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 Three Times Over at Track Finals



"GRATIOT COUNTY'S LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER"

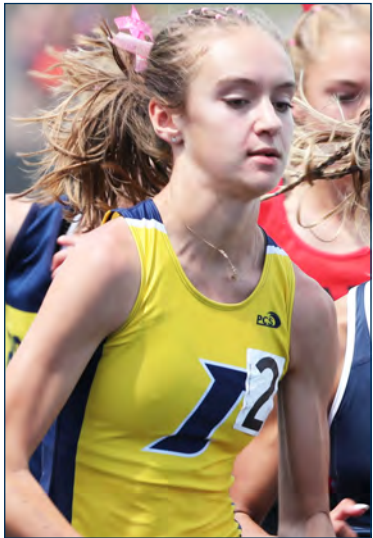
# Gratiot County Herald



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## Ithaca Amends Alcohol Ordinance Ahead of City Block Party

By William Meiners  
 Herald Staff Writer

An upcoming downtown Ithaca event got a boost after the City Council okayed an open-alcohol permit for that Saturday night. Pitched as a "re-meet and greet," the first-ever "Rock the Block Party!" will also offer food and live music from local bands.

City manager Jamey Conn explained the change in ordinance related to "back when the Fun Fest was in full swing" and the parking lot on the southwest corner of Center and Pine River changed ownership from Commercial Bank to the City of Ithaca, making it public property. "The City Council, at the time, grandfathered in the Ithaca Promotional Committee event to allow the consumption of alcohol on public property for only that specific occasion and location," he said. "If the event were to ever miss a year, it, or any other event, would not be allowed to gain an alcohol permit for use on public property."

This amended ordinance allows for future council votes on a case-by-case basis for alcohol permits at a specific event held on public property. "It basically extinguishes the blanket 'no' to all events," Conn said. *See PARTY page 5*

IN FULL BLOOM  
 Page 13

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## Transit Center's 'Soft Opening' To Prep Drivers For Expanded County Routes

By William Meiners  
 Herald Staff Writer

Summer work is underway on the St. Louis Ithaca Pine River (SLIPR) Transit millage that passed in a decisive vote (nearly two-to-one) last November. New drivers from the Alma Transit Center (ATC) begin new routes in July.

Brett Baublitz, ATC director, said even though they will not start collecting the millage until October, the "soft opening" begins accepting rides on a limited basis in Ithaca and Pine River Township early next month. "We already have service in St. Louis," he said. "So this allows us to get our drivers trained in those areas before we hit the ground running in earnest."

Baublitz hopes to have all busses running on a fulltime basis when school begins in August "so parents don't have to scramble to get their kids to and from school" for that couple of months before SLIPR swings into action on October 1.

The collaboration between the two towns and one township could be a trial run for something that might someday have busses running throughout the county. "I didn't want to try and eat that elephant in one sitting," Baublitz said.

Even so, the first expansions have been highly anticipated — from Pine River to Ithaca. "We are excited to have public transportation coming to the residents of Ithaca for the first time," said Jamey Conn, Ithaca's city manager. "Our residents will be afforded greater mobility, and our businesses an opportunity to expand their customer base."

Some of the key benefactors of the transportation services will be the area's senior citizens. "I was in-



The expanded routes of the Alma Transit Authority are indeed helping to bridge communities in Gratiot County.

abled to join the Joint Administrative Board and was able to share my thoughts and ideas regarding Gratiot County senior citizen transportation concerns," said Jen Cook, executive director of the Gratiot County Commission on Aging. "The vision Brett has for solving transportation needs in our county is taking shape and I am humbled to play a small role in the process."

Part of that process was simply learning about the particular needs of the elderly community. "Most senior citizens either do not own vehicles or lack the resources necessary to secure transportation," Cook said.

*See TRANSIT page 5*

## Child Killed After Fall From Tractor

By Herald Staff

A 10-year-old Gratiot County boy succumbed to injuries sustained after falling from a tractor Monday morning in Fulton Twp.

The boy had been riding on the fender of the vehicle when it hit a bump and caused the fall. He was subsequently ran over by the tractor and its implement, the Gratiot County Sheriff's Office said.

The boy was pronounced dead at the scene and transported to Mid-Michigan Medical Center — Gratiot in Alma

Deputies were dispatched to a farm field on S. Ely Hwy and were assisted by Perrinton Fire-Rescue and MMR.

The tractor was being driven by a family member who did not sustain any physical injuries during the mishap, the Sheriff's Office said.

The accident remains under investigation and there are no pending charges at this time.



## STATE CHAMPIONS

For the second time in three seasons, Breckenridge High School won the 4x100-meter relay state championship at the Division 4 MHSAA boys track and field finals last Saturday in Hudsonville -- and set a school record doing it. From left: Breckenridge coach Kurt Gulick, Charlie Steinhaus, George Conn, Jace Horman, Cameren Valliere and assistant coach Michael Reiber.

*Story on page 13*

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### ALMA MASONIC LODGE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Alma Masonic Lodge #244 recently awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to local students. Recipients Pictured from left are: Jenna Fletcher and Cole Lemerand of Alma, and Dilynn Everitt of St. Louis. The lodge's scholarship program is open to students from Alma, St. Louis, and Shepherd. For more information please visit [almamasons.com](http://almamasons.com).

### Alma High School Student Awarded Prestigious National Honor Society Scholarship



DIXON

The National Honor society (NHS) announced that Adam Dixon, a high school senior at Alma High School and member of NHS, has been selected as an NHS scholarship semifinalist. Dixon was chosen from nearly 10,000 applicants and will receive a \$3,200 scholarship toward higher education.

Since 1946, more than \$19 million in scholarships have been awarded to outstanding NHS senior members to support college access and student success. The scholarship program is supported by the parent organization of NHS, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

In the 100 years since NHS was founded in 1921, members have been making a difference in their schools and communities, and the NHS Scholarship in NASSP's way of recognizing the most exceptional of these student leaders. Recipients are chosen based on their demonstrated work to support the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, service, leadership and character.

Throughout his high school career, Adam has consistently shown himself to be dedicated to high academic achievement and student service. He has a positive attitude and is willing to take on any challenge.

At Alma High School, Adam has been active in student council, founded the AHS College Club, served on the Gratiot County Youth Advisory Committee and is the Vice-President of the Alma Chapter of the National Honor Society.

He is also passionate about his participation in the high school band program. This fall, he will be attending Cornell University to study math, economics and music.

### GRATIOT COUNTY HERALD

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### Podcast Episode: Recognizing Stroke and the FAST signs

Anmar Razak, M.D.

Medical Director of the Sparrow Stroke Center, Neurointerventionalist, Associate Professor of Neurology at MSU

The Sparrow Speaks podcast provides the latest healthcare information from the experts at Sparrow.



### Club News

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

Notices can be emailed to [editor@gcherald.com](mailto:editor@gcherald.com)  
Weekly news deadline for publication is Monday.

# THE SECOND FRONT PAGE



Cindy Taylor-Miller (holding check on the left) accepts a donation from the proceeds of an Ithaca private prom, courtesy of its king and queen, Javin Hessbrook and Elaina Britvec (both crowned). Volunteers from The Dream Works Resale Shoppe include Laura Furtaw (far left), Jennifer Shields, Holli Rivard, Laurel Seals, Jennifer Shields (holding check on the right), and Corlisa Taylor (front left). (Herald photo)

## Prom King and Queen Donate Party Proceeds to Ithaca Nonprofit

By William Meiners  
Herald Staff Writer

What began simply as a desire to get dressed up and dance at a senior prom, as if it were like most any other high school springtime, turned into a donation to a worthy cause. Last Friday, the king and queen of that private prom gave a sizeable check (both literally and figuratively) to Day Dreams Inc. in downtown Ithaca.

Day Dreams is the nonprofit that operates The Dream Works Resale Shoppe, a secondhand store that allows adults with developmental disabilities the chance to volunteer and gather socially. To the great surprise of Cindy Taylor-Miller, president of Day Dreams, the young philanthropists unrolled a giant check to the tune of \$1,264.43.

"This is just more kindness," Taylor-Miller said. "We are grateful for everything we get."

Javin Hessbrook and Elaina Britvec, the respective king and queen, were able to pick the place that received the profits from the prom. After completing her volunteer hours for the National Honor Society at the Dream Works Resale Shop, Britvec knew the shop had to be the place.

In fact, the whole private prom had been the brainchild of Britvec. When school officials at Ithaca High School could not commit to safely pulling off a sponsored prom, Britvec asked her father if they could host one in their pole barn. "We were waiting and waiting, and girls need to know if they're going to get their dresses," Britvec said.

On May 15, the pole barn provided some outdoor air and space for 101 students, which included juniors and seniors from Ithaca, as well as "plus ones" from

other schools. The private prom attendees paid \$20 each, which helped secure a deejay.

Once the deejay and expenses were paid, they had more than \$1,200 to give away. Voted by friends and classmates as the single-night royalty, Hessbrook and Britvec had the honors of choosing the nonprofit.

Throughout her senior year, Britvec put in some hours at the Resale Shoppe, which relies solely on the efforts of volunteer workers. "It was always fun working here," she said, "and it's for a good cause."

Both high school and college students have volunteered at Dream Workers, many of them serving as mentors to the adults with disabilities. As Taylor-Miller told the Herald in April, "Our primary mission is to address all facets of the adult life of people with disabilities. Once they finish or complete special education between 18 and 26 years of age, there's nothing."

That's a national situation, Taylor-Miller said, not just a local one. And she has seen it firsthand in her own life. Her daughter Corlisa, who is developmentally disabled and almost 43 years old, aged out of the public school system in 2007. "At 26 years old, the bus just quits," she said.

Yet some of those students, like Britvec and her young man Hessbrook, who until recently may have been stepping on and off school busses, know the importance of things like camaraderie, and music, and dance. And none of that should stop at age 26.

Britvec is off to Ferris State in the fall. With a good mind for business and the importance of nonprofits in particular, she'll begin her studies, appropriately enough, as a business major.

## MidMichigan Physician: 'Get Vaccinated or Get COVID'

By William Meiners  
Herald Staff Writer

Even with the promise of a great summer, an Ithaca physician is urging people to remain cautious and practice COVID-19 safety protocols. And, of course, get vaccinated. The disease may not kill you, Dr. Michael Stack said, but there are plenty of survivors suffering from its lingering effects.

Stack, a family medicine specialist at MidMichigan Medical Center - Gratiot, said even vaccinated, he continues to wear a mask in grocery stores and would also wear one in a movie theater. He's unlikely to attend a major sporting event, seated next to strangers, but he said gatherings with vaccinated folks are okay. Even better outdoors.

Doctors and nurses have always had to educate people — diagnosing illnesses and explaining treatments. Patients are even welcome to get a second opinion. Yet Stack's take on the pandemic measures falls in line with doctors, nurses, and epidemiologists throughout the world.

Navigating COVID-19 presented many challenges for frontline healthcare workers. Stack believes one thing that made it particularly confounding was the very newness of it all. Too little was known about the infection in the beginning and things were constantly changing. "We have to educate ourselves before we educate our patients," he said.

Now there are reasons to be optimistic, but his concerns, which include emerging variants of the infection and simply "waiting for the next shoe to drop" from a pandemic, stem from what he's seen since March 2020. "It's been a struggle," Stack said. "It kind of started off as a sprint and turned into a marathon. We've occasionally had to sprint a few times with the three waves of COVID-19 we've had here in Michigan. Just when you think you've had this thing licked, it comes back again. Taking care of patients both in the office and at the hospital has been a challenge."

And it's part of a long haul that Stack and his colleagues are staying vigilant about, in spite of the desire to have things "return to normal" in the time of the coronavirus.

### Weathering the coronavirus storm

Stack was part of a MidMichigan group that prepared for "worst-case scenarios" in the area, which included planning for how they might treat 400 COVID patients in the 97-bed Gratiot Hospital. In addition to creating that space, administrators had to imagine how physicians might be pushed outside of their areas of specialty. "Luckily, we did not have to implement those plans," he said.

Still, throughout the pandemic, those stressors on both a healthcare system and its workers remained an ongoing threat. "The nurses stood up strongest," said Stack, acknowledging their constant bedside manner in caring for patients. "They were with patients hour after hour."

In those worst-case scenarios for families, because of visitation restrictions, it was the nurses holding hands of dying patients alongside a cell phone for a Facetime goodbye with their loved ones. "I can brag about our nurses at the hospital in Alma, but I know nurses all over the country have been doing that," Stack said.

Stack reported that they did get involved with some research protocols, which may not have been available outside of a global pandemic. The use of convalescent plasma, for example, proved beneficial for patients.

Hospitals overcame early struggles of not having enough personal protective equipment. "Now the vaccines allow us to fight back with something," Stack said. "That's made a big difference both psychologically and scientifically."

See *PHYSICIAN* page 5



STACK

## Veteran's Display Replaced at St. Louis Park Prior to Memorial Day

By Alivia Giles  
Herald Intern

After a memorial that honored the legacy of St. Louis war hero went missing from Clapp Park prior to Memorial Day, a group effort to replace the display kicked into high gear.

The wooden cutout memorial was set up several years ago in honor of St. Louis native, Army PFC Richard "Ricky" Rosas, who was killed by an IED in Fallujah, Iraq in May of 2004.

When Phil Maxwell, wood shop teacher at St. Louis High School, heard about the missing memorial, he got to work on replacing the display.

"Because I'm involved as the wood shop teacher, [members of] the community reached out to me to see if I would be willing to get one before Memorial Day," Maxwell said.

With the help of Log Cabin Lumber of Riverdale who provided the silhouette the memorial was quickly replaced. Along with St. Louis Downtown Development Authority Director Phil Hansen, Maxwell set up the new memorial on Sunday, May 30.

St. Louis Chief of Police Richard Rameriez said his department has not been able to determine when the memorial was taken and have no suspects at this time.

Rameriez knew Rosas as a student at St. Louis High School.

"What I remember most about Ricky was his smile," Rameriez said. "He was always smiling."

Rameriez also knows many of Rosas' relatives, who live in the city. "I was deeply saddened to see them devastated by the loss of Ricky," he said.

Rosas came from a military family, with two grandfathers who served in World War II (one served in Korea as well) and his father and uncle who fought in Vietnam. Rosas planned to become a city police officer following his time in the military.

Rosas graduated from Advanced Infantry Training in Fort Bliss, Texas in 2003 and was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) at Fort Drum in New York. In Sept. of that year, he began his first tour in Iraq.

Two months into his first tour in Iraq, Rosas was injured. He received the Purple Heart, spending two weeks in the hospital, before returning home for two weeks in Feb. of 2004 to attend a baby shower for his daughter, who was born a month later.

In addition to two Purple Heart Medals, Rosas received the Bronze Star Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, War on Terrorism Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon and the Basic Marksmanship Qualifications Badge (Expert - Machine Gun).



The wooden cutout memorial was set up several years ago in honor of St. Louis native, Army PFC Richard "Ricky" Rosas, who was killed by an IED in Fallujah, Iraq in May of 2004.

# Alma Artist Produces Timeless Images Through Tintype Photography

By William Meiners  
Herald Staff Writer

Shortly after Alma photographer Paige Bennett Black opened her new business, Empire Studio, in January 2020, she found herself on lockdown, unable to do much of any business. Within the boredom of that downtime, she made something old new. Now, as things open up, her tintype photography is a big hit and something that distinguishes her among photographers.

The old-school photography, which you can see on her website and in the front window of her studio at 110 East Superior Street, has been surprisingly popular. At least to Black.

"I just started offering tintypes to the general public," she said. "People have loved it, and I didn't think it would have the reaction that it did."

So Black made the most of the work stoppage. "Photographers, just like hairdressers, weren't allowed to work for a long time," Black said. "I think it was mid-August before we were allowed to open up. I needed to learn something. I decided to look into this photography that was from the 1850s."

Using a 170-year-old process, she's producing images with a definitive, old-school look. To explain it most simply, Black said, "Before there was digital photography, there was film. And before there was film, there was chemistry. Those first photographers were scientists."

Born and raised in Alma, Black grew up shooting film. She studied business at nearby Northwood University and landed some marketing and advertising jobs with the Detroit Lions. She ended up working in Charlotte, North Carolina, but did not fall in love with the place. After visiting her younger sister at the Savannah College of Art and

Design (SCAD), she changed direction.

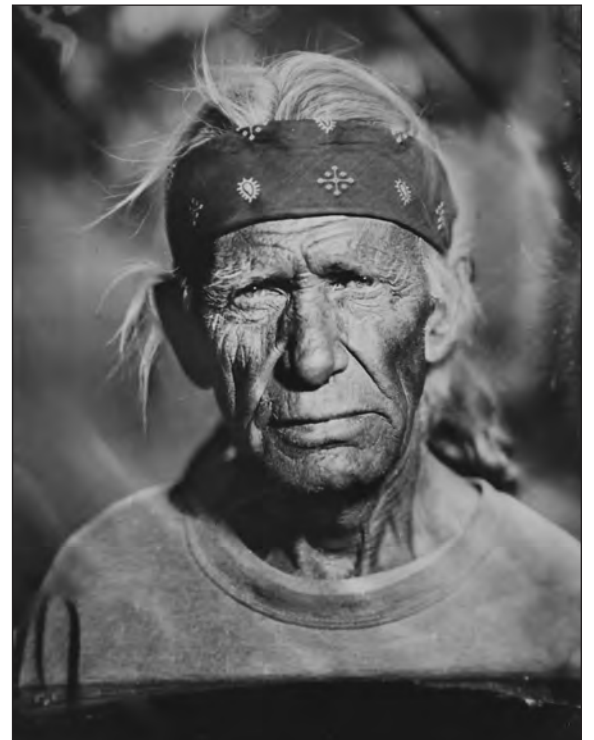
"At SCAD, I learned chemistry-based photography — the traditional dark room stuff and film," said Black, who earned her MFA in photography there.

Still, there was a complicated learning curve with the tintype process that she did not pick up until last year. Through some trial and error, a deeper dive into chemistry, and some hands-on tutorials from a Virginia-based tintype photographer, Black has sharpened her process. She uses a large, vintage camera to make photos on the thin sheet of metal, which is then coated with a dark lacquer for support.

If nothing else, the tintype photography may change Black's business model. When she opened back in 2020, she fully expected to be shooting weddings, sports, and school photos. Now, though she's still open to all that, she's not necessarily pitching it. "If I'll get the request, I'll shoot it," she said. "But with so many photographers out there, I think the tintypes help make me a little more unique."

Black will be taking the tintypes on the road, as she plans to move to Austin, Texas, at the end of August with her husband. There's a pretty large event circuit throughout Austin, and she'll make and sell tintype photos at various fairs.

A steady stream of patrons lined up for their tintypes outside Empire Studio throughout the "Highland Experience" at the end of May. In a fast-paced world, Black enjoys the process that asks subjects to physically slow down. Subjects have to sit still for a few minutes. Though with the modern flash, it doesn't take too long. Additionally, the end product offers a permanence over regular photographs, which become pixilated and evaporate over time.



Paige Bennett Black (above) uses a chemistry-based, 170-year-old process to produce tintype photos (below). She learned the technique out of boredom in the first days of the 2020 pandemic. Using a large, vintage camera, Black makes an image on a thin piece of metal.

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#### Grade 3

##### "A" Honor Roll

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##### "A" and "B" Honor Roll

Jayden Aasved, Corbin Antio, Dottie Biehl, Liam Chvojka, Layla Collins, Korbynn Conner, Karmello Contreras, Zackary Czeiszperger, Brody Davidson, Caitlyn Dys, Kynleigh Fisher, Kinley Gallop, Alexander Goschke, Brooklyn Hale, Carson Inbody, Ava Pannill, Landon Raby, Aaliyah Rodriguez, Luke Tomanek, Jaylei Tripp, Sara Welling, Addison Worthy.

#### Grade 4

##### "A" Honor Roll

Alex Alba, Keila Alvarado Hernandez, Lillian Bebow, Zayden Bennett, Sarah Bowerman, Ossian Callahan, Ryan Childs, Keitlyn Clark, Boston Clarke, Oliver Davis, Madilyn Devine, Lillian Dubridge, Nehemiah Fuentes, Valeria Garcia Aguirre, Kennidi Gibbons, Kaylea Hamp, Ayasha Hughes, Gavin Joyner, Lexi Kinder, Kennedy Knapik, Annabelle Kunkel, Corbin LaBlance, Kazren LaLone, Caleigh McCarver, Ian Morris, Emma Pavlik, Braelyn Post, Caiden

Ramirez, Willow Rapin, Exauce Ruble, River Snyder, Kaylee Spencer, Mackenzie Tice, Landon Via.

##### "A" and "B" Honor Roll

Brody Allen, Izabelle Bass, Jaydin DeBolt, Austin Elliott, Victoria Firman, Aliciana Keyes, Henry Kirby, Cassidy Kreamsreiter, Madison Lemert, Xavier Ramirez, Eriq Richards, Isaiah Roberts, Olivia Rohn, Sawyer Sadler, Brystal Saxton, Braxton Schoch, Alasia Smith, Hunter Toner, Echo Welling, Xander Wonch.

#### Grade 5

##### "A" Honor Roll

Braxton Burgard-Nelson, Killian Callahan, Rudy Clapp, Sydney Dickman, Angelina Elliott, Cole Grollimund, Emelia Grollimund, Tyson Grollimund, Addyson Hale, Jack MacDougall, Aubrey McCulley, Mack McKinin, Ross Pavlik, Etienne Ruble, Myah Sahr, Drake Smith, Hannah Tomanek, Victoria Trevino, Peyton Vine, Carson Zacharko.

##### "A" and "B" Honor Roll

Dawson Acre, Olivia Brown, Marissa Elsea, Avaleigh Guerrero, Dylan Harrison, Marcus Hoyt, Chloe Keener, Kennedy Kreamsreiter, Brayley Lintern, Ainsley McConkie, Gracelyn Oconner, Aeriana Rapin, Connor Rogers, Selah Sprague.

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“Others have chosen, or have been told, they can no longer operate a motor vehicle, which leaves them in dire need of transportation. The SLIPR program will enable these individuals to be able to travel freely from town to town.”

That’s a perspective Baublitz can relate to personally. When he and his brother had to take away the driver’s license of his mother, who lived in Ithaca, he realized how much independence she lost. “She had to rely on us to get groceries and medication,” he said. “There has to be more families like that.”

Not only are there more families like that in Gratiot County, but they likely face equally tough decisions that could include taking a driver’s license away from someone out of safety fears. Promoting the safety of an affordable, safe ride service could have wide-ranging benefits.

Reasonable fares will get travelers to and from their destinations. Once they expand to Ithaca, the hours of service will run from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., with the last few pickups coming at 7 p.m. The standard fare is \$2 for riders and \$1 for senior citizens. “If you’re a ‘gold card member,’ which is 75 years and older, you ride for free,” Baublitz said.

That affordability, along with the timing, is especially critical for a population who might have been locked down throughout the pandemic. “At the Commission on Aging, we are excited to know that SLIPR will provide opportunities for seniors to travel from their homes to the various food sites in the SLIPR area,” Cook said. “For example, if a certain activity is taking place in Ithaca, those in the St. Louis and Pine River Township areas will be able to secure transportation to and from the event. This is an extremely exciting time, especially since the SLIPR program is commencing in conjunction with our process of getting back to our normal routines.”

Baublitz said the ATC is hiring right now — both

part time and fulltime positions starting out at just over \$15 per hour. With a couple of recent retirements, they have two new drivers going through the training program. They’ve also hired a second fulltime mechanic who will be a driver on a parttime basis.

Part-timers can work up to 30 hours per week, get automatic sick days, and earn vacation days. Benefits, according to Baublitz, not often offered on a less than fulltime job. Additionally, part-time drivers have a say in their schedule — as long as it works with the ATC.

All of the training is done in-house, so anyone with a valid driver’s license could be trained to earn a chauffeur’s license, qualifying them to drive the ATC vans. “We would prefer to get someone with a CDL with a P endorsement,” Baublitz said. “The ‘P’ stands for passenger. With that, you could drive all of the vehicles here.”

Within the fleet of 18 vehicles are light duty, cut-away busses and two large vans that are wheelchair accessible. “We do have some folks with the chauffeur’s license who assist with the non-emergency transport that we offer,” Baublitz said.

Drivers young and old may find themselves a workplace home at ATC. Baublitz hopes the type of work they do is a selling point for potential new hires. “When people come out and see what kind of work environment we have, I would hope they want to be a part of it. We have a really good group of people out here,” he said. “We’re out in the community and helping people maintain their independence. Those folks are kind and grateful. It’s a really nice place to be around.”

Baublitz admits that working for the ATC is not a particularly taxing job. Drivers need to secure wheelchairs in place, so they cannot slide around while moving, but it’s mainly the responsibility of driving. “It’s also a nice way to get out and see people,” he said.

**PHYSICIAN** *continued from page 3*

**Pandemics are apolitical**

What they know now — thanks to research and clinical trials — is the effectiveness of vaccines that have been distributed since early in 2021. For many elderly folks, on lockdown for nearly a year, their trips to get vaccinated may have been their first from home in months.

Stack describes COVID-19, like most infectious diseases, as “very opportunistic” in finding a way to be transmitted. The good news may be the lessening amount of the coronavirus in the community, alongside the increasing number of people who are less likely to be hosts for the disease because of their vaccinations. Though the more things opened up allows for a greater chance of exposure. Hence Stack’s advice for proceeding with caution.

“People have to realize that one of two things will happen,” Stack said. “You either get vaccinated or you are going to get Covid. That’s the simple way to put it. Most people won’t die from it, but it can be quite debilitating with lingering symptoms. It’s not something to take lightly.”

The fact that a pandemic was taken lightly, even politicized, was frustrating for Stack and no doubt many of his colleagues at the hospital. “I understand people wanting to have their own individual freedoms and rights,” he said. “I tell my patients we recommend and advise what to do, but we’re never going to tie you down and make you do something. It’s everybody’s individual choice.”

Stack certainly wished the pushback on medical science had not happened. “For a lot of reasons,” he said. “I think it divided the country, but also a lot of people suffered because they ended up getting COVID and some of them died.”

According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and Michigan.gov, as of Monday, June 7, 44 percent of Gratiot County residents have received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccination. That compares to 47.9 percent of all Michiganders who have opted for a dose.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the oldest demographics of a population are getting vaccinated. In Gratiot County 74.9 percent of people over 75 years old have received a vaccination. The percentage of people 65 to 74 is even higher at 75.7. For people 50 to 64 years old, the percentage drops to 53.7 percent. Folks in their 40s (40-49) have dosed in at an even 34 percent to date. It drops to 25.3 percent for 30 to 39-year-olds. People in their 20s (20-29) have been vaccinated at 17.2 percent rate. For teenagers, 16 to 19, it’s 14.2 percent. And 2.4 percent of 12- to 15-year-olds have gotten at least a dose.

The race to vaccinate seems to be slowing nationally, but Stack hopes people in Gratiot County continue to step up for a shot. Catching the coronavirus would surely trip up anyone’s great summer.

Variants could mean trouble ahead, perhaps requiring new vaccines to combat a changing infection. Science, it seems, is not something written in stone. Yet any gambler knows that 95 percent (the effectiveness of vaccines) are pretty great odds. Dr. Stack’s prescription: Get vaccinated.

**PARTY** *continued from page 1*

Josh Strand, a member of the Ithaca Promotional Committee and owner of a digital marketing company, appreciates the work of Conn and the council in backing the block party. “We see it as an opportunity to bring some energy and excitement back downtown,” he said.

Conn thinks the timing is right, too. “The IPC has the ‘Rock the Block’ event coming up with the idea of bringing the community back together after the tumultuous past 15 months or so,” he said. “Everyone will be able to enjoy a meal from their favorite Ithaca restaurant in the streets of historic downtown Ithaca while listening to local bands perform. An event like this can bring a community together while at the same time showing what our small-town businesses have to offer.”

Events like these, which Strand hopes are just the tip of the iceberg, are part of a concerted to revitalize Ithaca, from the downtown out. With thousands of travelers passing by Ithaca each weekend on their way to summer getaways, a thriving city would give them more reasons to stop.

“We are very excited for the new businesses and residential spaces that have recently opened in the Gemini Capital rehabbed buildings,” Conn said. “They are bringing more choices and foot traffic to downtown Ithaca. I have been working with a couple more downtown building owners who are undergoing renovations with business and residential plans going in those building in the near future. Ithaca is also seeing expansions to some local industrial and commercial businesses outside of downtown that we are looking forward to. It is a very exciting time to be a part of the Ithaca community.”

And on June 26, those community members can see old friends, make some new ones, and talk some shop over a beer or two. For further details on the event, visit the Ithaca Promotional Committee’s Facebook page at facebook.com/ithacamipc.

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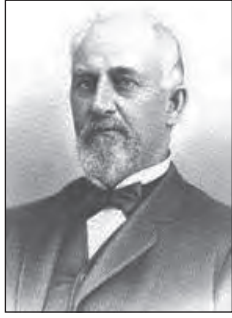
# Honoring Gratiot's Past

## Historical Organizations of Gratiot County

### Ammi Wright's Beginnings

By David McMacken

The thudding of the axes stopped. A quick glance to the top of the towering pine. A resounding "Timberrrrrr!" coupled with a brittle snapping echoed in the woods. Snow flew as two pairs of leather booted feet nimbly retreated. The tall gray trunk, topped with its green umbrella, fell slowly over and whumped into the deep snow. Billows of whited powder flew up.



WRIGHT

The shanty-boys glanced at each other, relieved that another giant pine was safely down. They picked up their crosscut saw and moved toward the freshly fallen trunk. Soon the creamy-white end was trimmed, and they began cutting the log into 16-foot sections. At the far end, two choppers had moved in to ax off the branches and top. The axes flashed and thudded, and the chips flew, the sound mixing with the rhythmic hiss, hiss of the saw. The men, standing in deep snow, worked methodically. Heavy woolen coats were unbuttoned, but still the perspiration ran.

A team of horses—Massive, muscled Percherons—was backed up smartly to a newly-cut section of log. The skidder, warm in coat and mittens, clamped the skidding tongs into the end of the log and spoke to the horses: the harness tightened, the tongs bit into the wood, the horses pressed forward, and the log slid off through the snow and brush toward the nearest logging trail.

With the sounds of axes and saw fading, the skidder marched near his animals as they snaked the log to the nearby trail. Skidder and horses had just plunged onto the icy path with the log safely in tow when the skidder looked up in surprise. A team of fine dark horses was pulling a tote sleigh toward him on the trail. Two men sat in the approaching sleigh, and the skidder drew his team to the trailside. The driver reined up alongside him. The men wore heavy dark coats and fur hats. The skidder soon noticed, too, that the driver held the reins in his bare hands, apparently oblivious to the temperature, which was hovering around zero.

When the driver spoke to the skidder in a kindly yet authoritative voice, the man looked at the drier whose piercing blue eyes held his gaze.

"I hope everything is going well," said the blue-eyed man. The skidder hardly had time to stammer a reply and glance at the man's smaller companion before the sleigh was moving again. The skidder stared after the sleigh, noting that the passenger's legs had been covered by a buffalo robe. Finally he turned to send his team moving again.

"Old Daddy Wright!" he muttered. "Old Daddy Wright himself."

When he reached the decking platform he announced his discovery to the men who were loading logs onto bob-sleighs.

"Hah, we know. He come by here already," stated a rough-looking man with a drizzling of tobacco juice in his beard.

The news traveled fast. The skidder told the sawyers and choppers. Swampers, clearing brush a few rods away, heard as well. Before an hour had passed, every shanty-boy who hadn't seen them himself knew that Wright and Pearson were on an inspection circuit of their lumber camps.

*From Built on Pines, the Story of Ammi Willard Wright*



Pictured left to right: Sara Krebs, GCSAC Prevention Coordinator; Lori Teal, MDHHS Community Resource Coordinator; Ana'Lisa Marshal, MDHHS Foster Care Licensing Specialist; Ty Warczinsky, GCSAC Program Director; and Emily Rayburn, GCSAC Coalition Coordinator.

## County Coalition Provides 50 Lockboxes

The Gratiot County Substance Abuse Coalition was able to provide 50 individual medication lockboxes to Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) last month. MDHHS will be able to provide the lockboxes to their clients in need of medication lockboxes.

Lock boxes are an important tool to use to lock up prescriptions (pills and needles), marijuana and e-cigarette devices and liquids. Locking up these items can help keep children and those who medications are not prescribed to safe by keeping these items safely out of their hands.

GCSAC was able to purchase the lockboxes with funding provided by Mid State Health Network. Medi-

cation lockboxes are one way that coalitions across the country are using to raise awareness about and fight the opioid epidemic.

In addition to locking up medications, e-cigarette devices, and marijuana, please remember to dispose of unused, outdated medications by visiting any of Gratiot County's Prescription Medication Dropbox locations at any of the Gratiot County Police Stations: Alma Police Department, Breckenridge Police Department, St. Louis Police Department, or Gratiot County Sheriff's Office during regular business hours. To learn more about the opioid epidemic, and importance of proper storage and disposal of prescription drugs, visit GCSAC's website at [www.graitotdrugfree.org](http://www.graitotdrugfree.org).

## Gratiot Smart911 Technology in Jeopardy

The Michigan Legislature ceased funding Smart911 in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Gratiot County 9-1-1 has opted to absorb Smart911 costs for one year. However, if enrollment does not exceed 2000 households within Gratiot County by the end of 2021 – the 9-1-1 Authority Board will consider discontinuing the service.

In honor of 9-1-1 education month and Smart911 Day (April 30), 911 Director Dan Morden and his 911 Telecommunicators are urging residents of Gratiot County to sign up for Smart911. Smart911 is a free service to the community that allows individuals and families to sign up online and fill out a safety profile in order to provide critical information to 9-1-1 dispatchers during an emergency.

9-1-1 dispatchers play a critical role in our community, helping those in need during what are often

their most stressful moments. All throughout 9-1-1 Education Month Gratiot County 9-1-1 encourages the public to honor and thank our nation's unsung public safety heroes by creating a Smart911 Profile for their household at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com) or on the Smart911 App that includes key information they want 9-1-1 and response teams to have in the event of an emergency.

Smart911 enables the collection and sharing of critical background information about those in an emergency so first responders have the situational awareness they need to provide the most informed response possible. When someone with a Smart911 profile makes a 9-1-1 call, their Safety Profile is automatically displayed to the 9-1-1 call taker, allowing them to share critical life-saving information to first responders.

Profiles can include:

- Emergency contact information
- Medical history, including medications, medical equipment, and medical conditions
- Property layouts, access points, and utility information
- Number of people and pets on the property

Smart911 has been a lifesaving resource in many critical situations. The tool has been credited with positively impacting emergency outcomes. Examples include quickly locating a missing child in which the girl's photo and physical description were immediately available to 9-1-1 and first responders, as well as cutting life-saving minutes for a heart attack victim where an address and medical notes allowed responders to be dispatched to his location quickly.

"When responding to an emergency, every single detail matters. Smart911 enables us to know more about a situation and the individuals involved in an emergency so first responders can arrive on scene prepared," said Mark Williams, Director of Alma Public Safety. Chuck Murphy, Gratiot County Commissioner and Chairman said, "We want all our residents in Gratiot County to feel empowered when reaching out for emergency assistance, and Smart911 gives us all the tools we need to make that happen."

All information included in a Smart911 Safety Profile—from addresses and vehicle details, to medical conditions and emergency contacts—are optional, and the citizen has the ability to choose what details they would like to include.

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# Personalized Care was Key on His Long Road to COVID Recovery

By Millie Jezior  
MidMichigan Health

ALMA – Jay McDowell has been a video coordinator for the Central Michigan University (CMU) football team for 11 years. He has great passion for his job and the student athletes he works with. At age 47, he was in the weight room with the team, keeping a respectable pace despite having had major back surgery. In late autumn, however, McDowell contracted COVID-19 which stopped him in his tracks. With multiple complications that required more than two months of hospitalization, it was the constant care and encouragement from the RehabCentre staff at MidMichigan Medical Center – Gratiot that kept him motivated and eventually allowed him to return home to his family.

McDowell had been traveling with the CMU football team and, like the athletes, was required to have COVID-19 testing multiple times a week. When he experienced intense back pain from a particularly long bus trip and was feeling “off,” he made a telephone call to his physician. On that call, it was determined McDowell needed care immediately and that he should get to the emergency room, which he promptly did.

“My symptoms hit fast and hard,” said McDowell. “I had made it through two heart procedures thirteen years prior to this, as well as my fair share of muscle and bone injuries. Let me tell you, fighting COVID-19 was without a doubt my toughest health challenge.”

McDowell was admitted at MidMichigan Medical Center in Gratiot. After several weeks in the hospital, he suffered a ruptured colon and underwent surgery to repair it. Post-surgery, COVID symptoms worsened. McDowell had irregular heart rhythm and was unable to breathe on his own. He was transferred to MidMichigan Medical Center in Midland where he received a temporary pacemaker and continued treatment for

COVID. After two weeks, one of which he spent in a coma, McDowell was transferred to the RehabCentre at Gratiot where staff were determined to help McDowell regain the strength and function he had lost.

“Mr. McDowell was a completely independent man before he came to our Medical Center,” said Lynne Burlingame, M.A., C.C.C./S.L.P., program director at MidMichigan’s RehabCentre. “Unfortunately, after COVID-19 and the series of subsequent medical issues he endured, he required maximum assistance doing everything when we started. He was very weak and in a lot of pain, but he was also very motivated to improve and pushed hard for progress.”

In addition to physical limitations that kept him from standing, walking or sitting up in bed unassisted, McDowell was demonstrating difficulty with cognitive and communication skills. He worked with a speech therapist who helped him with attention, processing speed, memory and executive functioning. Occupational and physical therapists worked with him three times per day to help him regain his strength and motor skills due to critical illness myopathy.

“Critical illness myopathy can develop following severe, extended medical issues such as sepsis, multi-organ failure and acute respiratory distress syndrome,” said Burlingame. “It involves rapidly evolving neuromuscular weakness which can cause significant difficulty weaning from a ventilator and difficulty with functional movement. Jay required extensive rehab to regain normal function. We were all rooting for him.”

“I went from reverse-curling 135 pounds to having trouble lifting my fork,” said McDowell. “I really couldn’t do anything on my own, and I had trouble remembering things. It was hard work, but those therapists were the absolute best. They were right there with me every day, helping me take baby steps toward recovery. They were always positive and applied just the right amount of pressure to keep me going. Even if I had wanted to



Jay McDowell not only likes cheering on the Chippewas, he has served as a video coordinator for the CMU football team for 11 years.

give up, they wouldn’t have let me.”

After months in the hospital and many Facetime calls, McDowell’s wife and two children helped him walk out of the building on his own. The Medical Center staff was just as happy to have him discharged. “He walked off the unit after 81 days in the hospital to the CMU fight song and a confetti shower from cheering staff members from all departments who had helped care for him over the course of his stay,” said Burlingame.

McDowell is still healing and can’t wait to get back to work with his Chips. “I am still moving cautiously and my memory is still coming back,” said McDowell. “I was in and out of it so much, much of it is a blur. What I will never forget, however, is how the nurses looked me right in the eyes and actually saw

me - not a number or a patient – but me as a person and as someone’s father, brother, and husband. With all that was going on around them, they truly cared for me. They saved my life.”

McDowell confessed that he wasn’t expecting the level of care he received from his local Medical Center. “First-class doesn’t begin to describe it,” he stated. When asked what he wanted to share with others about his experience, his reply was this: “COVID is not a joke. It is as real as real gets, and it affects everyone differently. Do everything you can to keep yourself and others safe.”

Those who would like more information about the RehabCentre at MidMichigan Medical Center Gratiot may visit [www.mid-michigan.org/rehabcentre](http://www.mid-michigan.org/rehabcentre).

## Alma College Dean’s List

Alma College has released the Dean’s List for those students who achieved outstanding academic performance during the 2021 Winter Term. Students who achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits, at least eight of which are evaluative grades, are named to the Dean’s List.

Local students are listed below by their hometown:

**Alma:** Lillian Anderson, Trenton Bergey, Taylor Cleveland, Sydney Cochran, Sarah Gadde, Cornelia Gotaas, Elizabeth Gotaas, Nathan Kushion, Adam Lawhorne, Emma Neyer, Claire Peterson, William Syckle.

**Ashley:** Jaden Gavenda, Nicole Hardman.

**Breckenridge:** Meghan Bartlett, Chloe Sheler.

**Elwell:** David Bachelder, Shauna Brenner, Sophie Patrick.

**Ithaca:** Lauryn Ball, Jasmyn Dailey, Amanda Efaw, Madison Holliday-Ward, Angelleya Rose.

**Middleton:** Laura Morrison.

**Riverdale:** Abby Taylor.

**Shepherd:** Raegan Stambaugh.

**St. Johns:** Abigail Bucholtz, Ashley Miller, Aubrey North, Madison Robbins, Jeffrey Smith.

**St. Louis:** Kasey Conn, Emily Hamilton, Emmett Kelly, Aynslee Koutz, Jayce Kuehnlein, Allison Taipalus, Aaliyah Wilson.

**Stanton:** Lillian Blaisdell, Paityn Blaisdell.

**Sumner:** Emma Browne, Kemmie Shunk.

**Vestaburg:** Brooke Peterman.

**Wheeler:** Alivia Giles, Ellen Laurenz, Emily McDonald, Tyler Story.

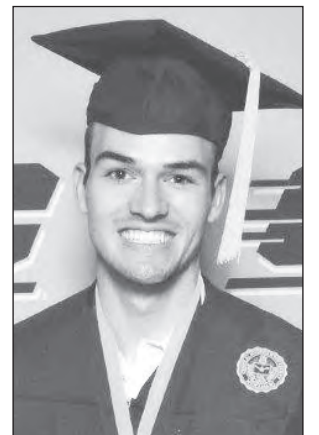
## Achievements



VILLALOBOS

Tristan Villalobos, the son of Jose Villalobos and the late Jenny Villalobos of Alma, recently graduated from Central Michigan University with honors.

The 2017 Alma High School Alumni received a Bachelor’s of Science in Exercise Science: Kinesiology and a Minor in Science. Tristan is planning to apply to graduate programs to become a Physician’s Assistant.



GILES

Alexander Raymond Giles, the son of Kurt and Heidi Giles, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Central Michigan University on May 9.

Giles received a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and Psychology and an undergraduate certificate in International Security Studies.



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# OBITUARIES

## Larry Childs



worked for many years at B and W Co-op and later transitioned over to Kalmbach Feed as a sales man when they purchased B and W. He enjoyed farming, fishing, hunting, camping and golfing.

He is survived by his wife, Judith; daughters, Teresa Ebright and Tracy Childs; grandsons, Levi, Luke and Lane; mother, Margaret Childs; siblings, Deborah (Tom) Sugar, Linda Lopez, Colene (Mark) Greening and Danny (Diane) Childs; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father and infant daughter.

Funeral services were held Friday, June 4, 2021 at the Countryside United Brethren Church with Pastor Lee Rhodes officiating. Interment with Military Honors followed at Ridgelawn Cemetery, Breckenridge.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Lane Walker Foundation.

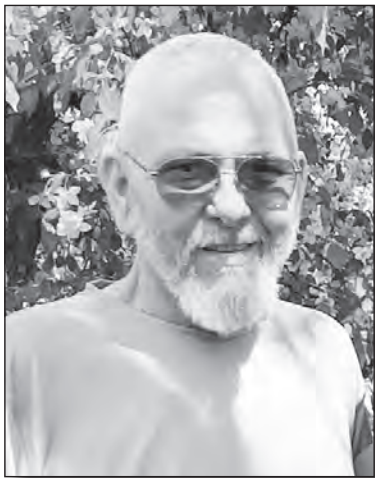
Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lux and Whiting Funeral Chapel, Breckenridge.

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

Larry Childs, 69, of Breckenridge, passed away Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at the U of M Hospital in Ann Arbor.

He was born May 22, 1952 in Alma, the son of Albert and Margaret (LaClair) Childs. He graduated from Breckenridge High School with the class of 1970. He married Judith Cardwell on March 5, 1971 in Breckenridge. He served his country in the U.S. Navy. He was a member of the Countryside United Brethren Church, the Breckenridge American Legion Post #295 and Outlaw Coyote Hunters. He

## Steven Donley



for his friends and family. He enjoyed golfing, playing pool and working to keep his lawn pristine. He will be deeply missed by his loving family and he will be remembered for his kindness and loving devotion to his family.

He is survived by his wife, Erma Donley; a daughter, Tara Davis; granddaughter, Macey Davis; step-children, Angela Guernsey, Ronald (Calley) Currier; and many step-grandchildren; a sister, Sue (Al) Whitford; a brother, Mike Donley; and his boxer, Princess.

He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Susan; two brothers, Jack and Dave Donley; his mother and father-in-law, Dorothy and Robert Fall; and his beloved boxer, Bruce.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at the Seville Community Church of God with his nephew Pastor Bob Fall officiating. Interment followed in Riverside Cemetery, Alma.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Seville Community Church of God.

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

Steven Erwin Donley, 65, of Alma passed away Saturday, June 5, 2021 at his home with his family by his side.

He was born Sept. 7, 1955 in Alma the son of Alfred and Aloma (McGill) Donley. He was a 1974 graduate of Alma High School. He married Susan Fall on June 10, 1977, a blessed union of 32 years, until her passing in 2009.

He worked for Aircraft Precision Products in Ithaca for 41 years, retiring as the Plant Supervisor. He married Erma Currier on Dec. 27, 2020.

He took great pride in caring

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## Connie Lambert



Connie Lou Lambert, 76, of Perrinton, passed away Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at Sparrow Health Systems, Lansing.

She was born in Howard City, on March 23, 1945, the daughter of Merston Williams and Marjorie (Gallapoo) Bolin. She graduated from Vestaburg High School. She married Maynard Eugene "Gene" Lambert on April 8, 1961, in Vestaburg. They were blessed with 50 years of marriage, prior to his passing on Sept. 6, 2011.

She was a pastor's wife and was always very involved in church where she played the piano and sang. She loved socializing with people and spreading the word of Jesus to anyone she could. She enjoyed gardening, feeding birds, camping and crocheting. She also liked yard sales and shopping. She was a postmaster with the United States Postal Service and retired from the Perrinton Post office in 2005. She was a member of the Capital City Church of God, Lansing.

She is survived by sons, Brian Lambert of Sheridan, Terry and Georgia Lambert of Lake City, Fla. and Jeffrey Lambert

of Perrinton; daughter, Linda and Scott Collier of Wayland; grandchildren, Nicole, Tiffany, Samantha, Carrie, Jimmy, Jarod (Naomi), Erin (Nic), Michael, Noah, Zach and Sydney; great-grandchildren, Mazzy, Laila, Lillian, Quinn, Graice, Benjamin, Merrik and River; sisters-in-law, Patsy and Lou Sheldon of Elsie, Sandy and Bill Jones of St. Johns, Susan Lambert of Chesaning and Denise Lambert of Middleton, Dana and Jon Bottum of Maple Rapids, Gail and Deo Winsor of

Maple Rapids; and brother-in-law, Bill Upton of Middleton. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Marjorie and Hank Bolin, Merston and Carol Williams; husband, Gene; father and mother-in-law, Maynard and Mabel Lambert; daughter-in-law, Sandi Lambert; great-grandson, Ethan Hoch; sisters-in-law, Judy Saylor, Pamela (Larry) Struck and Christine Upton, brothers-in-law, Gary Lambert, Denny Lambert, Richard Lambert and Bruce Lambert.

Funeral services were held at Smith Family Funeral Homes - Osgood Chapel, St. Johns, on Monday, June 7, 2021, with Pastor Danny Stoneham officiating. Burial took place at Fulton Center Cemetery, Perrinton.

Online condolences can be sent to [www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com).

The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Osgood Chapel, St. Johns.



## Edna Cook



Edna Mae Cook, 79, of Staunton, Ill., went to be with her Lord on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020.

She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on March 27, 1941, she was the daughter of the late Claude and Edna (Gillespie) Biggs.

She married Allen Cook at Immanuel Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas, on Sept. 27, 1975. She was a long time member of King of Kings Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas. As a member at King of Kings she served on the human care board and was a member of the GLAD older adults fellowship group.

She was employed as a nurse at Baptist Hospital, San Antonio, Texas. She also worked for various nursing homes in the San Antonio area.

She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She had many friends and enjoyed playing cards and games.

She is survived by a son, Rev. Kevin (Kristi) Cook of Staunton,

Ill.; two grandchildren, Leah and Lucas Cook; a step-sister, Rita (Buck) Nichols of Drexel, N.C.; step-brothers, Kenneth (Reba) Canipe of Valdese, N.C. and Neil (Elaine) Pitts of Drexel, N.C., sisters-in-law, Lillian Merdler of Saginaw, Cheryl Cook of Alma, Christine (Kevin) Lombard of Ithaca, Valerie (Scott) Snyder of O'Fallon, Mo. and Michele (Ray) Rettig of Findlay, Ohio; and many

nieces and nephews. In addition, close family friends, John and Linda Beetle of Houston, Texas, Erin (Ben) Solomon and Jaden of San Antonio, Texas, Christopher (Kathrine) Beetle and Morgan, James and Daniel of Houston, Texas.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her step-mother, Marie Biggs; husband, Allen Cook; infant granddaughter, Madelyn Cook; brothers, Pete and Michael Biggs; in-laws, William and Ruth Cook; step-sisters, Carolyn Clark and Ellen Farmer Beach; sisters-in-law, Geneva Biggs and Beverley Cook; and brothers-in-law, David Cook and Robert Merdler.

Burial of her ashes will take place at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 14, 2021 at the North Star Cemetery, North Star, Mich.

Memorials may be made to Zion Lutheran School, 220 W. Henry St., Staunton, IL 62088 or Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105.

## Patricia 'Tricia' Derry



Patricia "Tricia" Lynn Derry 26, of Alma, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, May 30, 2021 in Mt. Pleasant.

She was born Oct. 29, 1995, in Carson City, the daughter of Stephen Derry and Julie Britten. She graduated from St. Louis High School with the class of 2014. She was a member of the Fred E. Richards VFW #3055 Auxiliary, ARK (Association to Rescue Kritters), the Southwest Michigan AMS and NWA Chapter and volunteered as a sky warn spotter and at the Haunted Acres as a scare actor. She enjoyed camping, drawing, animals, fashion designing, concerts, walks, bike rides, spending time with family and friends and was a well-respected singer and bass

player.

She is survived by her daughter/feline companion, Sidney "Sid Vicious"; father, Stephen Derry;

mother, Julie (Rick Young) Derry; sister, Cassandra "Cassey" Derry; grandma, Linda Derry; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends.

She was preceded in death by her great-grandma, Phyllis Derry; and grandparents, Alvin and Patricia Britten.

Funeral services were held Saturday, June 5, 2021 at the Lux-Moody-Wolfel Funeral Home, Alma with Pastor Jut Daron officiating. Interment in Oakgrove Cemetery will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Ark or the St. Louis Church of Christ.

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

## Club News

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

Due to space limitations dates cannot always be promised. Notices should be brought to our office at 123 North Main Street, Ithaca or mailed to Gratiot County Herald, Box 10, Ithaca, MI 48847.

Weekly news deadline for publication is Monday.



# OBITUARIES

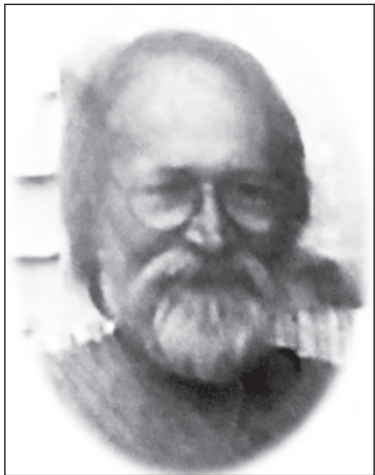
## Gregory Redman

Gregory Redman, 62, of Perrinton, passed away Friday, May 28, 2021 at his daughter's home.

He was born in St. Johns, on Aug. 29, 1958, the son of Rex B. and Ilene Merece (Houseman) Redman. On March 16, 1999 he married Cynthia Miller at Las Vegas, N.V.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and golfing. His family was very important to him and he enjoyed spending time with them and his friends. He retired from Meridian Concrete Restoration in Lansing.

He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Redman of Sumner; two daughters, Jamie Reed of Middleton and Rachele Witt of Perrinton; stepchildren, Brice Miller, Britney Thomas



and Branden Miller; six grandchildren, Taylor, Saleena, Joshua, Hunter, Cali and Easton. He is also survived by one great-

granddaughter, Tamslee; and two brothers, Gary and Wendy Redman and David and Mary Redman.

He was predeceased by his parents; son, Joshua; two brothers, Joel Redman and Martin Redman, who passed a few hours prior to him.

There will be a service at a future date.

Memorials may be made to donor's choice in his memory.

Online condolences can be sent to [www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com).

The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Osgood Chapel, St. Johns.



## Margaret 'Marty' Miller

On June 6, 2021, Margaret 'Marty' Miller, surrounded by her family, passed away at MidMichigan Medical Center - Gratiot at the age of 88.

She was born to August and Ivy (Schmall) Ester on Oct. 24, 1932. She was born in Illinois, but spent most of her childhood in the Ithaca area. She grew up on the family farm. She took great interests in sports and was a great softball player.

She met the love of her life, Merle, when she was just 18 years old and got married Sept. 18, 1951. Merle always said that Marty was the "most beautiful woman that he had ever seen."

She was preceded in death by her husband, Merle Miller; her parents, August and Ivy Ester; her brothers, Virgil, Roy and Frank, her sisters: Alma, Helen, June and Betty; her son, Craig Miller; her sister-in-law, Evelyn Ester; her brother-in-law, Ed Iles; her brother-in-law and sister-in-law Larry & Marlene Miller; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Margia & Charles Pelham; granddaughter, Katrina Miller; and special nieces Diane Wojtasinski and Teri Leigeb.

She is survived by her son, Steve (Judy) Miller; daughter, Shelly (Carl) McCarrick; her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Gary & Kathy Miller; her grandchildren, Melissa Fritzer, Jason Miller, Troy (Lacy) Miller, Todd (Jessica) Miller, Racheal (Matt) Miller, Kirstie (Ryan Carey) Miller and Kelly (Jimmy) Vasquez; great-grandchildren, Lorraine, Alexis, Brayden, Ian, Ethan, Jordyn, Emma, Cali, Bella, Riley, Cade, Danika, Ethan, Damien, Andrew, & Xander; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and best friends, Dee & Shelley.

She was an avid bowler. She bowled for many years earning lots of trophies and championships. She never quite got to her 300 game, but bowled many into the 200s. She loved softball and was a 3rd baseman with quite an arm.



Growing up the family always went snowmobiling and fishing. She was known as a jokester and she always had her friends and family laughing. She worked in the school systems as a lunch lady in the Flint area and continued that path when she eventually retired from Carter's in Houghton Lake in the bakery.

She & Merle loved to have the family up to their home for the "Annual Gathering of the Nuts." Her grandkids always remember eggs & bacon, Spanish rice, and Sunny D in the fridge.

She spent her final three years of her life living with and being cared for by her daughter Shelly. Her final moments were surrounded by her two children, daughter in law, and grandchildren. She was joking up until the time she was gone. She went to be with the Lord while listening to her favorite song, "Amazing Grace" sung by her favorite artist George Jones.

Funeral services for her will be 11 a.m. Friday, June 10, 2021 at the Barden Funeral Home in Ithaca with Pastor Dave Perry officiating.

The family is being served by the Barden Funeral Home.

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

**Barden Funeral Home**  
Ithaca

## Shirley Winsor

Shirley Lee Winsor resident of St. Johns (outside of Maple Rapids) passed away on 6/6/2021, she was 85 years old.

Born to Deo and Marie (Huskey) Baker on May 30, 1936, and joined nine other sblings of the Baker clan. On Aug. 1, 1956 she married Kenneth "Dale" Winsor. They had two sons, six grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Dale Winsor; sons, Mark (Carol) Winsor and Deo (Gail) Winsor. She is survived by eight siblings, Maggie (Harold) Upham, Kayanne Grandchamp, Dea (Chuck) Berry, Jane Fairchild, Bev Loudenslager, Chuck (Mary) Baker, Larry Baker and Linda (Stan) Saylor. She is survived by six grandchildren, Lydia (Ross) Hubbard, Jeremy (Angela) Winsor, Jason (Jessica) Winsor, Jennifer (Dan) Clark, Dan (Janelle) Lambert and Jodi (Mick) Wees; great-grandchildren, Roman, Maya, Gavin, Sela, Evelyn, Emric, Owen, Olivia, Hunter, Haeven, Haedee, Harper, Chase, Colton, and Addyson.

She is preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Adonna Wood; sister-in-law, Jean



Baker; brother-in-law, Norman Wood; brother-in-law, Willis Fairchild; and brother-in-law, Don Loudenslager.

During their nearly 65 years together they did many things. They traveled extensively throughout the years with many camping trips when the boys were young. After retirement they continued to travel visiting 49 of the 50 states, either on their Honda Goldwing or with the RV hooked to the truck. She enjoyed many fishing trips and deer hunting on the family farm through

the years along with always making sure everyone had snacks for opening day. She had many talents, she sewed many dresses, made numerous wedding, graduation, birthday cakes. She was a talented artist, and used those talents in various medium, panting and firing many ceramic projects, caning chairs, painting different pictures. She enjoyed taking pictures and took a lot of them through the years, chronicling their many adventures. She worked for Dr. Steigerwald in various positions for 20 years. She ran daycare throughout the years for many children. She enjoyed watching grandchildren and great-grandchildren participate in many different sporting events.

A funeral service will be held at Maple Rapids United Methodist Church, 330 S. Maple Ave., Maple Rapids, on Thursday, June 10, at 11 a.m. with Pastor Kathy Leydorf-Keck officiating. Burial will follow in Lowe Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers please consider donations to the Maple Rapids Methodist Church.

For further information please phone 989-224-4422 or visit [www.McGeehanFH.com](http://www.McGeehanFH.com)

## Janice Augenstein

Janice Ruth Augenstein, 84 of Harrison went to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, June 4, 2021.

She was born Sept. 28, 1936 in Ithaca, the daughter of Claude and Uva (Markham) Shunk. She was united in marriage to Mr. Raymond Lawrence Augenstein on Aug. 27, 1971 in Riverdale.

She had resided in Harrison since 2003, moving from London, Ohio. She enjoyed praising her God, and singing gospel music as a group with her family and serving with her husband as a traveling evangelist. Her passion in life was loving her family, as they were number one in her life.

Surviving Janice is her husband of forty-nine years, Rev. Dr. Raymond L. Augenstein of Harrison; six loving children, Daniel M. Schneider and wife Mary of Riverdale, David E. Schneider and wife Lynette of Brethren, Debra L. Shiffer and husband David of Riverdale, Dawn L. Nicewander of Free Soil, Dana



S. Shepherd and husband Randall of Alma and Darcia K. Little and husband Joseph of Kalkaska; forty-five grandchildren, sixty-one great-grandchildren and one arriving soon, seven great-great grandchildren with one arriving soon; one sister, Charis Edwards and husband David; two brothers, Glen Shunk and wife Lois and Ray Shunk; plus many nieces, nephews

and extended family members.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, Eunice Shunk and Lois Lutes; and two brothers, Ron Shunk and Lynn Shunk.

Funeral services for her were held in her honor on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at M-46 Tabernacle Family Ministries, 11098 E. Howard City Edmore Road, Riverdale, Michigan 48877, with Reverend Will Markham officiating. Burial services took place at Hayes Road Cemetery, Gratiot County.

Memorial gifts in memory of her may be considered to: Holbrook Indian Mission PCG, 823 Mission Lane, Holbrook, Arizona 86025.

To share an online memory or condolence with her family, please visit: [www.stockingfuneralhome.com](http://www.stockingfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements and care of Mrs. Augenstein and her family are entrusted with Stocking Funeral Home, Harrison (989) 539-7810.

**The Herald office is open  
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F  
Phone is 875-4151**

Church  
**DIRECTORY**

<p><b>AMAZING GRACE CHURCH</b>                      Pastor Richard &amp; Sharon Jolliff                      9232 E. Monroe Rd., Wheeler, Michigan                      989-842-5806 • <a href="http://www.agchurch.net">www.agchurch.net</a></p> <p><b>Service Times:</b>  <b>SUNDAY Morning:</b> 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  <b>SUNDAY Evening Youth Service:</b>                      6 p.m.  <b>Office Hours:</b> Tuesday-Thursday                      8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><b>ITHACA CHURCH OF GOD</b>                      Pastor Tom Whitesel                      624 Barber Street, Ithaca, MI 48847                      989-875-4177 • <a href="mailto:ithacacog624@gmail.com">ithacacog624@gmail.com</a>  <b>ALL Age Sunday School:</b> 9:30 a.m.  <b>Morning Worship Service:</b> 10:30 a.m.  <b>Faith Weaver Friends, Wednesday evenings</b>                      6 to 7:30 p.m., ages 4 years to 6th grade                      (coordinates with the Ithaca School's calendar)  <b>Youth Group, Sunday evenings</b>                      5:15 to 6:15 p.m. for 5th - 7th grades                      6:15 to 7:30 p.m. for 8th - 12th grades.                      For more info on youth groups,                      please visit <a href="http://www.facebook.com/elavatemi">www.facebook.com/elavatemi</a>.                      Find us on Facebook</p>	<p><b>POMPEII UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b>                      Pastor Zella Daniel                      135 Burton Street, Pompeii, MI 48874                      989-838-2249</p> <p><b>EVERYONE WELCOME</b>  <b>Sunday Service:</b> 9 a.m.  <b>Children's Service:</b> 9:15 a.m.  <b>Children Sunday School during church</b>  <b>Baby Pantry:</b> First and Third Thursday -- open                      from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  <b>No perfect people allowed, you don't have                      to dress a certain way or pretend to                      have it all figured out.</b>  <b>You're invited to just come as you are!</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TO ADVERTISE                      YOUR CHURCH'S                      INFORMATION HERE                      CALL 989-875-4151</b></p>
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# COMMUNITY



## 50th anniversary

Jim and Connie Wyman of St. Louis will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on June 19, 2021. They were married at Westlawn Church of Christ in Shepherd. Cards of congratulations can be sent to 3647 S. Coleman Rd, St. Louis, MI 48880.

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## Card of Thanks

**THANK YOU:**  
I want to thank everyone who made my 90th Birthday so special. The cards, well wishes, telephone calls and gifts were very much appreciated. I feel truly blessed to have so many relatives and friends that remembered me on my birthday. Thank you all, again.  
Nelda Borough

## Card of Thanks

**THANK YOU:**  
I want to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, and phone calls to wish me a happy birthday. A special thank you to my family for making my 80th birthday so memorable. May God bless each and everyone of you for your thoughtfulness and well wishes.  
Sincerely,  
Jane Norris

## COMING EVENTS

**MEETING**  
June 14: The Alma/St Louis American Legion Post #256 and Auxiliary will meet Monday, June 14 at 6:30 p.m. The post is located at 1329 Michigan Ave., St Louis.

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# CHURCH

From the Pastor's Pen

By The Rev. Christina Jensen



## An Email, a Conversation, and a Call for Help

About a month ago, I received an email that, at first, I did not take seriously – I thought it was probably spam. The email was from a lady in Belgium who was trying to do some genealogical research for a colleague, and her search had led her to contacting Ithaca First Presbyterian Church. It seemed a little too fishy – like it may have been an information phishing scheme. Within a couple of hours, my phone was ringing – it was the Gratiot County Genealogical Society calling about the same inquiry. I replied to the email to get a few more details about what exactly she was looking for and how I could help. She was trying to see if the couple she was researching had been married at the church in the 1920s. I went to the church, pulled out the register from that period, and sure enough – there was record of the marriage taking place, having been officiated by the pastor at the time. I snapped a couple of photos of the entry in question and forwarded them on to Belgium.

This began a long email conversation, and one that I feel fortunate to be involved in.

My virtual pen pal's name is Malinee. She works for a Belgian news broadcasting company and works with Martin Heylen. The research she is doing is on Martin's family, as he is planning to do a documentary on Belgian immigrants who came to Michigan to work the sugar beet farms and in the sugar factories. Martin's grandparents came to Alma before 1920, and his grandmother remarried at Ithaca First in 1923. Before 1930, his grandmother and her family had moved back to Belgium. Malinee and Martin are hoping to come to mid-Michigan this fall and are hopeful that they might be able to talk to other Belgian-Americans

in the area, see a sugar beet farm, and possibly a sugar beet factory.

They need your help, though, and I told Malinee that I would help her gather the information she is still looking for before their trip. Specifically, they are looking to connect with the following persons:

- Those in mid-Michigan of Belgian ancestry
- Those who have sugar beet farms
- Those who have worked in sugar beet processing or know the history of Alma Sugar

To those who are involved in other Gratiot County churches, we are also looking for the baptism records of Francies Henri Stevens, born September 5, 1923. He was not baptized at Ithaca First Presbyterian.

If you have any information about any or all of these inquiries, please send me an email at pastor@ithacapres.org so I can send along the information to Malinee. I thank you in advance for your help.

In closing, a prayer of thanksgiving.

Loving God, we give you thanks for the human family. We thank you for the gift of being able to connect across the world electronically. We are thankful for the things that connect us to past, present, and future – our ancestry, our families, our communities. Help us to find the answers we seek, and keep us on the path you would have us travel. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*The Rev. Christina Jensen is the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan. The opinions expressed in this column are hers alone. For more information about the church, visit www.ithacapres.org.*

## Mid Offers Opportunities for Local Careers

At Mid Michigan College we develop knowledge and ability to empower learners and transform communities. From the College's beginnings in 1965, local talent has often been the source for many instructors, trainers, leaders, and staff. The value of sharing knowledge and life experiences with students has led many to fulfilling careers at Mid.

As an evolving organization, Mid often has a variety of opportunities available. Opportunities include full-time and part-time positions, ranging from skilled trades training instructors to positions helping students achieve their goals.

"We are pleased to offer well-paying job opportunities within our local communities," noted Dawn Tanner, Director of Talent Acquisition at Mid. "As Mid expands opportunities for learning, employees often find professional growth opportunities in advanced positions as well."

Certain areas of expertise are often needed at Mid to widen the scope of learning and services

available to students. We are in search of instructors with experience in the many fields our students study. Individuals with experience in areas such as biology, English, mathematics, and psychology, among many others, are in high-demand at the College.

Another point of pride for the College are the benefits offered to employees. Mid offers full-time employees comprehensive health insurance, vacation and sick time, and tuition reimbursement for those interested in moving their education forward.

"Flexible schedules are available as well, especially for instructors and trainers," explained Tanner. "Retirees from the area have told us they enjoy sharing their life's work experience with students on a schedule that still allows them to enjoy retirement."

For more information about career opportunities at Mid, visit [midmich.edu/jobs](http://midmich.edu/jobs) or contact Dawn Tanner at [dtanner@midmich.edu](mailto:dtanner@midmich.edu) or (989) 386-6622 x504.

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## Sparrow Carson Hospital Laboratory Receives National Recognition

The Sparrow Carson Hospital Laboratory has received an important national recognition from the Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), denoting the excellence of the hospital's lab services.

Sparrow Carson Hospital Laboratory is one of more than 8,000 CAP-accredited facilities worldwide.

"The Laboratory team at Sparrow Carson is dedicated to quality and efficiency. We ensure that testing is completed per protocol and timely so our medical staff can provide high quality health-care to patients," said Lori Grant,

Sparrow Carson Director of Ancillary Services.

The federal government recognizes the CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, begun in the early 1960s, as being equal-to or more-stringent-than the government's own inspection program.

During the CAP accreditation process, designated to ensure the highest standard of care for all laboratory patients, inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors also examine laboratory staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program and record, and overall management.

## Carson Hospital Names Sara Hagerman, RN, as DAISY Honoree



Sparrow Carson Hospital recently honored Emergency Department Manager Sara Hagerman (right) with a DAISY Nurse Leader award. Honoring her was Monte Malek, Chief Nursing Officer.

Sparrow Carson Hospital has recognized Emergency Department Manager Sara Hagerman, RN, as a DAISY Nurse Leader honoree.

Hagerman has been a registered nurse at Sparrow Carson since July 2004, and a manager in the Emergency Department since November 2014. She is dedicated to her responsibilities as a manager, spending countless hours a day at the hospital ensuring her staff's needs are met, her department is running smoothly, and above all, the patients who come to Sparrow Carson's Emergency Department receive exceptional, efficient care.

Her nomination noted that "she's a compassionate leader who allows me to put my family first" and "despite the pressure, the unknown, and the of everchanging guidelines during the height of the COVID pandemic, Sara was able to help staff remain safe, calm, and ready to provide care to our community."

The DAISY Foundation was established in 1999 by the family of J. Patrick Barnes who died of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia

(ITP) at age 33. DAISY is an acronym that stands for Diseases Attacking the Immune System. During Pat's eight-week hospitalization, his family was awestruck by the care and compassion his Nurses provided not only to Pat but to everyone in his family. The Foundation was created in Pat's memory to recognize extraordinary Nurses for the enormous difference they make in the lives of their Patients every day.

The DAISY Foundation is dedicated to recognizing all the "right" that nurses do, and compassionate leadership is indeed "right." The DAISY recognition program for Nurse Leaders puts a public spotlight on the impact their unique brand of leadership has on their staff and the patient care they manage.

As a DAISY Nurse Leader honoree, Hagerman was presented with a special DAISY Nurse Leader certificate, a specially-designed DAISY recognition pin, and a unique Healer's Touch sculpture, designated for Nurse Leaders.

# HEALTH

## Sparrow Nurses Honored During Nurses Week

Sparrow Hospital and Sparrow's Community Hospitals honored thousands of nurses during this year's Nurses Week in recognition of the extraordinary care they provided during the past unrelenting year of the COVID-19 virus.

Nurses Week recently concluded with ceremonies and recognition at several Sparrow sites of care.

For the first time, every nurse at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing received a Nurse of the Year award as a result of their incredible work during the pandemic.

At Sparrow Carson Hospital, Tabitha Durant, RN, was named Nurse of the Year. Durant is a Surgical Services nurse who also helps on the Medical Surgical floor when her co-workers need an extra hand. She also has received three Daisy Award nominations from patients for the excellent care she provides. Her nomination mentioned her willingness during COVID to help on shifts and days she doesn't normally work so patients can get the care they need.

"Tabitha is a wonderful nurse who represents everything great about our community hospital. She provides first-class care to community members of all ages and also floats to other nursing departments to assist them so that excellent patient care and safety measures are always maintained. We are very blessed to have her as part of our Sparrow Carson Team," said Sparrow Carson Chief Nursing Officer Monte Malek, MSN, RN, FNP-BC.

At Sparrow Clinton Hospital, Angie Hufnagel, BSN, RN, CEN,



Sparrow Carson Hospital Nurse of the Year Tabitha Durant is honored by Hospital President Mark Brisboe.

was recognized as Nurse of the Year.

"Angie is a passionate, caring emergency nurse who embraces excellence in every aspect of her life and serves as an extraordinary patient advocate," said Sparrow Clinton Chief Nursing Officer Mariah Hesse.

During the hospital's annual Nurses Tea, Melanie Kotowicz, BSN, RN, CEN, was named a DAISY Award honoree for outstanding care based on a patient letter that identified her as a "star caregiver who was very patient and caring."

Sparrow Clinton's surgical team received the DAISY team award after being nominated by various patients for their professionalism,

kindness, and exceptional care.

Sparrow Eaton Hospital held a nurses appreciation ceremony in honor of Nurses Week and plans to announce its Nurse of the Year this summer.

Virginia (Ginner) Burnham was named Sparrow Ionia Hospital's Nurse of the Year after being praised as always being willing to go above and beyond for her patients and colleagues. Burnham, an Emergency Department night shift nurse since 2018, has been a wonderful mentor to fellow caregivers, even creating surgical caps and donating many cloth masks to the community.

To learn more about nursing careers at Sparrow, go to Sparrow.org/nursing.



## Wide Bore MRI offered at Sparrow Carson Hospital

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## Michigan Crop Weather

### Field Crops

The entire Lower Peninsula and the easternmost counties of the Upper Peninsula were abnormally dry or worse, according to Marlo Johnson, Director of the Great Lakes Regional Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. There were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork in Michigan during the week ending June 6, 2021. Approximately two-thirds of the state was rated in moderate drought conditions, according to the latest U.S. Drought monitor, with five counties in the west central region showing severe drought conditions. Winter wheat condition declined with only 54 percent of the crop rated in good to excellent condition; dry conditions have kept disease pressures low, but some reporters worried that grain fill could suffer if it remains dry. Some frost damage was reported on corn and soybeans from the May 30 freeze, but drier weather with slower emergence has kept the damage low. Cooler weather in the Upper Peninsula shocked the oat and barley crops as both crops were near full emergence. First cut hay and alfalfa was in full swing. In the northwest, high winds and warmer temperatures caused the crop to mature early and be short. Other activities included pesticide applications and crop scouting.

### Fruit

The State remained in a drought and passing rains last week did little to relieve needed moisture. Fruit growers irrigated, the earliest any farmer could ever remember irrigating. The lack of rain led to lower disease and fungal pressure. The exception was powdery mildew which was more prevalent in 2021 than in

past years due mostly to the dry spring. Peaches were 23 to 28 mm in the Southwest. Oriental fruit moth and codling moth catches were high. Tart cherries were 13 to 15 mm in the Southwest. Cherry leaf spot infection periods were infrequent due to lack of rainfall. Apples in the Southwest were 18 to 28 mm. Many fruit had low seed counts due to poor pollination. Hand thinning began there. In the Grand Rapids area, fruitlets were growing and ranged in size from 12 to 22 mm depending on variety. Growers applied chemical thinners early in the week to help manage crop size. In the Northwest, growers actively thinned varieties needing a crop load reduction. Blueberry bloom in the Southwest was ending and green fruit were present in a number of varieties. Shoot growth looked good, especially in irrigated fields. Cherry fruitworm and cranberry fruitworm egg laying began.

### Vegetables

Hot and dry weather this week led to increased pest activity throughout the State in asparagus, carrot, and celery fields. Additionally, the first detection of cucurbit downy mildew spores occurred in an air sample taken in the Southwest, however, an outbreak of the disease has not been reported in Michigan at this time. Producers have been scouting and applying pesticides where necessary. Transplanting and greenhouse harvesting of tomatoes and peppers continued. Garlic was also being harvested, with scapes developing on hard-neck varieties. Some sweet corn suffered freeze damage due to cold temperatures, but the crop seemed to be in the process of recovering.

## Michigan Wholesale Floriculture Sales Worth More than \$500 Million

Michigan remains in third place in national ranking in value of wholesale sales of floriculture products in 2020, behind California and Florida, according to Marlo Johnson, Regional Director of USDA, NASS, Great Lakes Regional Office. Reports from Michigan's 549 commercial growers (with \$10K or more in gross sales) showed an estimated wholesale value of \$502.6 million for all surveyed floriculture crops, up \$63.1 million from last year. This estimate includes sales data reported by growers with \$100K or more in sales, plus a calculated wholesale value of sales for operations with sales from \$10,000 to \$99,999.

The leading crop category breakdowns for Michigan operations with more than \$100K in sales were:

- First, **annual bedding/garden plants** with \$247.7 million in sales.
  - Second, **herbaceous perennial plants** with \$79.6 million in sales.
  - Third, **potted flowering plants** with \$52.0 million in sales.
  - Fourth, **foliage plants** with \$19.7 million in sales.
- Michigan leads the nation in value of sales for 13 floriculture crops:
- **Begonias Flats** with 929,000 flats sold, valued at \$7.96 million.
  - **Impatiens, New Guinea** with

195,000 flats sold, valued at \$1.82 million.

- **Impatiens Flats** (other) with 1.3 million flats sold, valued at \$9.85 million.
- **Petunias Flats** with 1.5 million flats sold, valued at \$12.70 million.
- **Begonias Hanging Baskets** with 820,000 baskets sold, valued at \$6.29 million.
- **Geranium Hanging Baskets** (cuttings) with 954,000 baskets sold, valued at \$7.64 million.
- **Impatiens Hanging Baskets** (other) with 580,000 sold, valued at \$3.45 million.
- **Marigolds Hanging Baskets** with 73,000 sold, valued at \$371,000.
- **Pansies/Viola Hanging Baskets** with 359,000 sold, valued at \$2.32 million
- **Petunias Hanging Baskets** with 1.7 million baskets sold, valued at \$11.0 million.
- **Other Flowering and Foliar Hanging Baskets** with 3.2 million baskets sold, valued at \$24.2 million.
- **Potted Geraniums** (cuttings) with 5.27 million pots sold, valued at \$14.4 million.
- **Spring Flowering Bulbs for Indoor Use** with 7.57 pots sold, valued at \$14.5 million

Total covered area for all operations in the state was 50.7 million square feet. This includes both rigid and film plastic greenhouses, glass greenhouses, shade, and

temporary cover. Only California and Florida had more total cover.

Nationally, the 2020 wholesale value of floriculture crops is up 9 percent from the 2019 valuation. The

total crop value at wholesale for all growers with \$10,000 or more in sales is estimated at \$4.80 billion for 2020, compared with \$4.42 billion for 2019. Florida, the leading State with crops valued at \$1.14 billion, up 7 percent from the 2019 value. California, the next largest producer, is down 5 percent from the prior year to \$967 million in wholesale value. These two States account for 44 percent of the total value. For 2020, the top 5 States are Florida, California, Michigan, New Jersey, and Ohio which account for \$3.13 billion or 65 percent of the total value.

The number of producers for 2020, at 5,930, is up 14 percent from the 2019 count of 5,198. Total covered area for floriculture crop production was 748 million square feet in 2020, down slightly from the 2019 area of 749 million square feet.

The average peak number of hired workers employed on operations in 2020 was 19. A total of 4,310 operations hired workers during 2020 compared with 4,007 a year earlier. Overall, 73 percent of operations used some hired labor during 2020, down 4 percentage point from 2019.

## April agricultural prices

Prices received by Michigan farmers for the full month of April 2021 have been released.

Some Michigan highlights were: April corn, at \$5.31 per bushel, increased \$0.34 from March and increased \$1.89 from last year; April soybeans, at \$13.90 per bushel, increased \$0.70 from last month and increased \$5.15 from last year; April wheat, at \$6.15 per bushel, increased \$0.02 from March and increased \$0.30 from

last year; April milk, at \$17.20 per cwt., increased \$0.80 from last month and increased \$4.20 from last year.

Nationally, the April Prices Received Index 2011 Base (Agricultural Production), at 105.1, increased 6.9 percent from March and 28 percent from April 2020. At 106.1, the Crop Production Index was up 6.8 percent from last month and 23 percent from the previous year. The Livestock Production

Index, at 104.3, increased 7.1 percent from March, and 33 percent from April last year. Producers received higher prices during April for broilers, corn, hogs, and cattle but lower prices for market eggs, lettuce, broccoli, and cauliflower. In addition to prices, the volume change of commodities marketed also influences the indexes. In April, there was increased monthly movement for strawberries, milk, broilers, and oranges and decreased marketing of corn, soybeans, cattle, and hay.

## SPORTSMAN'S AUCTION

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	O/N '21	14.12
Red Wheat	June	6.55
	J/A '21	6.50
White Wheat	June	6.60
	J/A '21	6.60
Oats	June	3.00
	June	32.00
Navy	O/N '21	36.00
	O/N '21	38.00
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## SPORTS

TRACK &amp; FIELD

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

*State Finals***Lani Legend**

Ithaca junior wins two titles

By Stephen Bell  
Herald sports editor

At her best on the biggest stage, Ithaca junior Lani Bloom won a pair of state championships, and in record-setting fashion, at the Division 3 girls track and field state finals last Saturday in Jenison.

Bloom's time of 4 minutes 48.89 seconds in the 1,600 meters not only broke her own school record by over a second but also set a new standard for the Division 3 state meet. The previous mark had been 4:49.40 run by Shepherd's Amber Gall in 2019 – a race in which Bloom, then just a ninth-grader, was seventh.

Bloom then turned her sights to the 800 meters, winning it in 2:13.67. Roscommon's Allison Chmielewski was runner-up to her in both races.

"I went into the mile knowing I had to have a strategy and win, I didn't really care about time, I just went in thinking go out and win," Bloom said. "I went out really fast and hard, and Coach (Gene) Lebron had said I had to drop the hammer on the third lap to get the title and I ended up with a negative split, the second half of the race

was faster than the first."

But the hardware haul was only halfway complete.

"It's a pretty quick turnaround between those two events, and it seemed like I was just cooling down from the 1,600 when people were asking me, why I wasn't warming up yet for the 800," Bloom said. "I still had the adrenaline going from winning the first race, if that wore off it might have been kind of tough, but it made it see like one big race. I like the 800, you start, and then it's over – open fast and close fast."

Bloom and her Yellowjackets teammates Grace Weburg, Rachael Sierakowski and Josie Morrow, also members of Ithaca's state runner-up cross country team last fall, began Saturday by making all-state in the 4x800-meter relay with a fifth-place time of 9:54.23.

"Having those girls behind me at all times, it's been awesome," Bloom said. "Even without me, they would be a really great team. It's fun to be on a team that wants to be good at a bigger level. Without them, I don't think I'd have as much drive to do it."

See BLOOM page 15



Ithaca's Lani Bloom (left) won the Division 3 800-meter state championship last Saturday in Jenison.

**Huskies do it again**

The names may change, but the results are similar and times as fast as ever for Breckenridge's 4x100-meter relay team. The Huskies won the Division 4 boys state championship in the event Saturday in Hudsonville. It was the school's second 4x100 title in the past three state finals, after a runner-up finish in 2019 and championship in 2018.

The Breckenridge team of senior Cameren Valliere, junior Jace Horman, senior George Conn and senior Charlie Steinhaus won the state championship with a school-record time of 43.74 seconds, ahead of runner-up Flint Beecher which finished in 44.11. The previous Breckenridge record was set in 2018 at the state finals by Lukas Ebright, Cealeb Hurts, Hunter Collins and Caden Foster.

The 10 points for winning the 400-meter relay helped power Breckenridge to a sixth-place overall state finish. Carson City-Crystal was that team winner.

Beecher and Breckenridge flipped spots in the 4x200-meter relay. Beecher ran 1:30.59 while Valliere, Horman, Conn and Steinhaus were second in 1:31.12.

The Huskies had a pair of all-staters in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes. The 100 was won by Beecher's Jaylin Townsend, with Steinhaus fifth in 11.45 seconds and Valliere seventh in 11.50 seconds. Townend claimed the 200



Breckenridge senior Cameren Valliere was on the Huskies' state championship 4x100 team and Division 4 all-state in both sprints.

crown as well, with Valliere sixth in 23.47 seconds and Steinhaus eighth in 24.11.

Breckenridge scored with an eight-place state finish in the 4x800-meter relay. Ryan Tinson, Colttion Vine, Mason Sumner and Trent Carter finished the race, won by Petoskey St. Michael, in

8:35.24.

Carter just missed all-state in the 800 meters, placing ninth in 2:04.17.

Fulton had one athlete score at the Division 4 meet. Pirates junior Garner Akin was eighth in the shot put with a mark of 43-foot-7-inches.



Alma junior Trinity Greer after placing second in the Division 2 200-meter state finals in Zeeland.

**State runner-up x2**

Alma junior Trinity Greer was a state runner-up sprinter twice over, and also made all-state with the Panthers' 4x200-meter relay team, at the Division 2 girls track and field finals last Saturday in Zeeland.

In a repeat of their finishes in the TVC meet on a larger stage, Greer was second to Bridgeport's Chaniya Madison in both the 100- and 200-meter races. Greer finished the 100 meters in 12.52 seconds and 26.18 seconds.

Alma's team of Victoria Gotaas, Molly Fenn, Adara Anderson and Greer were fifth in the 4x200-me-

ter relay in 1:49.03.

Alma, with 20 points, was 11th out of the 67 teams that scored at the state finals. Petoskey was the team winner.

Fenn, Christa Fornusek, Greer and Gotaas were 15th in the 400-meter relay.

In the boys Division 2 state finals, Alma sophomore Michael Howey was all-state in the shot put with a sixth-place throw of 48-foot-11-inches.

Panthers senior Andrew Shafley was a spot away from all-state in the 1,600 meters, taking ninth in 4:30.22.

# SPORTS

SOFTBALL/BASEBALL

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LEFT: Ithaca's Megan Mankey rounds third to score against Shepherd in a district softball final last Saturday in Hemlock. RIGHT: Fulton's Alyssa Lambert (12) and Sydney Andrews (20) run down a St. Patrick baserunner during the Pirates' 5-1 Division 4 semifinal loss at Portland St. Patrick last Saturday.

## District finals prove tough to get by for area teams

Ithaca got a little momentum going with its bats in the bottom of the seventh, scoring a pair of runs, but by then the hole was too deep from which to emerge, and the Yellowjackets fell to Shepherd in the Division 3 softball district final at Hemlock, 10-5.

The game was a shutout through four innings, before Shepherd scored four runs in the top of the fifth.

For Ithaca, Lauren Humphrey had two hits, with a double, and three RBI; Megan Mankey two hits and an RBI; Lottie Carman two hits; and Myah Mauer and Lydia

Davenport both doubled.

It took Ithaca five innings to dispatch of St. Louis in the district semifinal, 11-1.

Lydia Davenport pitched for the Yellowjackets, striking out one while allowing two hits and a walk in five innings.

At the plate for Ithaca, Megan Mankey had three hits and an RBI; Humphrey two hits and two RBI; Natalie Nowakowski two hits including a double and two RBI; and Brianna Mikesell two hits.

### Big Rapids tops Alma

After getting past the host school,

Chippewa Hills, 16-5 in the semifinals, Alma lost to Big Rapids, 7-5, in a Division 2 softball district championship last Saturday.

Angelina Lanham pitched the final for the Panthers, striking out five while allowing five hits.

Offensively for Alma, Dalanie Mott was 2-for-4 with a triple and run scored; Stephanie Bielaga 2-for-4 with an RBI and run scored; Bailey Walkington a base hit and two RBI; and Alyssa Beechler, Sarah Adams and Kennedy Lagalo all doubled.

Alma only needed three innings against Chippewa Hills, which Lanham pitched for the win, allowing three runs on five hits while striking out two over three innings.

Alyssa Leister was 2-for-4 with a double and six RBI; Bielaga 2-for-2 with two RBI and a run scored; Jada Munro 2-for-4 with two RBI and no runs; and Mott 2-for-5 with two runs scored and a pair of RBI.

The Panthers finish the season 19-19.

Alma dropped its final regular season game last week at Central

Montcalm, 5-4, after taking a 4-2 lead into the bottom of the seventh inning.

Leister, Munro and Sarah Adams all had base hits for the Panthers, which Leister driving in two runs and scoring one herself.

### Comets get revenge

After winning the MSAC title outright, Breckenridge's softball team was hoping that its postseason went beyond districts. It did, kind of, but just by two innings, with the Huskies falling in nine to Coleman, at Coleman, in last Saturday's district final 5-3.

Breckenridge had defeated Coleman 6-3 in the final game of the regular season.

Morgan Westall was 3-for-5 at the plate in the district final, while Summer Smith was 2-for-4 with a double and two RBI.

Westall pitched, striking out 15 while allowing five earned runs on five hits over nine innings.

Breckenridge got by Michigan Lutheran Seminary in the semifinal, 2-1. Westall fanned 16 while

allowing just one run on three hits over seven innings.

Summer Smith and Miranda Rohde both had RBI doubles for the Huskies.

Breckenridge finishes the season 22-4.

### BASEBALL

#### Huskies fall to No. 1 team

After clinching the MSAC title outright, Breckenridge's baseball team ran into a different level of competition at last Saturday's Division 4 district at Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, where the Huskies ran into the state's No. 1 ranked team, Beal City, and fell in the final 13-1.

Earlier last week Breckenridge beat Coleman 16-1 and 18-2 to claim the league crown.

Drew Cole was the winning pitcher in the first game, and went 2-for-2 himself with two RBI and two runs scored. Ashton Thrush had a three-run homer for Breckenridge and Landen Aldrich had a double and three RBI.

Jacob Gillis earned his first decision of the season to win the nightcap.

Cole was 2-for-3; Thrush had two RBI on a basehit and Aldrich had three RBI on a base hit.

In Breckenridge's final non-league regular season contests the Huskies beat Saginaw 2-0 and 3-1.

Cole pitched the shutout win in the first game and also had a base hit and scored. Thrush walked twice and scored a run for Breckenridge.

Cramer Laurenz was the winning pitcher in the 3-1 game.

Cole was 2-for-3 with a double and RBI; Laurenz had a double; Kyler Chovanec had an RBI double.

## IN APPRECIATION

The Ithaca Dust Off would like to Thank the City of Ithaca, car owners and spectators for making our 33rd car show a huge success (200 plus cars) and a very special Thanks to our Sponsors and Prize Donors who make it happen!

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# SPORTS

## TRACK & FIELD

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Ithaca's Parks Allen was fifth in the Division 3 state in the 3,200 meters.



Ithaca's Lani Bloom crosses the finish line of the Division 3 1,600-meter meet all alone after setting both D3 final and school records last Saturday in Jenison.

## BLOOM *continued from page 13*

The state titles were a long time coming for Bloom. She had a breakout indoor season in 2019, only to have the spring season canceled. The she was injured and sat out a month of the 2021 indoor season, only to return on her 17th birthday, February 22.

"I can't remember the last time I'd gone that long without running, the longest had been maybe a week," Bloom said. "It was tough, biking, swimming, anything I could do to stay active."

The time off paid off, as Bloom rolled through the opposition all spring. Her only second-place finish was in the Elite Mile Showcae at Romeo – where she still ran 4:50.46 over the 1,600 meters, finishing ahead of runners all from Division 1 or 2 schools.

"Coach Lebron taught me that just good enough for a small school, isn't enough," Bloom said. "I've been able to compete in big divisions, compete directly with

them, and know what it takes to train for that level."

Up next for Bloom is the national meet in Eugene, OR on July 3 for the 5,000 meters. Then she said she hopes to take college visits this summer, to help sort through interest from myriad Power 5 and Ivy League programs, before suiting up again the the Yellowjackets in the fall. What to expect for an encore?

"Nationals, school records and state records."



St. Louis' Libby Munderloh (left) takes the baton from teammate Mikenna Borie in the Division 3 state 4x800-meter relay championship race in Jenison. The Sharks placed second in the race and sixth overall.

## Sharks sixth in the state

St. Louis' 4x800-meter relay team was state runner-up and the Sharks finished sixth overall – out of 60 teams – at the Division 3 girls track and field state finals in Jenison.

St. Louis senior Mikaila Borie, freshman Jaiden Dickman, junior Mikenna Borie and junior Libby Munderloh finished the 4x800 relay in 9 inutes 39.80 seconds, placing behind only champion Hart and ahead of Shepherd. Ithaca was fifth.

St. Louis junior Adry Munoz, freshman Monika Borie, Munderloh and senior Chloe O'Boyle placed third, behind Shepherd and Grass Lake, in the 4x400-meter relay in 4:12.59.

The Sharks had a third all-state relay team in the 4x100, where freshman Natalee Hoyt, Munoz, Monika Borie and O'Boyle took sixth in a time of 51.78 seconds.

Munderloh placed fifth in the 800 meters to earn all-state honors with a time of 2:20.08.

Mikenna Borie was all-state in the 1,600 meters with an eight-place time of 5:14.67. Dickman was 11th.

### Jackson third

St. Louis junior Ignatius Jackson was third in the Division 3 state meet in the 100 meters, won by

Grass Lake's Brennen Bargesser, with a time of 11.22 seconds.

Ithaca's top finisher at the state meet was Parks Allen, a sophomore who took third in the 3,200 meters in 10:01.40.

Ithaca's 4x800-meter relay team of Allen Espen Lehnst, Lane McDonald and Braxton Lamey was third n a time of 8:30.19.

Also making all-state from the area was Lamey, who was seventh in the 1,600 meters in 4:28.38.

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# SPORTS

## BASEBALL

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In the Division 3 baseball district semifinal last Saturday at Bath (from left) St. Louis pitcher Ethan Shattuck; Ithaca shortstop Charlie Martyn; and Ithaca catcher Kaleb Peska putting the tag on St. Louis' Cade Pestrue. St. Louis won 9-3 then lost to Laingsburg in eight innings in the final, with a state quarterfinal game to follow.

## Sharks fall in final

After being swept by Ithaca during the regular season, St. Louis had every batter hit in the bottom of the first inning when the Sharks jumped out to a 5-0 lead before beating the Yellowjackets 9-3 in a Division 3 baseball district final last Saturday in Bath.

"They made the plays and we didn't execute a few times and they took advantage of it," Ithaca coach Brian LaBaron said. "Offensively we just couldn't get the bats going - we seemed to hit it right at someone and in return they just found the gaps. They played real solid."

Ethan Shattuck and Thomas Zacharko combined to shut down the Jackerts, with Shattuck starting and getting the win going four-and-two-thirds and Zacharko throwing the final two-and-a-third

innings.

Hitting for St. Louis against Ithaca, Zacharko was 3-for-3 with an RBI; Blake Siefka 2-for-3 with two RBI; Cade Pestrue 2-for-4 with an RBI; and Logan Koutz 2-for-3 with an RBI.

For Ithaca, Grant Weburg had two RBI on a base hit while Kaleb Peska had a hit, walk and run scored and Zach Poff stole two bases and scored off of a walk.

St. Louis and Laingsburg then went the distance and beyond in the district championship game with the Wolfpack ultimately prevailing in eight innings, 2-1.

At the plate against Laingsburg, Trae Garcia was 2-for-4 with a double; Austin Marsh 2-for-3; Zacharko had a sac fly RBI.

St. Louis finishes the season 14-17-1.



## Four Straight

Alma's baseball team celebrates its fourth-consecutive Division 2 district title. Alma shut out Fremont 3-0 in the district championship game last Saturday at Alma, after beating Tri-County 9-3 in the semifinal. DJ Thompson was the winning pitcher in the final, after Brayley Munro won the semifinal. Alma was to play host to Muskegon Oakridge. The regional final would be 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Alma College.

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# LEGALS

**FORECLOSURE NOTICE  
(Gratiot County)  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY  
ADVERTISEMENT.**

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Gratiot County (at the main entrance of the Gratiot County Circuit Court Building in the City of Ithaca, Gratiot County, Michigan), starting promptly at 10:00 o'clock A.M. on Thursday, July 15, 2021.

Default has been made in the terms and conditions of the mortgage made by Waino H. Pihl and Susan M. Taylor, husband and wife, as original mortgagors, to Chemical Bank, a Michigan banking corporation, as original mortgagee, dated May 11, 2015, and recorded on May 18, 2015, at the Gratiot County, Michigan Register of Deeds, in Liber 973, commencing on Page 265, which mortgage is now held by TCF National Bank, a national banking association, successor in interest by merger to Chemical Bank. The amount claimed to be due on this mortgage, on the date of this notice, was \$630,867.00. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the

day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

The description of the mortgaged premises is all that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Newark, in the County of Gratiot and State of Michigan further described as follows:

Land located in Section 36, Town 10 North, Range 3 West described as: The North 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4, except a parcel commencing at the Northwest corner of said parcel; thence East 660 feet; thence South 660 feet; thence West 330 feet; thence South 660 feet; thence West 330 feet; thence North 1320 feet to the point of beginning; also except the South 250 feet of the North 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4; also except a certain parcel described as commencing at the Northeast corner of said North 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4; thence North 282 feet South to the place of beginning; thence West 331 feet; thence South 141 feet; thence East 331 feet; thence North 141 feet to place of beginning; Also Described

For Tax Purposes As: N 1/2 OF SW 1/4 EX S 250 FT, & EX COM AT NW COR. TH E 660 FT, S 660 FT, W 330 FT, S 410 FT, W 330 FT, N 1070 FT TO BEG, ALSO EX COM 282 FT S OF NE COR, TH W 331 FT, S 141 FT E 331 FT, N 141 FT TO POB, SEC 36-10-3. Commonly known as: 5578 S. Wells Rd., Ithaca, Michigan Tax ID Number: 08-036-007-00

The redemption period shall be Twelve (12) months from the date of such sale, unless the redemption period is shortened in accordance with MCLA 600.3238. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA 600.3278, the borrower and mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

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

Attention Purchasers: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered

at sale, plus interest. Shaheen, Jacobs & Ross, P.C. is a debt collector attempting to collect this debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Dated: May 19, 2021

TCF National Bank, a national banking association,

Mortgagee

SHAHEEN, JACOBS & ROSS, P.C.

By: Michael J. Thomas, Esq.

Attorneys for Mortgagee

615 Griswold St., Suite 1425

Detroit, Michigan 48226-3993

(313) 963-1301

(05-27)(06-17) 21t4

**PUBLICATION OF NOTICE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN,  
PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF  
GRATIOT**

In the matter of DOROTHY LUCILE BENNETT, DECEASED.  
FILE NO. 21-124DE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:\*

whose address(es) are unknown

and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

**TAKE NOTICE:\***

The decedent, Dorothy Lucile Bennett, who address was 224 South Ferris, Sumner, Michigan 48889 died on June 18, 2020. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Patricia Eldred, 224 South Ferris, Sumner, Michigan 48889, 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.

Dated: 6/1/2021

PATRICIA ELDRED

Petitioner

224 SOUTH FERRIS

SUMNER, MICHIGAN 48889

989 833 7520

William E. Goggin P-14081

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### ITHACA PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Ithaca Board of Education will be holding a special board meeting June 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school media center for the superintendent evaluation. The meeting will begin in open session then go into closed session for evaluation. Zoom address for the open portion: <https://bit.ly/3vJ3b2I>

#### FULTON TOWNSHIP SAYS:

**TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS MAY 22, 2021 CLEAN UP DAY  
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**VALUABLE FULTON TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEERS**  
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THANKS AGAIN!

#### CITY OF ITHACA, MICHIGAN ORDINANCE NO. 2021-02 Amending Chapter 4: Alcoholic Liquor of the City Code of Ordinances

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 4: Alcoholic Liquor; Article I:

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF ITHACA, MICHIGAN DO  
ORDAIN:**

**Section 4-2 of Article I: General; Chapter 4: Alcoholic Liquor is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following:**

#### ARTICLE I. GENERAL

**SECTION 4-2 Consumption in Public Places; Prohibitions.**

No alcoholic liquor shall be consumed on public streets, parks or in any other public place, including any store or establishment doing business with the public, not licensed to sell alcoholic liquor for consumption on the premises, nor shall anyone who owns, operates, or controls any such establishment or store permit the consumption of alcoholic liquors in such establishment or store.

The Ithaca City Council retains the right to allow consumption of alcoholic liquor on public streets, parks or in any other public place by granting an **Article I General, Section 4-2 Special Events Waiver** with majority vote.

This ordinance is hereby adopted by action of the City Council dated this 1st day of June, 2021.

Ayes: (6) Gray, Gruesbeck, Koppelerberger, Andrew, Baublitz and Schafer  
Nays: (0) None  
Abstain: (0) None  
Absent: (1) Hubbard

Introduced: 05/18/2021  
Public Hearing: 06/01/2021  
Adopted: 06/01/2021  
Published: 06/10/2021  
Effective: 06/21/2021

Cathy Cameron  
Cathy Cameron, City Clerk

### ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 21, 2021, at 7:00 o'clock p.m., at the St. Louis High School, 113 East Saginaw Street, St. Louis, Michigan, the Board of Education of St. Louis Public Schools, Gratiot, Isabella, and Midland Counties, Michigan will hold a public meeting to consider the District's proposed 2021-2022 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2021-2022 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2021-2022 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 113 East Saginaw Street, St. Louis, Michigan.

### THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.  
Donald Kelley, Secretary

#### OFFICE OF THE GRATIOT COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS

**DATE: June 22nd, 2021**  
**TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**LOCATION: Gratiot County Drain Commissioner's Office  
904 East Center Street  
Ithaca, Michigan 48847  
(989) 875-5207**

**QUESTIONS: Please call to make an appointment**

The Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries is an opportunity to review the Drainage District boundaries of the Drains listed below with the Drain Commissioner or a staff member. A map of the proposed Drainage District boundary revisions can be found on the Gratiot County website at:

www.gratiotmi.com. The Drain Commissioner, engineers, and/or other staff members will be available to assist individuals throughout the day, and make revisions where necessary. Please call ahead to schedule an appointment for a specific time on the Day of Review.

A general description of the lands by section number proposed to be added or deleted from the Drainage Districts as recommended by a licensed professional engineer or surveyor for each of the Drains is as follows:

Drain Name	Municipalities	Portions of Sections Added	Portions of Sections Removed
#111 Drain	Arcada Township	17-20, 29 & 31-32	17, 19-20, 29 & 31-32
	New Haven Township	2-4, 9-10 & 16	2-4 & 10
	Summer Township	25-26 & 34-36	24-26 & 34-36
#116 Drain	Bethany Township	22-24, 27 & 34-36	23-25, 27, 34 & 36
	Emerson Township	2	2-3
	Wheeler Township	19 & 30	19 & 30
	Village of Breckenridge	19 & 30	19 & 30
#118 Drain	Arcada Township	21-22, 29 & 32	20-21, 27-29 & 32
#289 Drain	Lafayette Township	27-29	27-29
#315 Drain	Lafayette Township	16 & 21	15-16 & 21-22
#402 Drain	Newark Township	9-10	9-10
#407 Drain	Pine River Township	13-14	13-14
#469 Drain	Wheeler Township	16-17	16-17

The computation of costs for the Drains listed above will also be available at the Day of Review. Drain assessments are collected in the same manner as property taxes and will appear on your winter tax bill. If drain assessments are being collected for more than one (1) year, you may pay the assessment in full with any interest to date at any time and avoid further interest charges.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the Day of Review should contact the Gratiot County Drain Commissioner's Office at the number listed above or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the Day of Review to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

You may appeal the Drain Commissioner's decision to revise the district boundary to the Gratiot County Circuit Court within ten (10) days. You also may appeal the Drain Commissioner's determination of apportionments to the Gratiot County Probate Court within ten (10) days.

Bernard J. Barnes  
Gratiot County Drain Commissioner

# New Center Will Provide Opportunities for Community Engagement

By Tim Rath  
Alma College Communications

Alma College recently announced the launch of its Center for College and Community Engagement (CCCE).

The CCCE will create collaborative opportunities for the college and community to develop strategic partnerships, share knowledge, and serve mid-Michigan together, said Alma College President Dr. Jeff Abernathy. The college is currently conducting a nationwide search for the inaugural director of the center.

“We are excited to announce the launch of the Center for College and Community Engagement, which we expect will assist students in learning the value of civic responsibility, engaging in meaningful service, and discovering their purpose and vocation, in ways they never have before,” Abernathy said. “Alma College is poised to act locally and impact the state, nation, and the world around us. Through this center, we’ll be able to do just that.”

The center’s activities focus on four key areas: engagement, community, sustainability, and purpose. Initiatives and activities that will work through the center include new service and service learning opportunities, faculty and staff engagement and training, interfaith partnerships and curricular programming to promote ethical reflection and engagement.

The Center will also play a pivotal role in organizing and expanding already-existing programs; including Plaid Service summer service, leadership and community organizing course; the Scots in Service living learning community; Alternative Breaks; the Rural Michigan Initiative, and Alma Venture programming.

“The mission of Alma College is to support students as they become leaders who think critically, serve generously, lead purposefully, and live responsibly,” said Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Kathleen Dougherty. “Through

the CCCE, students will partner with our local community in positive and intentional ways to illustrate the importance of being citizens of this place and the ability to make a global impact by acting locally. In educating the whole student, the college will support them in the exploration of their impact, purpose, personal and spiritual identity, and vocation.”

Through the center, the college will develop pipelines to internships, civic engagement, student leadership development, and volunteer opportunities for students. It will help facilitate faculty and staff development for experiential and service learning, as well as academic and co-curricular experiences that will enhance students’ community involvement, social capital, civic knowledge, and skill development for respectful and meaningful community engagement.

The launch of the center comes at a time of curricular innovation and physical growth of Alma College. The college just recently launched its first graduate degree; the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, led by director and prolific author Sophronia Scott. The restored Wright Leppien Opera House Block — a landmark to Alma’s history and a symbol of the town and college working together for community revitalization — was dedicated in October 2019. Construction projects including a complete transformation of the college’s library, as well as a renovation of its chapel, are currently ongoing.

“It’s an exciting time to be at Alma, and witness this investment in our students, our college and our community,” said Vice President for Student Affairs Damon Brown. “The center will help Alma College further entrench itself in the area; while developing better senses of generosity, compassion, collaboration and empathy. It will allow the college to engage thoughtfully with the community to identify ideas and areas of need where we can be truly helpful.”



Volunteers from Alma College are pictured at a community service project.

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Congratulations to the class of 2021 and good luck to you all!