

## PUBLICATION NOTICE

In observance of Independence Day, Monday, July 4, publication and delivery of the July 7 edition of The Gratiot County Herald will be delayed by one day. Newsstand and digital copies will go out on Thursday, July 7, and local subscribers can expect the newspaper to be delivered on Friday, July 8.

- Publisher

## NEWS • 3

### WITHOUT A HITCH: Ithaca Rock the Block Event Rebounds in Second Straight Year



"GRATIOT COUNTY'S LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER"

# Gratiot County Herald



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## Fourth of July Celebrations Include Familiar Events, But No Fireworks

Breckenridge residents will note some familiar activities over the three-day Fourth of July weekend, but a fireworks display is not on that list. You can catch some fireworks in the St. Louis sky, but you'll have to wait two weeks for the Saturday, July 16 display.

"They're having most of their events in Breckenridge except the fireworks," said Sara Bonnaci, interim director of the Gratiot Chamber of Commerce.

Those Monday, July 4, events include a 9:30 a.m. golf outing at The Ridge, the annual car show at 11 a.m., and the American Legion Chicken Dinner, also at 11 a.m.

Folks looking for some Saturday fun are encouraged to join Bigshow's Crazy Idea Food Truck to "celebrate Independence Day with family friendly fun."

Taking place at 7030 East Monroe Road in Breckenridge, the fun will include ice cream, outdoor games, face painting, and more.

See **CELEBRATIONS** page 5



Last week, 58 students graduated from the Gratiot County Youth Police Academy. Wearing matching red shirts and gray shorts, the participants were put through physical fitness paces each morning inside the Ithaca High School gym. They also received training in several hand-on activities, including CPR and first aid.

## Gratiot County Youth Police Academy Graduates 58

By William Meiners  
Herald Staff Writer

Nearly five dozen middle and high school students graduated from the Gratiot County Youth Police Academy last week. In what's become a bit of a summer tradition for young people looking to learn more about the importance of policework, the students took part in several hands-on activities facili-

tated by various agencies.

The Alma Police Department, the Gratiot County Sheriff's Office, the Michigan State Police (MSP), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) all pitched in throughout the week.

"The first YPA was in 2003 with a class of about a dozen kids," said Kendra Overla, chief of police in Alma. "The program was the first

of its kind in our area and the instructors were from all area agencies. Historically speaking, we do see quite a few kids repeat the program."

Casey Mueller, the community service officer for the Alma PD, has helped out with the Youth Police Academy for the better part of a decade.

See **ACADEMY** page 5

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD: Longtime Highland Festival Volunteers Ready to Pass the Torch



Alma residents Todd and Paula Moeggenborg have spent a collective 75 years of volunteer service at the Highland Festival and Games.

By William Meiners  
Herald Staff Writer

With a history that dates back to 1968, by now scores of volunteers have helped to pull off the Alma Highland Festival and Games every Memorial Day weekend. In addition to all their heavy lifting, sponsors have helped make it a reality year after year.

In the afterglow of the successful 2022 festival, just now a month in the rearview mirror, Kallei Mapes-Hahn, president of the board of directors, said she's thankful for the efforts of more than 100 volunteers and nearly 50 sponsors. She also noted that two longtime volunteers, who became "the face of the festival in our community," are ready to move on.

For Todd and Paula Moeggenborg, the festival has long been a family affair. Todd's volunteering goes back to the 1970s and some of the earliest games when he and his brothers were in elementary school.

"Our parents were asked to help with the road run," he said. "Since we were a family that meant that we

all volunteered."

After a few years of helping with the road race, Bruce Moeggenborg, Todd's father, was asked to take over the grounds setup and concessions. He also became a board member then.

"When Dad did this, we started to help with grounds setup and tear down," Moeggenborg said. "This entailed setting fence posts the weekend before the festival on college campus grounds, setting up the fencing the week of the festival, setting up the clan tent area, and other miscellaneous duties all day Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of festival weekend."

All that fencing could make for some backbreaking labor. "I remember one year Dad and I set all the fence post with a manual fence post driver," Moeggenborg recalled. "I was 20 or 21 and Dad was 50 or 51, and I had a hard time keeping up with his pace. We were both sore for the next couple of days since the number of posts we set was somewhere in the neighborhood of 75 to 100." See **VOLUNTEERS** page 5

Local service.

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# Alma Recognized for Excellence by Colleges of Distinction

By Tim Rath  
Alma College Communications

Alma College has been recognized for its commitment to prepare graduates who think critically, serve generously, lead purposefully and live responsibly by Colleges of Distinction, a guide for college-bound students. Alma has been named a 2022-2023 College of Distinction, Michigan College of Distinction, and Christian College of Distinction.

In addition to the overall honor, Alma's undergraduate business, education and nursing programs received 2022-2023 national endorsements. It is the 15th consecutive year that Alma College has been recognized by the national guide.

"We are pleased to see the commitment of the entire Alma College community rewarded by this recognition from Colleges of Distinction," Alma College President Jeff Abernathy said. "It underscores the dedication of those involved in our academic programs and student experiences, who work tirelessly to ensure an active learning and supportive residential environment for each individual student on our campus."

The 2022-23 edition of Colleges of Distinction highlights Alma College for excellence in classroom teaching and its high-impact stu-

dent-centered programs — including research opportunities, first-year experiences and seminars, service- and community-based learning and capstone courses and projects.

"When we focus all of our attention on how schools stack up against one another, we lose track of what really matters: the students themselves," said Wes Creel, founder of Colleges of Distinction. "Every student has individual needs and their own environment in which they are most likely to thrive. We want to extend our praise to the schools that prioritize and cater to students' goals."

"Alma College's inclusion is informed by the unique ways it commits to achieving success," Creel continued. "The effective strategies for student satisfaction and outcomes were the kinds of engaging experiences found at Alma. We're inspired by the ways in which Alma immerses students in their fields, all while fostering a welcoming community that will support them through and beyond their college years."

Selected schools are required to adhere to four distinctions — engaged students, great teaching, vibrant communities and successful outcomes. The selection process also includes a review of each institution's first-year experience,



In this 2022 photo, students are pictured in a Spring Term course taught by Alma College psychology professor Marc Setterlund.

general education program, strategic plan, career development and satisfaction measures.

"Alma College is at its best when it's working with students who don't have all the answers, but love to ask the questions. A beautiful residential college located in

the middle of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, Alma College offers an individualized education through which each student is encouraged to identify personal and professional goals as they chart a path for the future," Colleges of Distinction notes.

## State-Wide Entrepreneurship Conference to be Held in Alma

The City of Alma will host the 2022 Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Conference. The CEC program was created by MSU Extension in 2007 as a way to increase local community knowledge and support for entrepreneurship growth throughout Michigan.

Held in the fall, the state-wide conference moves around allowing participants to experience a new community, network with colleagues, and share ideas and resources. This year, the conference will take place September 14-15.

CEC has a unique approach that embeds the conference in the local community. Twenty-two breakout sessions are held right in local businesses led by experienced entrepreneurs or persons working in economic and community development. This allows participants to learn and more importantly, see, feel and taste what works in any sized community.

Themes for the breakout sessions include entrepreneurship, development strategies, housing and tourism, among others. Keynote sessions include an "Alma Aspires" panel discussing the city's community development plan, as well as remarks from Jim Holton, the owner of Alma Brewing Company.

Alma provides a unique community experience for locals and visitors alike. With a population just shy of 10,000, Alma provides many characteristics of a mid-sized city while maintaining the close-knit, small-town vibe that has been the fabric of the city for over 100 years. ASince its implementation, the CEC conference has grown and regularly attracts approximately 150 people from 50 communities across Michigan. Attendees range from a variety of leaders, stakeholders, decision makers, entrepreneurs, government, education and business as well as community champions.

## Traffic Crash Involving State Police Trooper Results in Serious Injuries

Responding to an emergency call for service on Friday night, a trooper with the Michigan State Police Lakeview Post was involved in a traffic crash that resulted in serious injuries to a civilian driver and passenger.

The accident happened Friday, June 24 at 8:30 p.m. at the intersection of M-46 and Alger Road in Pine River Township, according to Michelle Robinson, MSP Sixth District Public Information Officer.

Robinson said an initial investigation revealed the trooper was traveling westbound on M-46 with their lights and siren activated when they had a collision with a northbound vehicle. The trooper received

minor injuries and was transported to the hospital. The driver and passenger of the northbound vehicle were transported to the hospital with serious injuries.

The MSP First District Special Investigation Section was called in to investigate the crash, which is still ongoing.

Robinson said that names of those involved are not being released at this time, and no additional information was available by Herald presstime Tuesday.

On-scene assistance was provided by the Gratiot County Sheriff's Office, Alma Police Department, St. Louis Police Department, Alma Fire Department and MMR Ambulance.

### LETTER POLICY

We invite or readers to express opinions in a Letter to the Editor. Letters should be addressed "To the Editor" and can be mailed to The Gratiot County Herald at PO BOX 10, Ithaca, MI 48847; brought to our office at 123 N. Main, Ithaca; or e-mailed to editor@gcherald.com. Submissions must include the author's name and town of residence. Letters are strictly the opinions of the author and may not reflect the opinions of The Herald or its staff.

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# THE SECOND FRONT PAGE



The second annual Rock the Block featured music and a slew of games and activities, including a cornhole tournament, an (inflatable) axe-throwing pit, a mechanical bull, and more. Volunteers and sponsors answered the call from the Ithaca Promotional Committee, such as Matt Vusich (right) owner of Burford Plumbing & Heating, who was both a sponsor and volunteer sinker at the “Burford’s Plunge the Plumber Dunk Tank. Photos courtesy: Josh Strand and Jeffrey D. Sherman

## Ithaca Rock the Block Rebounds in Second Annual Event

By William Meiners  
Herald Staff Writer

The second annual Rock the Block Party in downtown Ithaca went off without a hitch last Saturday. Though hot, the Saturday evening affair certainly beat the weather washout from a year ago. Throughout the family-friendly event, people gathered along Pine Avenue to enjoy music and play games.

“This year was super successful,” said Josh Strand of the Ithaca Planning Committee. “Everyone was having fun, and we bought in a lot more entertainment for the kids.”

The band called High Class Truckers provided the live background music for an interactive affair that included an inflatable corn maze, a mechanical bull, an inflatable axe-throwing pit, and more. The Oasis Community Church donated two bounce houses. And partners teamed up in a cornhole tournament.

For Strand, who returned to his hometown of Ithaca after beginning his professional career downstate, the Ithaca Promotional Committee, a subcommittee of the Gratiot Chamber of Commerce, is made up of a “fun group” of people trying to recapture some of the

community activities reminiscent of his youth.

Growing up here, Strand said there was “fun things to do every weekend,” including the old Ithaca Hometown Fun Fest, which brought in hundreds of visitors for a summertime party. And while Rock the Block is less focused on a beer tent and fun for those in the over-21 crowd, it might be more about reconnecting people with downtown businesses.

“Everything we’re doing now is trying to build energy and momentum for something bigger and better,” Strand said. “We’re making our community a community

again.”

So maybe the Fun Fest makes a comeback. Though it’s likely rebranded for a new age. “We have to take into consideration the world around us,” Strand said.

The first Rock the Block, Strand said, was intended to “simply get people out of the house” coming out of the pandemic. Even after the rainout, a Thursday evening event later in the summer did not gather too much attention.

One thing that aided this year’s version, in addition to dry weather, was buy-in from both volunteers and sponsors. Boys from the Ithaca High School football team helped

set things up. Local businesses kicked in \$5,200, allowing for some of the games to be brought in.

Strand believes the support in donated time and dollars is particularly encouraging. “They see what we’re doing now and that’s a really good feeling,” he said.

That renewed energy could have rippling effects throughout the community. Strand said businesses like the Pink Cactus capitalized on the event, offering face painting for kids. The whole setup encouraged visitors to drop into those shops and restaurants as they passed through the party.

## Alma Food Pantry Notes Significant Rise in Hungry Families

By William Meiners  
Herald Staff Writer

The First Presbyterian Church of Alma distributes groceries to people in need on Tuesday afternoons. With rising inflation and less government assistance over the last couple of months, more people are turning out for the food.

“We had seen our numbers drop off during COVID-19 because of the government assistance that was being provided,” said Marsha Turner, co-coordinator of the food pantry. “Since some of that assistance has gone away over the last couple of months, our numbers are going up.”

The food pantry, located two blocks west of Alma College at 495 Charles Avenue, is open from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on the first four Tuesdays of any month. They are closed on any fifth Tuesday of the month. The canned, boxed, and frozen items are designed to “help stretch a food budget” at no additional cost.

Turner, who has been the co-coordinator alongside Ellie Freed for the last two-and-a-half years, emphasized the idea of stretching food supplies. “We’re not trying to replace their trip to the grocery store,” she said. “We’re here to supplement what they can get.”

Generally speaking, the boxes they take home are based on a family of four or five. Turner estimates that much food could provide “four to six decent-sized dinners.”

With canned vegetables, pastas, and such, there’s a general focus on healthy food. The frozen foods may vary week to week, Turner said, with a selection of different beef, frozen eggs, and more.

Turner said the Alma food pantry operates in conjunction with the Greater Lansing Food Bank, placing orders that can be delivered to the church within a week or two. Because of those arrangements, visitors must be from Alma, Elwell, Elm Hall, or Riverdale. Additionally, they should live north of Tyler Road, south of the Isabella County line, west of St. Louis, and east of Montcalm County.

Those boundaries help to better direct people to food pantries in their area. Those rules not only help those visitors save on gas money but allows the food bank to distribute food more effectively.

Turner admits to a bit of a learning curve when it came to the food pantry operations. From doing their own shopping to the coordinated efforts through the Greater Lansing Food Bank, Turner and

Freed have leaned on each other to maximize the pantry’s efforts. They’ve also participated in the Meijer “Simply Give” program, which sells larger amounts of food at a discount.

“It takes a lot of time, but it’s very worthwhile,” Turner said. “Ellie and I complement each other, and it helps a lot when you have someone to work with.”

That heavy lifting, of course, is helped by a host of volunteers who rotate in and out of the program. Since the early days of the pandemic, they’ve utilized a “drive-through” style for the food pickups. And Turner said they are always looking for volunteers. Interested parties can inquire about opportunities by calling the pantry at 989-263-2940.

Food insecurity, which can feel like an invisible problem since it’s hard to see an empty stomach, may be best addressed by a variety of programs. In three consecutive weeks, The Herald has featured articles on the subject. An Ithaca “summer lunch” program serves hot meals to anyone under 18 years of age. A new, “free little food pantry” on the campus of the MyMichigan Health Center in Alma, allows anyone to drop off or pick up nonperishable food items.



Brian Dunwoody, a volunteer, prepares boxes from the food pantry at the First Presbyterian Church of Alma. The pantry distributes groceries to people in need on Tuesday afternoons.



## Honoring Gratiot's Past

### Historical Organizations of Gratiot County

## Women's Suffrage in Gratiot

By Jim Goodspeed

In the late summer of 1916, the city of Alma needed to construct a new sewer and water system. Citizens voted to pass a bond to pay for the project. Although not allowed to vote in elections, Alma women could vote on the bond issue.

Anti-suffragists in Alma (most likely men) had problems allowing women to vote on the bond issue, fearing women would then move toward wanting suffrage in other elections. Alma Anti-suffragists cried that women should not take time away from duties like raising the children and keeping the house.

In response, on that day of the bond vote, many Alma women organized and descended upon the voting precincts precisely at 3:00 pm. Anti-suffragists were so astonished at the women's turn out that someone tampered with ballots, resulting in the disqualification of some votes. However, enough good ballots overcame the Anti-suffragist scheme, and the bond issue passed decisively, thanks to the large turnout of women.

While these Alma women voted in 1916, there was still a way to go for their participation in general elections. In April 1917, Frances Burns, a national women's suffrage movement leader, spoke at the Alma IOOF Hall. A total of 60 women came and signed up as National League for Women's Service members, raising \$74.25 toward their \$200 goal for establishing a county chapter.

The women's suffrage movement picked up more steam in the fall of 1918. By then, it appeared that Michigan was ready to grant women the right to vote. Another suffrage meeting at Alma High School featured speakers Frances Burns and E.C. Warriner from Central Michigan Teachers College. The state Republican Party also began publishing advertisements in county newspapers endorsing a women's suffrage amendment.

In response, suffragists fanned out across Gratiot County to see how many women wanted the right to vote. These canvassers reported that 90 percent of the women in the county desired suffrage and signed petitions. In many places, the third Sunday in October 1918 became known as "Suffrage Sunday," as local ministers were asked to use that Sunday to support women's suffrage from the pulpit. That Sunday, Mrs. F.M. Harrington held another county suffrage rally in Ithaca. Local merchants responded by sponsoring advertisements in the county newspapers saying that they too supported women's right to vote.

During each week in October, suffragists placed a large advertisement in newspapers showing how many men voted in each ward in the last election and how many women petitioned for the right to vote. In Alma's first ward, 254 women signed petitions demanding voting rights.

As the right to vote headed toward the fall of 1918, only one thing could hinder it – the Influenza Epidemic. Still, on November 7, 1918, Gratiot County voted on the issue of women's suffrage. A total of 2,349 residents said yes, while 1,496 said no. Although a few of the county's precincts had close votes, only Newark Township failed to support a woman's right to vote.

It seemed that by the time of the 1918 state elections, Gratiot County and other counties got the message – it was time that women had the right to vote the same as men. While it would be another two years before the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, women's suffrage, became a reality in Gratiot County.

Other consequences came from the 1918 vote beginning with the county's Republican Party establishing the Women's Republican Club. In 1919, Gratiot County had its first trial in Ithaca with an all-women's jury. A year later, Sara Brodebeck became the first woman to run for public office as a Democrat for the county clerk's position. Although soundly defeated, the number of votes Brodebeck garnered was a moral victory.

For more detail check Jim's blog at <https://goodspeedgratiotcounty-historical.blog/>

## New MSU Extension Specialists Offer Free Courses in Emotional Health, Nutrition

By William Meiners  
Herald Staff Writer

There seems to be an old saying within the extension education business about the free courses being some of the "best-kept secrets" around. But two educators new to the Michigan State University Extension Office in Gratiot County are really hoping those secrets get out.

Holly Tiret, a senior extension educator in social emotional health, is just settling into the Alma office. Joanna Urban, a community nutrition instructor, recently completed training and is now making the rounds through a variety of locations — from schools to rehabilitation centers, from public housing projects to county fairgrounds — with sound advice on how everyone can eat better. Both women, after being raised in Michigan, spent long periods away from the state before returning.

### Improving emotional health

Tiret grew up in Saginaw as the eighth of nine children. The big family even proved to be good subject matter for her mother, Betty Hansen, who spent 20 years writing for the Saginaw News, which included her own column. Eight siblings might have also been good training ground as a relationship expert.

Tiret went to college in San Francisco, then met her husband and raised a family in the Bay area. With a master's degree in education from Central Michigan University, she has taught classes within MSU Extension for more than 20 years now.

As the lone social emotional health educator in the Gratiot County office, she teaches a variety of classes with titles including Relax: Alternatives to Anger, Stress Less Through Mindfulness, and Laughter is the Best Medicine, perhaps with a nod to Reader's Digest.

The classes, which can be in person or virtual, give participants a variety of strategies for dealing with the subject at hand. For example, the "relax" class, "helps people recognize and handle their own anger with strategies to calm down," Tiret said. "We also talk about how to problem solve and about forgiveness."

Tiret loves teaching classes in libraries, not only for the intimate setting but also the chance for community building and the shared philosophies with the extension service. So she's looking forward to building those relationships with administrators throughout the Gratiot County libraries.

The courses can also range from a "one and done," lasting up to an hour and a half, to a series of up to around six successive classes. Even with the virtual classes, Tiret said there's plenty of room for interactivity with questions, discus-



Holly Tiret



Joanna Urban

sions, and various activities. At a price point of zero dollars, she hopes people will take advantage of courses that can directly lead to improvements in their life. A full range of courses can be found online through MSU Extension.

Tiret said she is also responsive to emails at [tiret@msu.edu](mailto:tiret@msu.edu). "The best thing someone can do is search for classes by programs under food and health," she said. "People can also email me to talk about classes that might want to sign up for."

### Eating better everywhere

Urban also grew up not so far away in Byron Center, Michigan. But later, with her husband in the U.S. Air Force, her family lived in several states and different countries for many years. They spent eight years in Japan, one of their favorite places.

As an elementary school teacher, Urban could find jobs wherever they landed, though she had to deal with licensing requirements in different states. She found the healthy lifestyles in Japan to be very inspiring. "Their culture is extremely different from western culture," she said, noting people were also "very peaceful, honest, and welcoming."

With a focus on "community nutrition," Urban finds herself in those various environments. She has programs for every level of

grade school, as well as middle and high school. A big part of the messaging is stressing the use of the "My Plate" recommendation, which replaced the old food pyramid. "Half the plate should be fruits and vegetables," she said. "You should also have some whole grains in there and an appropriate amount of protein."

Dairy is recommended for folks who can handle dairy, and Urban said they also focus on the required amount of physical fitness for the age group. For children, that's about an hour a day. Adults should focus on activity, though that doesn't necessarily mean hitting the weight room or going out for long runs. "Sometimes we can be active just gardening or working in the yard," she said. "It's really about developing good healthy habits and learning how you could become healthier by adjusting what you eat and becoming more active."

Like the variety of courses offered throughout MSU Extension, Urban believes there's a class for everyone at any age. And that healthier lifestyle just might begin with an investigation of the offerings. "I will make time for anyone who's interested in learning more about our programs," she said.

Those interested parties can email her directly at [urbanjoa@msu.edu](mailto:urbanjoa@msu.edu).

## 4-H CLUB TO CELEBRATE 70 YEARS

The Beebe Beef 4-H Club is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. The club was organized in 1952 by Richard Stahl, and most meetings were held at the Emerson Township Hall in the tiny settlement of Beebe. The club is still very active and is one of the oldest and largest 4-H clubs in Gratiot County.

The Anniversary Celebration Committee Planning Committee of Bill and Char Stahl, Dave and Karen Stoneman, George, Linda and Jamie Weburg have set the date of Sunday, September 11, 2022 for an Ice Cream Social at the new Emerson Township Hall in Beebe.

We would like to contact as many past Beebe Beef members as possible. If you were a Beebe Beef 4-H Club member, please send

your name, email address, phone number and address to this email: [beebebeef70@gmail.com](mailto:beebebeef70@gmail.com). Please share this information with any past or present Beebe Beef Club members that you know.

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The Kirgis' are moving to the lake and selling articles not needed. They have bought and sold antiques and repaired furniture for many years. 10% BP VEHICLES: 1978 Chevy Truck, Runs/Drives 305 motor; 1968 Buick Skylark 350 motor, complete car, wire harness has been cut, "Barn Find" AS-IS; Late 1970's Honda Motorcycle, disassembled; MISCELLANEOUS: Sunfish Sailboat, Mast & Sail; Fiberglass boat; RV Cover; Mercury Outboard motor; (2) Swivel Boat Seats; 30 lbs Sand Blaster; Hand Tools; Dewalt Cordless Tools; Sentry Fireproof Box; Cement Bird Bath; Above Ground Pool Cleaner; Shop Fan; Water Filtration System; Lockers; Lawn Sweep; Lawn Tools; Towable Lawn trailer; Craftsman Push Mower; ANTIQUES/COLLECTIBLES: Pennant Enamel Gas Stove; Oak Drop Front Secretary Bookcase; 5 drawer Cherry Chest; Oak Mirrored Sideboard; Mahogany Vanity w/ Trifold Mirror; Child's Wicker Potty Chair; Pie Crusted Table; Wicker Baby Buggy; Set of 4 Oak Chairs; Display Cabinet; Buffet; Sylvania Solid State Console Stereo; Liquor Pump Dispenser Set; Christmas Candle Arches; Pyrex; (6) Character Drinking Glasses; Set of Flatware; Wooden Tool Chest; Switch Plates & Register Vents; Oil Lamps; Stick Made Child's rocker; Egg Basket; Old doors; 4 wheeled shop carts; Green Light Fixture; LP's; (3) Type Setter Trays; Advertising; Enamel ware; National Washboard; Cuckoo Clock; GE Tube Radio; Sansui Receiver; furniture pcs & parts; Hoosier Cabinet to be assembled; Old Glass; Claw & Ball Organ Stool; MUSICAL: Guitars (Harmony Monterey Acoustic, Cadenza Electric, Squier Bullet Electric, Spectrum Acoustic, (2) other Acoustics); (2) Violins; (4) Amplifiers; Trumpet; Kimball Upright Piano; SPORTING GOODS: String of Walleye; (2) gun cases; Bear Tigerat Glass Recurve Bow; (2) Fiberglass Recurve Bows; Arrows; Barnett Quad 400 Cross Bow; Jiffy Ice auger; (2) Scuba Tanks; Paint Ball guns; Glass Door Gun cabinet; Tree Stand; HOUSEHOLD: Armoire; Aquarium; Sewing rocker; Small Kitchen Appliances; Window air Conditioner; Coca-Cola collectibles; Chrome Stools; Electric Turkey Fryer; Electric Stove.

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Gratiot Youth Police Academy cadets received supervised training in target practice with soft air guns (left) as well CPR and first aid (right).

Mueller said he knew several kids from Alma by name, but the Monday-through-Thursday event drew in others throughout Gratiot County, as well as Carson City and Mount Pleasant.

Wearing matching red shirts and gray shorts, the participants were put through physical fitness paces each morning inside the Ithaca High School gym. Ithaca Schools provided breakfast and lunch. And they received supervised training in CPR and first aid, as well as target practice with soft air guns.

One particular crowd pleaser came with the use of fatal vision

goggles and field sobriety tests. "The fatal vision goggles simulate alcohol levels in your system," Mueller said.

Even with the goggles set near the legal limit, kids could see the potential effects of alcohol in balance and reaction. As those simulated levels rose higher and higher, the goggle wearers cannot even walk a straight line.

Presentations from the DNR and MSP allowed attendees to hear straight from working professionals. Those discussions often help separate fact from television dramas and other misperceptions they might

have of first responders' work. The kids might also discover how much positive change police officers can promote in their communities.

That back-and-forth with quiz-zical students is not surprising to Mueller, an officer with Alma PD since 2003 who stepped in his community service role early in 2021. Often with his "partner" Blue, the Australian Labradoodle, by his side, Mueller enters schools with the specific goal of building better community relationships.

"Blue's a big hit with the students," Mueller told The Herald in February 2021. "Kids come up and

pet the dog and ask any questions they want."

One of Mueller's goals when talking to children of all ages is to show that police are people first. The Youth Police Academy registrants may have a good understanding of this. The week-long training helps them to see if they are the type of people who could make for good police officers.

The 58 graduates from this year's academy completed response cards about their four-day experiences. "Many were surprised that they could complete some of the tasks in the physical fitness tests," Mueller

said.

Perhaps that confidence gained could put many of them on the road to a career in law enforcement. In the very least, they will likely have more respect for what officers do each day in the course of their work.

"Each year officers and deputies work hard to provide the highest quality program with the most hands-on experiences possible," Overla said. "If the kids walk away with a positive experience or just one of the attendees chooses a career as a first responder I feel it is a success."

## VOLUNTEERS *continued from page 1*

The next year we recruited more volunteers and a backhoe, and it got easier."

Moeggenborg said the cleanup and tear down took place on Memorial Day for years. But they "finally got smart," starting it on Sunday evening after closing ceremonies. Though this took them typically past 9 p.m., the volunteers could "relax, rest, and recover on Memorial Day."

After graduating from Alma College and beginning his career in 1992, Moeggenborg stepped into the treasurer position. This year marked his 30th year as treasurer and the overall 45th year as a volunteer.

Paula Moeggenborg, who married into the family in 1992, began her volunteer service the same year. "In 1997, Dave Westlake,

then the board president, wanted to organize the office," she said. "The board hired me to be the first employee. I had just left Coca Cola to be a stay-at-home Mom of three and the part-time position was appealing"

Paula set up the office and returned phone calls, answered emails, managed all the mailings, did the marketing, and assisted the committee volunteers in building relationships with sponsors and participants, as well as providing a personal touch with the guests. She did that for 20 years, ultimately resigning from the position in 2017. Simultaneously working at the Alma J.C. Penny, she was promoted to general manager. "I could no longer dedicate the hours needed to keep up with both positions," she said.

Like her husband and his brothers who answered the call in their youth, Paula remembers packing up their three boys in a double stroller. With the help of two grandmothers, Paula and Todd volunteered for the festival. "As they got older, I packed enough food for the weekend, and we ate crockpot hotdogs and M&M's," she said. "Just like Todd's family unit, we all volunteered that weekend."

Her boys loved working the grounds through those festival weekends, mostly heeding Grandpa Bruce's counsel that "golf carts are a privilege" and not to be used for pleasure rides. "This is what makes this festival so special," Paula said. "The family culture and every year when we get together, it's like a huge family reunion."

Paula has many memories of

various festivals, including the coordination of the Australian Police Pipe Band's itinerary, which included calls at odd hours because of the time change. They had wanted to sell merchandise at the festival but couldn't get it through customs because "China had taken control of a U.S. spy plane just days before," she said.

At another time, a writer from Japan traveling around the U.S. contacted her about a travel guide he was writing. "The Alma Highland Festival is now recommended as a "must see" for visitors to the States, and my photo is forever immortalized in a Japanese travel guide," she said.

Of course they have many memories from all those long weekends — a collective 75 years between Paula and Todd. All the sights and sounds, including those first notes "when all the pipers start to play," might forever ring in their ears. But it's the people, their "festival family," whom they will miss the most.

"When we started, we were the 'young ones' on the committee," Paula said. "Now we're the 'old timers' and it's time for the next generation to take charge. We have no doubt this group will take the festival into the future. They will build on the past and create new experiences for generations to come."

## CELEBRATIONS *continued from page 1*

Two separate fireworks mishaps in recent years have forced the Village of Breckenridge to review policies, procedures, and training with the hopes of bringing them back sometime in the future. "There is no determination at this time as to the fireworks show for next year," said Bridget McPherson, treasurer/clerk of Breckenridge Village.

The Herald, on July 8, 2021, reported on a Sunday-night accident where a man lost his leg "after a mortar exploded near him causing significant injury." The 56-year-old, an employee of the commercial fireworks company in charge of the display, had to be airlifted to Hurley Medical Center in Flint.

Apparently, as told to The Herald by a person familiar with the incident, "the man was hand-lighting the mortar after it failed to electronically detonate and had tripped upon his retreat, causing the firework to tip and launch in his direction."

Three years prior, "an errant mortar penetrated the roof of a well-pump house after having been

redirected from its launch point by a falling mortar," The Herald reported. "The explosion blew the doors off the building and caused an estimated \$20,000 in damage."

Anyone holding out for two weeks for the fireworks in Gratiot County, can make a full day of it in St. Louis on July 16. Downtown events include a daylong craft show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

a motorcycle cruise-in from 2 to 6 p.m., and music from Miranda and the M80s from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. There's also a day of free swimming at W.T. Morris Swimming Pool, games and music at Clapp Park from 3 to 7 p.m. The citywide garage sale takes place Thursday through Saturday. And the fireworks begin on Saturday night at 10 p.m.

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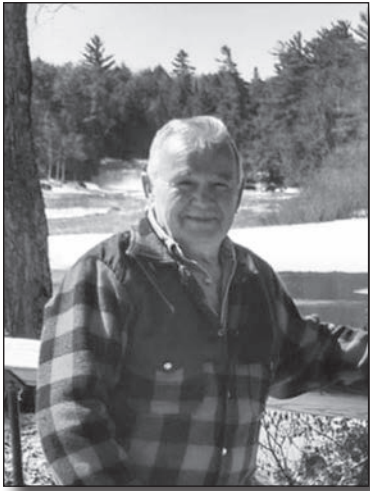
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# OBITUARIES

## Nelson Mead



Nelson Harvey Mead passed away June 21, 2022, at his home in Elmira, Michigan.

He was born on July 7, 1942, in Mt. Pleasant, to Harvey and Pauline (McBride) Mead. In true Nelson form, he was so impatient to get into this world that he was born in the back seat of a taxi. His father, Harvey, was killed in WW2 on the U.S.S. California. His mother went on to marry Leon Kappler, who raised him as his son. He was famous for saying that Leon was the greatest man that ever walked the earth.

He followed the family tradition by enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1959 and was involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was a proud Navy man who spent his time on the U.S.S. Barton and was the best bar-room brawler the Navy ever had. He retired from Anchor Danly in Ithaca, after almost 30 years of service. He moved to Elmira in 2012, where he enjoyed retirement by hunting, fishing, and adopting the neighborhood; all

were welcome in his home.

He loved people and treated everyone like family. He loved when people would stop over to spend time with him in his man cave listening to his tall tales and exciting stories of growing up, brawling, and hunting. He loved his life in the north country, his garden, and his love of jalapeño peppers. He loved seeing pictures of his grandchildren on social media, although LuAnne had to bring them up for him. He always kept the grandkids busy with walks in the woods, showing them how to whittle sticks, spear rabbits, and hunt small game.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Connie; his parents; in-laws, Ken and Margaret Parks; and his granddaughter, Addison Redman.

He is survived by his wife, LuAnne; children, Cameo Mead, Nelson (Christi) Mead, Heath Mead, Carmen (Paul) Miller, Aleasa Fisher, Josh Allen, Matt (Mary) Redman, Mike (Amanda) Redman and Tim (Morgan) Redman; 20 amazing grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; siblings, Karen Ackels, Marilyn Tillis, Leon (Vicki) Kappler, Connie (Jeff) Baxter and Deb Chagnon, along with many nieces and nephews.

He wished to be cremated. A private memorial will be held by the family at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Patriot Place, 1430 Patriot Dr., Gaylord, MI 49735.

Arrangements were entrusted to Nelson Funeral Home and Cremation Service, PO Box 1548, Gaylord, MI 49734.

## Pamela Strand



Pamela Gross Strand, 65, Alma, passed away June 24, 2022 at home with family by her side. A gravesite memorial will take place August 26 at Riverside Cemetery at 11 a.m.

She was born Oct. 11, 1956 to Warren and Lillian Gross of Alma. She graduated from Alma High School in 1975.

She married Robert Strand in Sept. 2006. She and Robert shared

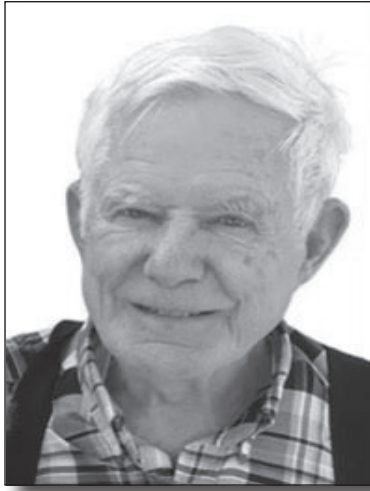
a love of dogs. Her beloved fur baby Benji will miss her dearly. She enjoyed Bingo and playing cards with family and friends. She also liked to garden and enjoyed coming home for family camping trips. Everyone looked forward to her and Robert's arrival from Alabama for family get togethers. She worked many years as a caregiver at the Masonic Home.

She is survived by two stechildren, Robbie Strand of Birmingham, Ala., and Suzy Silva of Georgia. She is also survived by six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother, Greg (Patti) Gross of Alma; brother Randy Gross of Alma; sister, Cheryl Marcado of Gulfport, Miss.; and sister, Sheila (Pat) Bergin of Red Wing, Minn.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Strand; and her parents, Warren and Lillian Gross.

Online condolences may be left at [bardenfuneralhome.com](http://bardenfuneralhome.com).

The family is being served by the Barden Funeral Home in Ithaca.



December 30, 1930 – June 24, 2022

Delbert J Towersey was born in Alma, on Dec. 30, 1930, to Fred and Alice (Carter) Towersey. He peacefully entered the arms of Jesus at his home in Alma on June 24, 2022, at the age of 91. He had the distinction of living his entire life on the same street, with the exception of a total of four years spent in the Army and college. He graduated from Alma High School in 1949. He served in the United States Army from 1951 through 1953. Upon his honorary discharge from the Army, he worked at the Midwest Refinery in Alma. Learning of the fast-growing field of television and electronics, he and his twin brother, Darrell, received degrees in electronics at Ferris Institute. They subsequently owned and operated Towersey TV

## Delbert J Towersey

Sales and Service. The second half of his professional life was spent working in the cable television industry. He retired from Charter Communications in 2006, at the age of 76. He then worked in semi-retirement for Paul Lux at Lux Funeral Home of Alma.

On June 11, 1960, he married Sandra Peterson in Alma. They recently celebrated 62 years of marriage. Together, they built a home and life in Alma, where he would devote his life to his family, community service, and, above all, his faith in Jesus Christ. He was a member of the International Order of Odd Fellows for over 60 years. He participated in the work of Habitat for Humanity, both building houses and serving on the local board. He was active at the Senior Activity Center in Ithaca and volunteered at the community food pantry, also in Ithaca. He participated in numerous Christian mission trips in Kentucky and throughout his lifetime was deeply involved in the ministry of the church. He has served God the last several years at The Alma Church of God.

He also left his mark on the community in two other unique ways. For 70 years, He and Darrell decorated the large Christmas tree adjacent to the Lux Funeral home, a tradition began by their father. He was also known for his float in the Highland Festival Parade. "Nessie," his whimsical rendition of the Loch Ness Monster, was pulled annually behind the family's

1948 Farmall Cub tractor.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra; children, Chuck (Susan) Towersey, Margaret Towersey Metcalf and Fred (Shelby) Towersey; grandchildren, Katie (Ryan) Osborn, Collin (Becca) Towersey, Clif Metcalf, Jake Metcalf, Seniyha Towersey and Daxton Towersey; great-grandchildren, Lincoln and Emerson Osborn and Norah Towersey; sister, June Schmelzer; brother-in-law, Raymond Alexander; many nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Evelyn Alexander, Darrell Towersey; his wife, Pat; and brother-in-law, Leon Schmelzer.

Funeral Services will be held at the Alma Church of God on Thurs., July 7, at 11:00 AM, with Pastors Erin Taylor, Chuck Towersey and Collin Towersey officiating. Interment will follow at the Riverside Cemetery in Alma. The procession will be led by the beloved Farmall. Visitation will take place on Wednesday, July 6, from 4:00-7:00 PM at the Alma Church of God, as well as an hour prior to the service on July 7.

Memorial contributions can be directed to the Alma Church of God or The Fresh Wind Christian Community of Interlochen.

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

## Janet Winn



Janet B. Winn, 80, passed away peacefully at her home near Elwell, on June 23, 2022.

She was born in Flint, on Feb. 19, 1942, to Gerald and Thelma (Caywood) Gorsuch. She graduated from Breckenridge High School in 1960, and remained life-long friends with many of her classmates. In 1962, she met a young divorced single father, Bernard J. Winn, while

she was working as a carhop at Bob's A&W in Alma, and their romance blossomed into a lifelong love affair. They married on Valentine's Day in 1963, and she became a beloved mother of the heart to Bernie's existing children, adding one more kid to the family a few months later. She worked for several local doctors as a physician's assistant for many years, most notably Dr. Remsberg in Alma, and also at the Michigan Masonic Home, from which she retired. She was respected by many for the kindness and compassion she gave to hundreds of patients over the years she spent in medical offices, and she consistently put the happiness and well-being of others before her own. She enjoyed rides on their Harley-Davidson motorcycles, reading, watching wildlife outside her window, travel, and shopping for her family and friends.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Bernie; son, Bernard M. "Marty" Winn of Grand Ledge; daughter, Cheryl Morey

of Petoskey; son, Gerald "Dean" Winn (Phillip Barnes) of Elwell; six much-loved grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, and many friends and extended family, including Scott and Cindy Johnson and Bre-Ann Wheat.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Gerry Gorsuch and Earl Gorsuch; sister-in-law, Cora Gorsuch; and her last schnauzer, Buddy.

Visitation for Janet was held at the Lux Moody-Wolfel Funeral Home in Alma on Tues. June 28, 2022. Funeral services were officiated by Pastor Blake Jones of the Rock Lake Bible Methodist Church, at Lux Moody-Wolfel on Tues., June 28th, followed by burial at Pritchard Cemetery near Elwell.

Donations in Janet's name to the programs at the Gratiot County Commission on Aging or the Woodland Hospice Facility would be welcomed.

To view Janet's full obituary please visit [www.luxfuneralhomes.com](http://www.luxfuneralhomes.com).

## Sally Thoe



Sally S. Thoe, of Alma, passed away June 17, 2022, at Mid-Michigan Medical Center Gratiot surrounded by family.

Sally Adelaide Soper was born Jan. 20, 1932, in Hartford, Connecticut to Herbert A. and Adelaide (Filsinger) Soper. She graduated from Syracuse

University with a degree in Home Economics. She married James H. Thoe on March 5, 1955, in Fayetteville, New York. She enjoyed camping, reading, and traveling with Jim and her family. Sally was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Alma, PEO, and the Alma Women's Club. Sally was a loving dedicated Mom who loved spending time with her children and grandchildren. She will be missed by many.

She is survived by sons, Garry (Mary Jo) Thoe and Gregg (Karen) Thoe; daughter, Laura (Patrick) Finn; grandchildren, John Thoe, Ryan (Angela) Thoe, Danielle Thoe, Jessica (Joseph Hoffman) Thoe, Michael (Taylor) Finn, Thomas Finn, Ellie Ratter and Sydney (Caleb) Benedict.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James; daughter, Carol; parents; and a brother, Herbert, Jr.

Per Sally's wishes cremation

has taken place. Memorial services will be held at a later date at the First Presbyterian Church, followed by her interment in Pennington Memorial Gardens.

Those desiring may make memorial contributions to the First Presbyterian Church of Alma or the Alzheimer's Association.


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

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

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# OBITUARIES

## Brenda Crooks



Brenda Jo Crooks (Betzer), 64, of Ithaca passed away on June 23, 2022 at Mid-Michigan Medical Center - Midland after a brief illness.

She was born Jan. 1, 1958 in Alma to Joanne Cummings and Dale Betzer. She spent her life doing what made her happiest. She welcomed a daughter, Nicole, in 1986. She married a few times, divorced a few times, and kissed a few frogs before settling down with her "lumberjack man" Ron Flegel. They were each other's giant pain in the butt for 18 years before her passing. For many years, she slung plates of food at unsuspecting restaurant patrons for money - but in doing so, she never met a stranger. Eventually she grew tired of that, preferring to putz around in the garden with the worms, Ron and their "bestest dog" Jake. Ten years ago, she took on the title of Grandma, and nothing made her happier than

talking about and spending time with "her little urchins". She was known best for her quick wit, her random breakouts into song and dance without a care in the world (if you were "fortunate" enough to hear her broccoli song, you know what we mean - her daughter is rolling her eyes now!), and for always putting everyone else before herself.

Left behind with her vast fortune of guest check pads, ballpoint pens, bobby pins and dog hair are her longtime partner, Ron Flegel; her daughter, Nicole (Marcus) Haskin; and five grandchildren, Hayley, Zach, Macey, Ezra and Ayla. Also surviving her are her brother, Steven (Jan) Betzer; sisters, Linda Betzer, Holly (Patrick) Petersen and Laura Betzer; several nieces and nephews and many, many dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Joanne Cummings; father, Dale Betzer; a grandson, Gracen; brother, Bill; and her grandparents; and an honorable mention of the puppy waiting for her over the rainbow bridge, Benny.

A private service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Barden Funeral Home in Ithaca.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the family. Condolences may be left for the family online at [www.bardenfuneralhome.com](http://www.bardenfuneralhome.com).

The family would like to thank the ICU staff at Mid-Michigan Midland for the excellent care of Brenda in her final days.

## Kenneth Coleman



Kenneth Roy Coleman, 68, of Ashley, passed away Tues., June 21, 2022 at his home.

He was born March 29, 1954 in St. Johns, the son of Russell and Luella (Weaver) Coleman. He graduated from Fulton High School. He married Karen Taylor on Jan. 22, 1972. He was a lifelong farmer and enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, off roading and

family projects.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Karen; son, Alan Coleman; daughter, Stacey (Drew Scacciaferro) Coleman; granddaughter, Oliva Van Wazer; siblings, Sandra Gross, Carol (Gary) Cumberworth, Dawn (Lonnie) Riggle and Billy (Jen) Coleman; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Gary, Marvin and Charles; nephews, Cory and Kirk; and nieces, Cary and Teresa.

Funeral services were held Sat., June 25, 2022 at the Dodge Funeral Home, Middleton. Interment followed in Collier Cemetery. Visitation was held on Friday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to G.A.I.N. (Gratiot Animals in Need) or the Gratiot County Commission on Aging.

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

## Kevyn Godley



Kevyn Lee Godley, 70, of Breckenridge passed away peacefully at Ascension St Mary's Hospital from complications of a heart attack on June 25, 2022.

He was born on March 13, 1952 in Alma the son of Bernard and Lola (Wheeler) Godley. He was a 1970 graduate of Breckenridge High School. He married Colleen Chick on Dec. 1, 1973 in Maple Rapids.

He was a lifelong farmer in Lafayette Township. He had a passion for cattle and shared that passion with his daughters and later with his grandchildren. His best days were spent with his grandchildren. He loved to watch them play sports, show cattle at the fair, and work on projects around the farm. He took pride in keeping

a tally of all his grandsons' stats at his football games, he also kept track of his friends' stats as well, later comparing them to the stats in the newspaper. And sometimes they did not match up. He loved taking his granddaughter on errands, even if it was just TSC. He always looked forward to his Texas granddaughter's video calls and visits. Christmas was his favorite holiday because all his kids were home. He was a 4-H and FFA member and went on to be a Beebe Beef 4-H leader for over 30 years. He loved to teach people, especially kids. Many people have stated they have learned so much from him over the years. He helped build the Beebe Beef Barn at the Gratiot County Fair while he was a 4-H member. He loved the fair and looked forward to it every year. He never met a stranger. He loved people and loved to talk. He loved shops; farm shops and coffee shops. He loved the MSU Spartans football but especially basketball. He loved food, anything home cooked was his favorite. He had nicknames for everyone and everyone had nicknames for him. Smiley, Farmer, and Kevo were a few names used by his close friends. His neighbors were his friends and he'd be the first person there to help. He also worked for the Michigan Department of Transportation, retiring in 2010.

Surviving him is his wife of

48 years, Colleen (Chick) Godley of Breckenridge; his daughters, Jennifer Ortiz of Breckenridge, Jessica Godley of Breckenridge, Jaclyn Godley of Breckenridge and Jillian (Eddie) Herrington of Spearman, Texas; his pride and joy, grandchildren, Kaden Ortiz, Gabbie Ortiz and Sadie Herrington; his sisters, Randalyn Jegla of Freeland, Renaye (Bruce) Baker of Freeland and Kaynette Stone of Freeland; in-laws, Kathy Chick of Alma, Mark (Lisa) Sali of Perrinton; and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, father-in-law; and mother-in-law; Clare and Leotta Chick; sister-in-law, Shelly Sali; brothers-in-law Eric Chick, Larry Chick and Lou Jegla.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 11 am at the Lux and Whiting Funeral Chapel, Breckenridge, with Kevyn's nephew Pastor Tony Chick officiating. Interment will follow in Lafayette Township Cemetery. Visitation was held Wed. at the funeral home.

Memorial donations can be made to the family to be used towards the Gratiot County Fair and the Breckenridge FFA Alumni.

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

## Dora LaCross



Dora Mae LaCross, 94, of Alma, passed away June 21, 2022, at MyMichigan Medical Center in Alma. She was born Dec. 6, 1927, in Greenville to Orlie A. and Belva M. (Benavidez) Kelley. She married Louis P. LaCross in Montcalm County on Feb. 17, 1945.

Dora worked as a housekeeper for Alma Bolt and family, retiring at the age of 80. She enjoyed mini golf, gardening, reading, crocheting, and putting together puzzles.

She was a great mom who enjoyed family and will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Surviving is her son, Louis W.

(Melodie) LaCross of St. Louis; granddaughters, Michele (Dave) Biersbach and Jennifer (Ken) Martyn; several great and great-great grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Elva Kelley and Nancy Lincoln; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and her siblings, Pete, Lyle, Bob, Al, Eleanor and Betty.

Funeral services were held on Friday, June 24, 2022, at 11 am at Lux-Moody-Wolfel Funeral Home, Alma with Pastor John Robinson officiating. Interment will follow in Chapel Gardens Cemetery.

## Larri Hoople

Larri Roberta Hoople of Eaton Rapids, passed away June 26, 2022, at the age of 62.

She was born in Alma on Nov. 8, 1959, the daughter of Larry and Geraldine (Sampsel) Ryder. She was a graduate of St. Louis High School class of 1977 and worked for Union Street School as a bus driver. She enjoyed vacationing to Florida, quilting, camping, and spending time with her beloved dog, Liberty.

She is survived by her mother, Geraldine W. Ryder of Ocala; stepchildren, Leslie (Jeff) Sherwood of Lake Odessa, Paul (Kristy) Hoople of Arkansa, William (Liz) Hoople of Charlotte and Amanda (Matt) Miller of Eaton Rapids; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brother, Arley (Terri) Ryder of Florida;

sister, Stephanie Luce of Ithaca; nephews, Dillon Luce of Ithaca, Arley Ryder Jr. of Florida; niece, Shandell (Justin) McBride; great-nephew, Derrick McBride; great-niece, Scout McBride.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William; and her father.

The family is respecting Larri's wish, and no services are planned at this time.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Mills Funeral Home, Shelly-Odell Chapel in Eaton Rapids.

Memorial contributions have been set up with the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place Memphis, TN 38105. To leave condolences for the family, please visit our website, [www.millsfuneral.com](http://www.millsfuneral.com).

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# COMMUNITY

## 50th Anniversary



Clyde and Sheri Miller of Alma celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 16. They were married in 1972.

## 75th Birthday



Sharon (Domke) Thompson turns 75 on July 10th!! Her family would love to throw her a birthday card shower to celebrate. Please send birthday cards to 4023 North Alger Road, Alma, MI 48801

## 76th Anniversary



Larry and Dorothy Lippert of Alma are celebrating their 76th wedding anniversary on June 30. Their family would like to honor them with a card shower. Cards may be sent to them at 511 Fairlane Dr., Alma, MI 48801

## 5 Generations



**Standing:** Great Grandma, Kathy Skinner  
**L to R:** Dad, Zachary Skinner, Great-Great Grandma, Joan Kidd, Baby Asher Skinner, Grandpa, Brian Skinner.

## COMING EVENTS

### ALL CLASS 70TH AHLEYITE REUNION

This reunion is for anyone who attended Ashley schools or any of the country schools that annexed to Ashley, teachers, administrators, or interested community members. It will be held Sunday, July 10, 12N - 3 pm (eating at 1 pm). Please bring your own table service, a dish to pass, & photos, etc. to share. We will meet at the Ashley Community Center & Roger Keck Pavillion located just north of the RR tracks on Sterling St. Please join us for reminiscing & reacquainting. Questions may be directed to Karen Follett 989-331-1492 or Frank Chvojka 989-307-1062.

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For more information call Anna - 989.533.8757, Lorraine - 989.400.1345

### A.H.S. 17th Annual All - Class Reunion

Meeting Wed., July 13th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at His Place Alma, First Church of God on Park Street. Call Lois 989-463-1515

### A.H.S. 17th Annual All - Class Reunion

Sat., Aug. 20 and Sun., Aug. 21, 2022. For more information call: 989-463-1515.

### A.H.S. Lunch Brunch

Will meet Sat., Aug. 20th, 2022 at 1 p.m. at Ghost Town Saloon, Elwell.

### A.H.S. 17th Annual All - Class Reunion

Will have a get together at 4-8 p.m. at Ghost Town Saloon, Elwell, on Aug., 20th, 2022. Show your school colors, Orange & Black all classes welcome.

### A.H.S. Class of 1977

Is having a 45th reunion August 18th - 21st. Contact Paul Cadena at 989-616-422-3687.

### A.H.S. Classes of 1966 & 1967

Are having a combined 55th year reunion at the Alma Elks Lodge, Friday night August 19th. For more information or tickets Call of 1966 call Jan 989-681-5278. Class of 1967 call Colleen 989-463-5012.

### Alma Arbor of Gleaners

They are sponsoring free swimming at the Mt. Morris Swimming Pool in St. Louis. Monday, July 4, 2022. From 1 - 4 p.m. and 5 - 8 p.m. Come Join Us! Bring your Family and Friends!

### Yard Sale

Yard Sale at Pine Villa apartment complex Warwick Dr. Alma., inside & outside. large asst. of zigsaw puzzles. July 14th & 15th 9-5

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# HEALTH

## Children ages 6 months through 4 years now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announces that all Michiganders ages 6 months and up are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. The pediatric vaccine, which received emergency use authorization for this age group from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), was recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on June 18, 2022.

"Today parents of young children can breathe a sigh of relief as Michiganders 6 months and up are eligible to get their safe, effective COVID-19 vaccine," said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. "Parents have been patiently waiting for a vaccine for younger children for years, and now we are ready to help our little ones get the best protection. I am grateful to every Michigander who has gotten their COVID vaccine, taking action to keep themselves, and all our friends, families and neighbors safe. I urge parents to get their children vaccinated so they can enjoy their summer and get ready for the fall, knowing they are protected."

MDHHS is recommending providers begin vaccinating children ages 6 months and up as soon as possible. It is anticipated that both vaccines could be available as early as today. The Moderna series is two doses given 28 days apart for ages 6 months through 5 years. For children 6 months of age through 4 years, the Pfizer series is three doses, the first two given three weeks apart and the third dose administered at least eight weeks after the second dose. For ages 5 and older, the Pfizer series is two doses given 21 days apart.

"Being able to vaccinate children ages 6 months and up with safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines is a significant milestone that brings us hope and protects our littlest Michiganders," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. "These vaccines are incredibly effective in preventing severe illness, disease and hospitalizations. Even healthy children can suffer serious affects from COVID-19, not just those with underlying conditions. We recommend parents and guardians talk to their child's medical provider or their local health department about the pediatric vaccine and how it offers protection."

More than 500,000 Michigan children under the age of 5 will now be eligible to receive the vaccine. MDHHS recommends all eligible children get vaccinated and stay up-to-date on vaccines even if they have previously had COVID-19. Children younger than 5 can receive vaccine from a primary care provider, local health department or federally qualified health center. Some pharmacies will vaccinate ages 3 and up. Visit

Vaccines.gov for nearby vaccine locations – age specific information will soon be available.

"We are extremely grateful to now be able to vaccinate nearly all residents in our state," said MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel. "It is important to get children ages 6 months and up vaccinated as quickly as possible to save even more lives and reduce serious illness across our communities, and we want to remind everyone to get boosted if they are eligible. Getting the safe and effective vaccine is an effort that every eligible Michigan resident can take to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and its variants. Working together we can help keep our families safe and healthy."

In Michigan, there have been more than 427,000 confirmed COVID cases in those age 19 and younger, and 44 deaths have been reported in ages 0 to 19 as of June 15.

"As a mother, pediatrician, and internist I have seen first-hand the disrupting effects of COVID-19 on our daily lives, even when patients do not end up in the hospital," said Dr. Amy Hepper, Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Michigan Medicine. "I am very excited that this new phase of COVID-19 vaccine approvals for our littlest patients will allow children and their families to continue to return to normal with less disruptions to school, work and family life. These vaccines have been in use for the past 18 months in larger doses for older children and adults. I am confident that they are safe and effective with no long-term effects, and I have already begun recommending them to my patients."

Vaccination is the best protection against COVID-19. To date, more than 6.7 million Michiganders have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Michigan residents seeking more information about the COVID-19 vaccine can visit Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine.

For the latest information is available visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

## Sparrow Clinton Hospital names Kris Tennant as new interim president



Sparrow Clinton Hospital caregivers have welcomed longtime healthcare leader Kris Tennant as the hospital's new interim president. Tennant stepped into the role upon the recent retirement of former SCH President Beth Daugherty.

Previously serving as vice president of Patient Experience for Sparrow Health System, Tennant offers 16 years of experience with Sparrow and 30-plus years as a highly skilled, inspiring and innovative healthcare leader. In her role as director of Rehabilitation Services, and later as director of Mary Free Bed at Sparrow, she successfully led her team to earn the nationwide title of Top Performer in Overall Quality of Care for Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals over four consecutive years – expanding the program and improving the quality of care for patients.

Her clinical background includes acute care, inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient services in both the hospital and private sectors, and skilled nursing. She received her Master of Physical Therapy from Andrews University in Dayton, Ohio; a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from Western Michigan University; and an Associate of Arts in Social Work from Southwestern Michigan College.

Inspired by her own life experiences, Tennant brings an empathetic and holistic approach to healthcare and leadership – always putting the needs of patients and caregivers first and delivering leading-edge medicine.

"I enjoy cultivating strong relationships and seeking community involvement and collaboration," Tennant said. "I am looking forward to working with the communities Sparrow Clinton has the privilege to serve."

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

## State's Chief Medical Executive Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian statement on ruling in Dobbs v Jackson

Today, Dr. Bagdasarian issued the following statement after the United States Supreme Court (SCOTUS) issued a ruling in Dobbs v Jackson overturning Roe v Wade.

"Decisions about whether to end or continue a pregnancy should be made by a woman with the counsel of her family, her faith and her doctor – not politics. As a physician, I know that the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States to overturn nearly half a century of precedent protecting safe, legal abortion violates the trusted relationship between a patient and their doctor. This ruling completely supersedes and overrides a woman's ability to dictate her health care in consultation with her physician. And it clears a path for draconian laws like Michigan's 1931 criminal abortion ban to take full effect.

I am concerned about how this decision will negatively impact health outcomes for women and children, particularly women and children of color as they have greater disparities in health outcomes in general. A woman may choose to have an abortion for a wide variety of reasons – none of them are anyone's business but

hers. If women and doctors are under threat of prosecution and jail time due to Michigan's abortion ban, women will have a more difficult time accessing critical health care. And with abortion not legally available, women are more likely to undergo unregulated procedures that can jeopardize their future reproductive health and in some cases be life threatening.

SCOTUS's ruling and Michigan's abortion ban will not only punish women seeking abortion

care, but it will also punish and criminalize health care providers who have dedicated their lives to providing the best care for their patients. It casts a dark shadow over the medical community – and doctors will now be forced to choose whether to honor our oath to our patients, to our communities and to our profession, or uphold a law that is unjust and discriminatory and does not reflect the wishes of the majority of Michigan residents."

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### AUCTION

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**Directions:** East of Carson City, MI OR West of US 127 take m57 to Ely Hwy, South 2 miles to Taft Rd, East 8/10ths to Oakridge Trail, South to Fawn, East to Lakeside Dr. Follow Signs

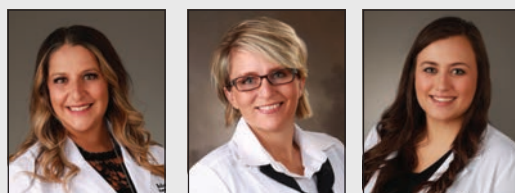
96 years young, Frank Clark, Well Known Master Wood Carver of 40 years is selling his home and moving to his daughter's home out of state. Articles are well cared for from a beautiful home. 10% BP CANOPY: 12x12 Craft Show Hut Canopy, fully enclosed, NICE! HOUSEHOLD: Restonic Jenna Plush King size Bed, ONE month new; Maple Full size Bed; Blonde Chest of Drawers; Maple 4 drawer chest; Maple Table & 6 Chairs; Blue Sofa; White Sofa; (2) La-Z-Boy Recliners; Wing Back chair; Pioneer Stereo System & Allegra 3000 speakers; Samsung TV; (2) Wood Office Desks; Park Bench; Char Broil Gas Grill. ANTIQUES/ COLLECTIBLES: Majolica Pottery; Glassware; Nice old Baskets; Sponge Ware; Tin child's Tea Set; Yellow Bowl; Tin Spice Set; Toy Wood Burning Stove; Steeple Clock; (2) Wall Bracket Kerosene Lamps; (4) Mini Toy Sad Irons; Artist Signed Wildlife Prints; (2) Draw Shaves; Steelyards; Approximately 50 Wood Carvings; WOODWORKING & OTHER TOOLS: Nice Wood Carving Station (4 Rotary tools w/ flexible Shafts & Foot Pedals, Upower UP500 Control Box, Bench); Chisels; Bits; 12 in Wood Lathe; Jet Band Saw; Bench Drill Press; Ridgid Planer; Belt Sander; Table Saw; Work Bench; Shop Vice; Clamps; Lathe Tools; Reliant Dust Collector; Battery Charger; (3) Poly Storage Cabinets; Cordless Drills; Drill Bit; B & D Laser Saw; Firestorm Reciprocating Saw; Wall Heater; LAWN & GARDEN: Wheel Horse C-161 Garden Tractor mid 70's w/ Heat Houser, Front blade, Snow Blower, Sickle Mower; Wheel Horse Toro 266-H Riding Mower; Cyclone Rake 6.5 hp Leaf Vac w/ 16 ft Hose; Spike Aerator; Dump Cart; Brinly Single Plow; Brinly Disc; Lawn Roller; Stihl String Trimmer; Towable Spreader; & More!

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# SPORTS

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## South Gratiot Little League champs



### 10-12 Winners

North Star won the South Gratiot Little League baseball 10-12-Year-Old Division, going 10-1-1 during the season then claiming the tournament title this past weekend. Team members, front (from left): Owen Fletcher, Evan Wood, Owen Rohrs and Axton Pruett. Back row: Grayson Merchant, Landon Donnan, Jaxson Whitmore, Brody Lebaron and Dominick Cook. Not pictured: Jaren Paradise, Wylie Martyn and Brooklyn Mitchell.



### Pee Wee Winners

North Star won the South Gratiot Little League baseball Pee Wee Division, going undefeated, 12-0, during the regular season, then winning the tournament last weekend. Team members, front (from left): Jayden Hunter, Michael Schafer, Eagan Andrews, Knox McCrory, Bryce Wood, Liam Graham, Asher McCrory, Brock Ward, Bentley Wood, Avery Harger and Thomas Austin; back: coaches Roger Ward, Ryan Andrews, Kent Wood and Phil Schafer. Not pictured: William Wisuri.



### Gratiot County Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year **Lani Bloom** Ithaca, 12th

Bloom matriculates to run at Purdue University as not just one of the best runners in Gratiot County history, but most accomplished athletes regardless of sport. She repeated as MHSAA Division 3 state champion in both the 800 and 1,600 meters, then went on to again earn All-American honors in the 5,000 meters. As a senior Bloom won every race she entered in 400, 800, 1,600 and 3,200 meters, 23 total, including TVC-10 and regional titles in the 800 and 1,600 meters, and the regional crown in the 3,200. Bloom ran the anchor leg of Ithaca's 4x800-meter relay squad that was fourth in the state after winning the conference and regional championships.

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# SPORTS

## TRACK & FIELD

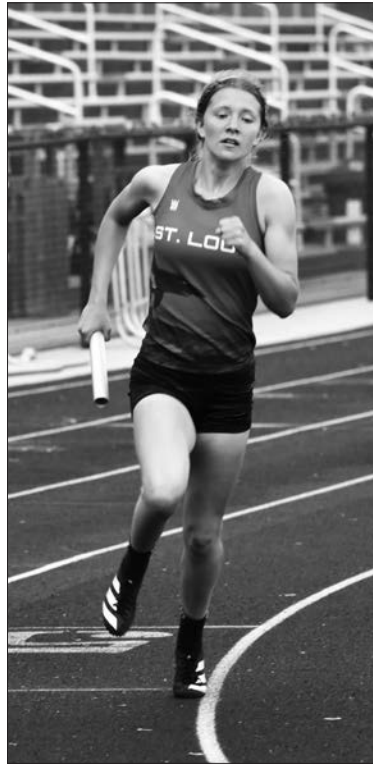
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# All-County Girls Track & Field



**Mikenna Borie**  
St. Louis, 12th

A distance stalwart for both state-ranked track and cross country teams with the Sharks, Borie repeated as all-state in the 4x800-meter relay. St. Louis was fifth in the Division 3 state meet after placing runner-up in 2021. She placed fourth in the TVC-10 league meet in both the 800 meter and 1,600 meters, and won the 800 meters at the Mid-Michigan Meet of Champions with a PR 2:22.08.



**Monika Borie**  
St. Louis, 10th

Good luck in the 300-meter hurdles against the TVC-10 champion Sharks, with two state finalists in the event in Libby Munderloh and Monika Borie. Borie was runner-up to Munderloh at both the TVC-10 and regional meets. She ran the lead leg of St. Louis' 4x400-meter relay team that placed third at the Division 3 state meet after winning the league title and placing second at the regional. Their 4x200-meter relay team was TVC-10 champion.



**Jaiden Dickman**  
St. Louis, 10th

She was a state finalist in three events as just a sophomore, including making all-state in Division 3 with St. Louis' 4x800-meter relay team. Dickman was regional runner-up in both the 800 and 1,600 meters, running PRs in both with times of 2:22.69 and 5:16.99. She was also second in both races in the TVC-10 meet. The Sharks' 4x800-meter relay team was league and regional runner-up and first at the MITCA state meet.



**Joy Evans**  
Alma, 9th

It was quite a varsity debut for this ninth-grader, culminating with an all-state, sixth-place finish in the 400 meters at the Division 2 state finals, where Evans ran a PR 58.71 seconds. She was previously the 400-meter champion for the TVC-8 and regional. She also won the regional title in the 200 meters, with a season-best time of 26.35 seconds. Evans was part of the Panthers' 4x100-meter relay team that won league and regional titles, and the 4x200 team that claimed the TVC-8 crown.



**Trinity Greer**  
Alma, 11th

She'll go on to run at Saginaw Valley University, but not before she earned more all-state honors and found her way atop Alma's record books as a senior. That school mark came at the TVC-8 championship, where Greer won the 200 meters in 25.17 seconds. She went on to finish fifth in the state in the 200. She was also a Division 2 state finalist in the 100 meters, after winning the race at both the league and regional meets. She ran on Alma's league and regional champion 4x100-meter relay teams. Their 4x200 team won the league title.



**Korah Honig**  
St. Louis, 12th

Honig, an MHAA scholar-athlete winner who will play volleyball for Trine University, was a Division 3 state finalist in the discus for the second-consecutive season. She was 11th in the state after winning the discus in both the TVC-10 and regional meets. Her throw of 109-foot-11-inches at the Chesaning regional was a PR. Honig was conference runner-up in the shot put, and had a season-best throw of 33-7.



**Natalee Hoyt**  
St. Louis, 10th

Her versatility as a pole vaulter and sprinter earned points for St. Louis' TVC-10 and regional championship team. She was all-state in Division 3 in the pole vault after placing first at the conference, regional and MITCA state meets. Hoyt's PR was 9-foot-7.25 inches. She ran on the Sharks' 4x100-meter and 4x200-meter relay teams that both won TVC-10 league titles.



**Liliana Lehnst**  
Ithaca, 10th

She was the TVC-10 champion in the 3,200 meters, an event she also won at the Panther Invitational and was third at the regional. Lehnst's 3,200 PR was 11:51.09 at the Bluejay Invite. She was on the Yellowjackets' 4x800-meter relay team that won 10 times, including the conference and regional championship, and placed fourth at the Division 3 state meet. Lehnst had a PR 5:38.25 in the 1,600 meters.



**Libby Munderloh**  
St. Louis, 12th

This future Central Michigan University runner was all-state as both a junior and senior. This spring she was Division 3 state runner-up in the 300-meter hurdles. She was also the TVC-10 and regional winner in the event, and had a PR of 46.39 seconds. She was also all-state with St. Louis' third-place 4x400-meter relay team, which also won the league meet. Munderloh was league champion in the 200 meters and ran a PR 26.30 seconds to win the regional title.



**Rachael Sierakowski**  
Ithaca, 12th

A distance standout who will run in college for Northwood University, she was all-state in track as a senior after making it in cross country in the fall. Sierakowski ran the fastest 3,200 meters of her career at the Division 3 state finals, 11:16.62, to place seventh. She ran the lead leg of Ithaca's 4x800-meter relay team that was fourth in the Division 3 state meet after winning the race at both the TVC-10 championship and Chesaning regional. She was regional runner-up in the 3,200 meters and third in the league in the 1,600 meters.



# SPORTS

## AUTO RACING

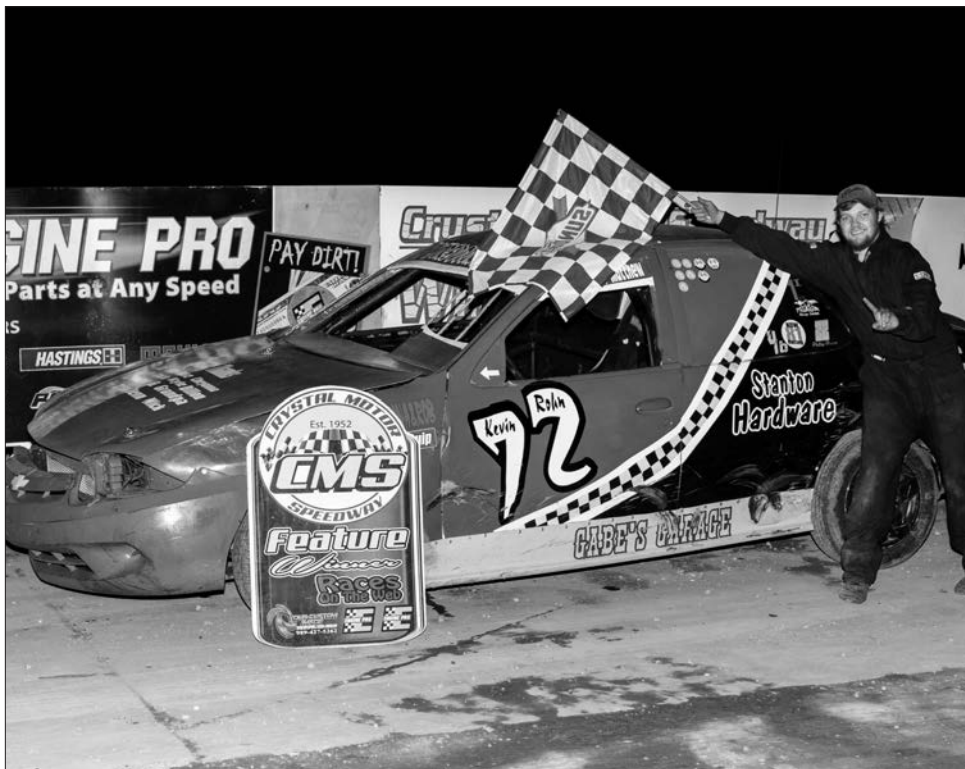
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Logan Nickerson was the Late Model feature winner at Crystal Motor Speedway.



Landyn Neitling was the Mini Wedge 10-14 winner at Crystal Motor Speedway.



Kevin Rohn was the Flinn Stock winner last week at Crystal Motor Speedway.



Kraton Ward was the Mini Wedge 6-9 winner at Crystal Motor Speedway.

## Two days of racing await at Crystal Motor Speedway

Saturday night at Crystal Motor Speedway was another busy night with all seven divisions on hand and over 125 cars in the pits and a bustling grandstand. CL Trucking and Excavating of Ionia sponsored the evening.

Vestaburg's Logan Nickerson started eighth in the Late Model feature, but he made his way through the pack to take the win over Mike Vandermark Jr., Cedar Springs, JC Witherspoon, Kinde, Taylor Wiles, Hubbardston, and Kurt Mesman of Wyoming. Vandermark and Michael Archer of Jackson picked up the preliminary heat events.

Jeff Reay of Portland was hooked up and flying in his win in the IMCA Modified division, coming from fourteenth to first in the twenty-lap event. Zac Gilliland, Muir, picked up the second position, followed by Myron DeYoung, Crystal, Brenten DeYoung, Crystal, and Bryan Hofbauer of Ionia. Aaron Raby of Carson City and Hofbauer grabbed heat wins.

Street Stock action saw Timothy DeGroft Jr. go home with the feature win over Don Rohn, Sheridan, Rob Brillhart, Crystal, Vern Buskirk, Crystal, and Chance Allen of Alma. Howard City's Andrew Bogart picked up the B Main win

while Doug McKeown Jr, Fenwick, Bryant Vandermark, Cedar Springs, and Allen posed for heat win photos.

Kevin Rohn of Sheridan continued a theme of coming from near the back of the pack to the front as he moved from his ninth place starting position to win over Isaiah Hopkins, Greenville, Cody Owen, Carson City, Chelsea Martin, Shepard, and Amber Fenner of Muskegon. Josh Ridgeway of Stanton and Rohn added heat wins to their career stats.

The Pro Stock feature, fueled by a purse of \$1000 to win put up by Wellman and Son Machine Shop of Fenwick, saw Sheridan's Jeff Kohn pick up the check and feature, coming from ninth to the front to edge out Ashlee Scott, Sheridan, Ryan Nethers, Mt. Pleasant, Rob Putt, Fenwick, and Kyle Hunt of Bannister. TJ Gilbert of Elkton and Kohn took heats.

Kent City's Jim Beltz picked up another Pro Truck feature over Curtis Rice, Muskegon, Curtis Dancer, Okemos, Dustin Sowles, Greenville, and Darin Lund of Sheridan. Beltz also picked up the heat win.

Kraton Ward of Ionia took the busy Mini Wedge 6-9-year-old feature, followed by Carson Loo-

mis, Weidman, Kade Fidler, Elwell, Waylon King, Edmore, and Liam Brillhart of Crystal. Jaylah Kequom of Mt. Pleasant and Fidler scored heat wins.

Landyn Neitling of Saginaw picked up another feature win in the Mini Wedge 10-14-year-old event over Tim Painter Jr., Coral, Ella Bringer, Saginaw, Maycii

Palmer, Mt. Pleasant, and John Rose. Neitling also took the heat event.

Next week at Crystal Motor Speedway is the two-day Fourth of July celebration with events both Saturday and Sunday. All seven divisions will compete both nights, with gates open at 4 PM and racing will start approximately at 7:30.

Pit passes are \$30, grandstand tickets are \$15 for adults, and kids 5-11 are \$5. Family passes on regular race events will be \$35 for two adults and two children.

Further information can be found by visiting the track website at [crystalmotorspeedway.com](http://crystalmotorspeedway.com) or calling the office at 989.235.5200.

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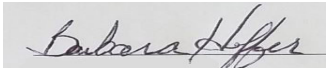
### SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT TO THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE REGARDING SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS

- On June 16, 2022, the Washington Township Board adopted an ordinance regulating the siting and construction of solar energy systems as special uses pursuant to the Washington Township Zoning Ordinance.
- The ordinance defines solar energy systems, differentiating between large and small, solar energy systems, and also defines alternative energy, photovoltaic device, and unreasonable safety hazard.
- The ordinance establishes a process for application to, and review by the planning commission, and ultimately the Township Board regarding the siting and construction of solar energy systems
- The ordinance establishes specific land use standards and provides a regulatory framework for the siting, construction and operation of solar energy systems.
- The ordinance requires an application escrow deposit be paid to the Township by an applicant for a solar energy system Special Land Use Permit requiring that the applicant replenish said escrow deposit if it is depleted.
- The ordinance requires compliance with various building and electric safety codes and approval by various authoritative bodies of the components to be used in said solar energy systems, as well as height, lot size, set back and screening/security requirements
- The ordinance regulates and restricts signage, noise emissions, lighting, glare, location of collection lines interconnections relative to said solar energy systems.
- The ordinance provides standards for abandonment.
- The ordinance requires that any conditions and modifications must be approved by the Planning Commission, and sets up Township's right to inspect the solar energy system.
- The ordinance sets standards and regulates maintenance and repair of a large solar energy system, and also roads, to the extent they are damaged resulting from construction, maintenance, or operation of a large solar energy system.
- The ordinance requires continuing security via an escrow account with replenishing obligations on the part of the owner and/or operator of large solar energy systems to ensure compliance with the terms of the ordinance.
- The ordinance regulates and sets limits on the time allotted for construction of large solar energy systems, and further requires at least quarterly reports to the Township, and also regulates any transfer of ownership or operation, requiring the transferee to comply with all terms of the ordinance.
- The ordinance sets up separate requirements for small solar energy systems as accessory structures.
- A true copy of the ordinance is available for review and inspection at the Township Hall.
- The ordinance will take effect 7 days after its publication, as provided by law.

Dated at Washington Township, Gratiot County, Michigan, on this 16th day of June 2022.



Howard Whaley  
Supervisor



Barbara Hoffer  
Township Clerk

I, the undersigned, Township Clerk, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing and above summary of Ordinance No. \_\_\_-2013 of the Township of Washington, Gratiot County, Michigan, was published within 15 days from the ordinance's adoption in the Gratiot County Herald, circulated in the Township of Washington, Gratiot County, Michigan, on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, and that the Affidavit of Publication thereof is now on file in my office and is a part of the original records pertaining to the adoption of the aforesaid ordinance.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that in accordance with the foregoing, said ordinance shall take effect 7 days after its publication as stated above.

Dated at Washington Township, Gratiot County, Michigan, this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

Barbara Hoffer  
Township Clerk

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### EMERSON TOWNSHIP Board of Appeals

The Emerson Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a meeting on Thursday, July 7th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., at the Township Hall located at 2976 N. Baldwin Rd., Ithaca, MI 48847 relative to a request by Fullerton Engineering Consultants LLC (Parallel) to approve a variance of the height of a communication tower, parcel #04-008-022-00, on the property at 4332 N. Royce Rd., St. Louis, MI 48880.

Written comments relative to the request may be forwarded to Emerson Township, 1103 N. Baldwin Rd., Ithaca, MI 48847 or clerk@emersonwp.com so long as it is received by the Township by July 6, 2022 at 5: p.m.

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# LEGALS

## Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement.

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Gratiot County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on July 07, 2022. 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.

**MORTGAGE:** Mortgagor(s): Randell S. Little, A Single Man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns

Date of mortgage: November 30, 2016  
Recorded on December 13, 2016, Liber 996, on Page 1478,

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Village Capital & Investment, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Fifty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Five and 51/100 Dollars (\$54,875.51)

Mortgaged premises: Situated in Gratiot County, and described as: The South 51 feet of Lot 5, Block 4, Oak Grove Addition, City of Alma, Gratiot County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof. Commonly known as 206 Williamette Ave, Alma, MI 48801 The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238.

If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

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

Village Capital & Investment, LLC  
Mortgagee/Assignee  
Schneiderman & Sherman P.C.  
23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 F  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
248.539.7400  
1466366  
(06-09)(06-30) 23t4

## Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement.

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Gratiot County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on July 14, 2022. 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.

**MORTGAGE:** Mortgagor(s): Eric L. Lent, a single man

Original Mortgagee: The Huntington National Bank successor by merger to Chemical Bank

Date of mortgage: September 25, 2015  
Recorded on October 14, 2015, Liber 979, on Page 284, and re-recorded via Affidavit of Correction on May 23, 2022, Liber 01103, on Page 00958,

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Thirty-One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty and 27/100 Dollars (\$31,420.27)

Mortgaged premises: Situated in Gratiot County, and described as: Lot 4, Block 9, Michigan Avenue Heights, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 104, Gratiot County Records. Also including the East 1/2 of the vacated alley on the West side of the above described premises Commonly known as 527 Republic Ave, Alma, MI 48880 The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238.

If the above referenced property is sold

at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

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

The Huntington National Bank  
Mortgagee/Assignee  
Schneiderman & Sherman P.C.  
23938 Research Dr, Suite 300  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
248.539.7400  
1466363  
(06-09)(06-30) 23t4

## NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT.

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in GRATIOT County, starting promptly at 10:00 A.M., on July 28, 2022. 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.

**MORTGAGE INFORMATION:** Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Kimberly K Monahan, a single woman, whose address is 113 South Park Street, Ashley, Michigan 48806, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., being a mortgage dated April 18, 2007, and recorded on June 22, 2007 in Liber 832 Page 111, Gratiot County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Bank United, N.A., as assignee as documented by an assignment dated January 24, 2017 and recorded on February 6, 2017 in Liber 999 Page 339, Gratiot County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN DOLLARS AND 01/100 (\$66,877.01).

Said premises are situated in the Village of Ashley, County of Gratiot, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOT 254 ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHLEY, GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 2, OF PLATS, PAGE 21, GRATIOT COUNTY RECORDS. Street Address: 113 South Park Street, Ashley, Michigan 48806 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

**THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 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.**

Dated: June 30, 2022  
For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing:  
Kenneth J. Johnson, Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC,  
5955 West Main Street,  
Suite 18, Kalamazoo, MI 49009.  
Telephone: (312) 541-9710.  
File No.: MI 22 4465  
(06-30)(07-21) 26t4

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF GRATIOT FILE NO. 2022-128-DE

Court address, 214 E. Center Street, Ithaca, MI 48847, Court telephone no., 989-875-5231.

Estate of Robin V. Findley, Deceased, Date of birth: \* 04/02/1960

**TO ALL CREDITORS:\*\***

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, Robin V. Findley, died March 26, 2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Nicholas Findley, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 214 E. Center Street, Ithaca, MI 48847, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

June 21, 2022  
Nicholas Findley  
3161 Powers Road  
Alanson, MI 49706  
Stephen R. Berstein  
P10747  
31731 Northwestern Highway, Suite 166W  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
(248) 538-6082 26t1

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Trust RE: KENNETH W. PEARSE TRUST NO. 1, DATED MAY 13, 2022. TO ALL CREDITORS:

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The Settlor, Kenneth W. Pearse (date of birth August 19, 1947), who was a resident of Gratiot County, Michigan, died June 4, 2022. There is no personal representative of the Settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the Settlor are notified that all claims against the Kenneth W. Pearse Trust No. 1, dated May 13, 2022, will be forever barred unless presented to Gary W. Johnson, Trustee, c/o the Law Office of Rhonda M. Clark, P.C., PO Box 147, St Louis, MI 48880, within four (4) months after the date of publication of this Notice.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Dated: June 21, 2022  
**Gary W. Johnson**  
Trustee  
421 1st St  
Breckenridge, MI 48615  
(989) 842-3478

## LAW OFFICE OF RHONDA M. CLARK, P.C.

**By: Rhonda M. Clark-Kreuer (P49818)**  
111 N Mill St  
PO Box 147  
St Louis, MI 48880  
(989) 681-8700 26t1

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF GRATIOT

Name of Trust, Joyce E. Meyers Trust No. 1

**TO ALL CREDITORS:** The decedent, Joyce E. Meyers, who lived at 1200 Wright Avenue, Room 243 in Alma, Gratiot County, Michigan died April 28, 2022.

Creditors of the decedent and the trust below will be forever barred unless presented to Melvin Schnepf, Trustee of the Joyce E. Meyers Trust No. 1, dated October 18, 2011, as amended, 5801 E. Pakes Road, Crystal, Michigan 48818 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

June 23, 2022  
Melvin Schnepf  
5801 E. Pakes Road  
Crystal, MI 48818  
(941) 776-5021  
Buhl, Little, Lynwood & Harris, PLC  
Ashley S. Kagey  
P84229  
271 Woodland Pass, Suite 115  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517) 853-6900 26t1

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS RE: CRONKITE TRUST NO. 1, dated December 11, 2000

**TO ALL CREDITORS:** The decedents, Vistor F. Cronkite and Carol J. Cronkite, of 224 E. Summit Street, Breckenridge, MI 48615, died May 23, 2022 and January 15, 2017, respectively.

Creditors of the decedents are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Kimberly D. Cronkite, Trustee of the CRONKITE TRUST NO. 1, dated December 11, 2000, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: June 20, 2022  
**KIMBERLY D. CRONKITE**  
Trustee  
224 E. Summit Street  
PO Box 524  
Breckenridge, MI 48615  
(989) 854-5831  
JEFFERSON P. ARNOLD (P10262)  
Attorney at Law  
100 E. Center Street  
Ithaca, MI 48847  
(989) 875-3610 26t1

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# MID STATE

Screen Printing & Embroidery

123 N. Main St., Ithaca, MI 48847 • 989-875-4163 ext. 112

Uniforms - Team Sports - Promotional Items - Banners - Spirit Wear - Apparel

# CROSSWORD

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Basics
  - In a new way
  - Paulo, city
  - Jailhouse
  - Expresses surprise
  - Trigraph
  - A small stream
  - Dissimilar
  - Promote
  - Gives a boost
  - Lawmaker
  - Orthodox Jews
  - Actor Harris
  - Wild cherry
  - Participate in democracy
  - Opposite of begins
  - A Brit's mother
  - Set of moral principles
  - Very fast airplane
  - Czech river
  - Private school in New York
  - Israeli dance
  - Electron volt
  - Adjusting
  - Duct by the bladder
  - Small burger
  - Begin again
  - Unstuck
  - Jai \_\_\_\_, sport
  - Get free of
  - For instance
  - Hotel chain
  - A team's best pitcher
  - Extracts from various sources
  - Indefinite period of time
- CLUES DOWN**
- St. Francis of \_\_\_\_
  - Supported
  - United in working
  - It cools your home
  - Predicting
  - Irritated
  - Popular talk show host
  - Fabric edge
  - A resource for employees
  - Broadway's Jackman
  - Small water buffalo
  - City of Angels: \_\_\_\_ Angeles
  - Asteroids
  - Tailless amphibians
  - German expressionist painter
  - What drives you
  - N. Vietnamese ethnic group
  - Gold coin used in British India
  - Have deep affection for
  - Ponds
  - Breaks between words
  - Hairstyle
  - Print errors
  - Family of iron alloys
  - Sidelined in bed
  - Many couples say it
  - Brazilian hoopster
  - Allman Brothers late frontman
  - German city
  - One hundred grams (abbr.)
  - One billionth of a second (abbr.)

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

2	7	9	5	8	3	4	6	1	T	R	A	N	C	E	S	E	E	R	I	E								
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									E	P	I	C	S									E	S	C	O	R	T	S





**★ 100 YEARS OR MORE ★**

Gratiot County Herald - 1858

123 N. Main St., Ithaca • 875-4151

Commercial Bank - 129

101 N. Pine River St., Ithaca • 875-4144

Simmet Insurance - 1920

117 W. Center St., Ithaca • 875-3580

**★ 50 TO 99 YEARS ★**

Doehring Schultz - 1937

3975 W. Monroe Rd., Alma • 463-4918

J and J Giles Tire - 1968

231 W. Superior St., Alma • 463-3650

Lindsay Soft Water - 1970

1209 Michigan Ave., St. Louis • 772-2074

**★ 25 TO 49 YEARS ★**

Gilbert Sales - 1984

5767 E. Monroe Rd., Breckenridge • 842-5894

Hub's D&J Tire Service - 1985

500 E. Center St., Ithaca • 875-5021

Alma Optics - 1985

1321 Pine Ave., Alma • 989-463-1139

Jays's Furniture Barn - 1986

7651 Pingree Rd., Elwell • 463-3507

Redbird Pet Food Center - 1989

2324 W. Monroe (M-46), Alma • 681-2389

Burford Plumbing & Heating - 1992

205 S. Pine River St., Ithaca • 875-6601

Bolands Best One Tire - 1995

120 S. Pine St., Breckenridge • 842-5855

Gena's Country Accents - 1997

225 E. Saginaw St., Breckenridge • 842-5005

Mancinos 1997

211 W. Superior St., Alma • 463-0047

**★ 10 TO 24 YEARS ★**

Anderson Custon Carpeting - 2001

603 E. Washington Ave., St. Louis • 681-3536

Daily Living Home Care - 2005

145 E. Center St. • 875-8685

America's Choice Realty - 2008

108 E. Center, Suite A, Ithaca • 875-5148

Mid-State Screen Printing

& Embroidery - 2010

123 N. Main St., Ithaca • 875-4163

Interiors by Neville - 2012

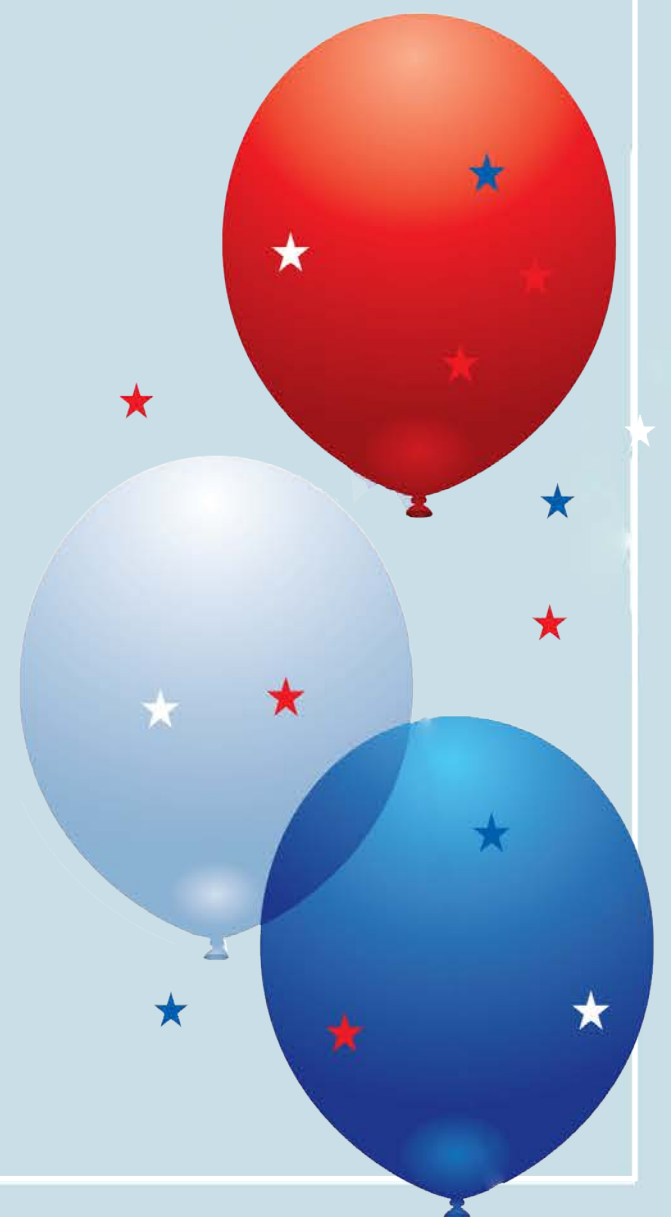
712 E. Center St., Ithaca • 875-3818

Riverside Market - 2017

902 Michigan Ave., St. Louis • 681-7654

Better Baker - 2018

1031 E. Center, Ithaca • 875-4181



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