989-875-5254.

Angie Thompson  
Gratiot County Clerk

## Achievements & Honors

The Alma High School "Student of the Month" for December was Brandon Mills, the son of Eric and Billie Sanko and Brian Mills.

Brandon has interacted with organizations and groups such as National Honor Society, Health Occupation Student Association and the Alma High School Band. He has been one of three drum majors for the AHS marching band for two years as an active leader and conductor. He has

also been performing in the Alma High School Jazz Ensemble since his freshman year playing the alto saxophone.

Throughout high school, he has worked to maintain a grade point average of 3.8 while also partaking in courses related to anatomy, physiology, chemistry, and healthcare. Because of both Alma's Career Technology Education Health Occupations program and HOSA, he has gained a profound interest

in all healthcare related fields.

Brandon plans to attend Central Michigan University in the fall of 2022 to obtain his bachelor's degree in neuroscience or pre-med. After receiving his degree he intends to pursue medical school in hopes of M.D. certification.



MILLS

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