



Levi Sunnerville, seen drawing one of his "Tom Cat" comics, had his artwork selected to be published in the children's book "Get Out of the Blues with Gabby's Red Shoes." The picture at left shows the illustration that he submitted. (Photos provided)

## Otsego student becomes published illustrator

BY JASON WESSELDYK  
SPORTS EDITOR

He is only nine years old, but Levi Sunnerville already has some big goals. "I hope to make my own 'Tom Cat' comics or work at an animation studio," said Levi, a fourth-grade student at Dix Street Elementary in Otsego. "I also think about having his own animation studio someday."

Big goals, indeed. And Levi took a step toward achieving those goals when he received word that he would soon be a published illustrator.

During a Zoom meeting with Dix Street Elementary students as part of "March is Reading Month," author Carol Van Gorp read her new children's book "Get Out of the Blues with Gabby's Red Shoes." The book deals with the way children process their emotions during a crisis.

After reading the book, Van Gorp asked students to send her artwork that correlated to the book, which Levi did. And his artwork was selected to be part of the book.

Levi's mom Sarah was the one who got to share the good news with him.

"Mom held her phone out and told me to read it," Levi said. "I read an email from Carol Van Gorp and she said that my drawing for page 9 had been chosen. I don't remember exactly what I said, but I

do remember the feeling of being overjoyed."

Page 9 of "Get Out of the Blues with Gabby's Red Shoes" discusses thinking about happy things to make you feel better if you're feeling scared or that your load is hard to carry. Levi's drawing is actually four separate pictures: the top left square shows Gabby thinking scary thoughts; the top right square shows Gabby carrying her heavy load; the bottom left square shows Gabby's happier thoughts; and the top right square shows Gabby feeling better.

"I read the words for Page 9 and made a drawing I thought fit with it," Levi said. "After my drawing was chosen, the author asked for the drawing to be scanned so her graphic artist could prepare it to be in her book."

Needless to say, Sarah and her husband Nate are thrilled with Levi's inclusion in the book.

"We're so very happy for him because Levi dreams big and he always has," Sarah said. "So, it's amazing to see him reach one of those dreams already. It was so nice of Carol Van Gorp to have the idea to allow children to illustrate for children."

Van Gorp made a video message congratulating Levi. She also said she was in contact with Dix Street principal Mark Rollandini to let him know she would

be sending a copy of "Get Out of the Blues with Gabby's Red Shoes" once it is published so Levi and his schoolmates can check out his artwork.

"My favorite Walt Disney quote is 'Keep moving forward,'" Sarah said. "Many of us have difficulty deciding what to move forward toward. I like that Levi has found something he can always enjoy that also gives him possibilities and dreams to keep him moving forward."

Levi's love of drawing began at a young age. From the start, he enjoyed the sense of accomplishment he felt after finishing a piece of art.

"What I really like about drawing is the result," Levi said. "Drawing is like an infinite world because you can always draw something different. You can have different feelings when you draw like calm, sad, wild or funny and your drawings can show those feelings."

"I like that you can draw for hours and your hand starts to hurt, but when you are done your reward is your masterpiece."

While Levi enjoys drawing all kinds of things, he does have a favorite subject: a cat named Tom Cat.

"One day he drew a cat wearing a top hat with a plan to stop the launch of the Sputnik satellite," Sarah said. "He liked it so much

■ see *Illustrator*, Page 12

## Plainwell approves pay request on mill demolition

By John Raffel  
Correspondent

PLAINWELL – The Plainwell City Council met on Monday, Aug. 24, and approved the first pay requests from Melching on the mill demolition contractor \$170,325.

"We already went through the bid process," city manager Erik J. Wilson said. "They're on site right now. They're actively demolishing the mill."

Completion is expected by the end of the year.

"The entire mill won't be gone, it will be a mixed used development," he said. "Several of the mill buildings will remain intact on site for future development."

The council also took action on others items including considering

approval of a 60-month lease with Quadient (formerly Newspot) for a 1x5AF postage meter at an average annual cost of \$1,717.44.

Various retirement matters were also taken care of, Wilson said.

The council continues to meet the second and fourth Monday of each month.

"Right now, we're doing it by Zoom because of COVID," Wilson said.

"We're following the governor's executive orders. We have meetings on Zoom, then we could meet again but then got the new executive order. Right now it's just 10 people in a room, that makes it harder to have a council meeting if you can only have 10 in a room."

## County gives 2% raises to elected officials

By John Raffel  
Correspondent

ALLEGAN – The Allegan County Board of Directors met on Thursday and set the salaries for the elected officers of the county including the sheriff, prosecuting attorney and the county commissioners who take office next Jan. 1, and the road commissioners.

"All were given a two percent raise which was in accordance with the provisions of the various collective bargaining agreements approved in the last year for the union-represented employees of the county," county commission chair Jim Storey said. "The county's fiscal year is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, so the salaries approved do not take effect until Jan. 1." Storey said the commissioners started reviewing the draft 2021 budget which tentatively shows a deficit of current spending and revenue trends continue.

"However, the county may realize a \$2 million surplus for the current fiscal year based upon reduced on-site staffing because of the COVID 19 virus and other reduced activity levels caused by the virus," Storey said. "The reviews will continue through the month of September and will be considered for adoption at first meeting in October." Commissioners also approved the county's COVID 19 testing and protection plan for the balance of the year.

"This was proposed by the health department and has been considered during the last two meetings of the Commission," Storey said. "We received the county administrator's plan for continued off site work by county employees. The COVID 19-inspired distant work locations has largely worked without a reduction in productivity, according to the various supervisors of county departments."

## County failed propositions rescued by Holland voters

By Gari Voss  
Correspondent

Voters in the four Allegan County precincts of Holland did not have the Proposals for the Allegan County Medical Care Community's 0.25 mil or the Allegan County Conservation District's 0.10 mil printed on their August 4, 2020 Primary Election ballots.

County Commission Chairman and Holland City resident, Jim Storey, petitioned on behalf of both organizations to the Allegan County Board of Canvassers to conduct a mail-in-election for these two proposals. Ballots were sent to those voters who had cast ballots in the Primary Election.

The turnaround time for voting was quick, as all ballots had to be returned by Tuesday, August 25. The ballots were counted on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, and a preliminary count was reviewed by the Allegan County Clerk's office at 1 PM on August 27<sup>th</sup> preparing for the approval of the Allegan County Board of Canvassers on Monday, August 31, 2020.

Between August 17<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, representatives from the Care Commu-

nity and Conservation District sent fliers and information in addition to making door-to-door visits to inform voters of the importance of returning ballots and to answer questions concerning the proposals. Because of these efforts and the approximate 50% turnout of mail-in ballots from the possible voters, both proposals passed.

The Conservation District received 611 YES and 244 NO mail-in votes, which made the election total 13,559 YES and 13,336 NO. The Medical Care Community received 634 YES and 230 NO mail-in votes for an election total of 13,522 YES to 13,290 NO.

When queried as to the importance of the millage, Mark Ludwig, treasurer of the Conservation District, explained that "it will stabilize staff". Currently, business manager Laura Smith works only 20 hours a week. "Now, she can work 40 hours a week in order to concentrate on a wider variety of projects along with outreach to schools and other groups." Another area that will be affected is the District's ability to

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# Allegan County COVID cases jump to 637

By John Raffel  
Correspondent

ALLEGAN — The number of COVID-19 cases in Allegan County posted by health department officials coming into this week, has had an increase to 637.

The number, was 583 confirmed cases and six deaths as of the previous week. The number total of deaths has stayed at six.

The previous week, it was 571 confirmed cases and six deaths.

Statewide, it's at 106,963

cases and 6,657 deaths. Last week, there were 113,000 confirmed cases and 6,750 deaths.

The figures are 31,178 and 2,883 for Wayne County; 17,996 cases and 1,163 deaths for Oakland County; 12,998 cases and 973 deaths for Macomb County and 8,449 confirmed cases and 167 deaths for Kent County.

Health department officials point out COVID-19 is caused by a coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. Older adults and people who

have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

Health department officials also point out fatigue, headache, and muscle aches (myalgia) are among the most commonly reported symptoms in people who are not hospitalized, and sore throat and nasal congestion or runny nose also may be prominent symptoms.

# Demand for public transportation on the upswing

By John Raffel  
Correspondent

The Allegan County transportation services department reports public transit and the demand for it has grown over the last 20-plus years.

"But the last three years, we've seen a decline in agency contracts, which has resulted in a reduction of service availability," a department spokesperson, Dan Wedge, Executive director of services, said. "However, the demand for services continues to grow.

One of the challenges that has been facing public transit has been lack of local funding which is the normal funding structure for public transit systems in comparisons to other counties like Van Buren, Barry and Kalamazoo.

"They receive a dedicated local tax for public transportation and that helps them to meet that need. Allegan County has been fortunate in past years to provide services without a local dedicated tax for public transit. We've done that through the different

partnerships and contracts we've had."

The county did a national citizens community survey back in November and December and asked about Allegan County as viewed in different areas.

"More than 50 percent said they would strongly or somewhat would support an increase for public transportation," he said. "The board has taken a look at that and is considering differ ways to fund that."

# Rotary donates \$1500 to Congregational Kitchen



On the left is Don Lucas from the Congregational Church Kitchen, on the right is Larry Brown, president of the Allegan Rotary Club. The Congregational Church work with 28 local food pantries. The donation was \$1,500 dollars. The Allegan Rotary Club applied for and received the grant from Rotary District 6360.

# Police chief says COVID responsible for decrease in calls

By John Raffel  
Correspondent

ALLEGAN — Jay Gibson city of Allegan chief of police, said since March 13 with lockdowns and restrictions, calls have been down 25 to 30 percent, and indicated it's likely close to that of other area law enforcement agencies.

"Last year was our busiest year," Gibson said. "Before COVID started, we were probably 16 days ahead of schedule. Now we're at least a month behind of what that pace was."

Complaints have been basically "quality of life stuff," Gibson indicated. "I would say my numbers are pretty similar to the county's where the calls are down."

Accidents are down, "especially during that March-April phase because not as many people are on the road," Gibson added. "Our suicidal thoughts, those type of calls are up and so are domestics. Anytime you have added stresses, those who already have underlying mental or medical conditions, they generally don't act positively toward it."

"Stress and some anxiety adding to it doesn't help. We haven't been as proactive especially in that early part. We were going out and making the traffic stops we used to. We weren't trying to have any more contact than we had to. We've adjusted now. We're back to doing those things and are being cautious like everyone else, like wearing masks."

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# Arrest warrant issued for fired South Haven official

An investigation into financial irregularities associated with former city of South Haven Finance Director Wendy Hochstedler has reached its conclusion.

In November 2018, the South Haven Police contacted Michigan State Police (MSP) Fifth District Special Investigation Section in regard to financial irregularities associated with city of South Haven

Finance Director, Wendy Hochstedler. The complaint was initiated when city personnel noticed a suspicious purchase on Hochstedler's assigned city credit card, at which point it was brought to the attention of city auditors.

The forensic audit revealed multiple other accounts had also been improperly maintained and utilized by Hochstedler and Daniel Beck, a member of

her household. Hochstedler was fired from the city of South Haven in late November 2018. Case records show five credit cards assigned to former city of South Haven employees were kept open and fraudulently utilized by Hochstedler and Beck to make more than \$130,000 in fraudulent purchases.

The purchases began in July of 2015 and continued until she was suspended

in November of 2018. The two purchased many items over the four years to include fast food, pet supplies, vehicle repairs, building materials, jewelry, and other household items.

After a thorough and complete inquiry of numerous financial documents, the case file and charge requests were turned over to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office in January 2020. Arrest

warrants were authorized in February 2020.

In late July 2020, a plea agreement was reached with Wendy Hochstedler pleading guilty to Embezzlement - \$100,000 or more and Daniel Beck pleading guilty to one count of illegal possession of a financial transaction device. Hochstedler and Beck are scheduled to be sentenced on Monday, September 21, 2020.

# Fennville teen dies from scooter accident injuries

Monday, August 24, 2020 at 8:44 PM, a 17-year-old male riding an electric scooter traveling down 124th Avenue was struck by a vehicle driven by another 17-year-old. The young man was thrown off the scooter and suffered serious injuries. The investigation into this incident continues, but it is known that the scooter rider, Julio Villalobos, has since passed from his injuries.

Villalobos was a graduate from Fennville High School and was planning on beginning online college this Fall. Because of his leadership position as #28 on the football and his supportive nature, Villalobos's death has been difficult for the Fennville Community.

Friends described Villalobos as a "terrific young man," "the smile on his face was contagious," and "a positive person." Jace Cossey stated, "This is such a huge loss for the Fennville community and the class of 2020."

It was through Facebook that Angelica Villalobos was able to share her emotions by saying, "Thank you all for your prayers."

# Migrants leaving because of increased COVID testing

Michigan farmworkers are leaving unpicked fields and orchards. They say it's driven by the state's new emergency order requiring mandatory testing for COVID-19.

In Grand Junction, late-season blueberry harvest usually makes up for financial losses incurred during the previous months. The problem is True Blue Berry Management LLC's lost roughly 150 employees who've chosen to leave its employment or go to work in states with no mandatory COVID-19 testing policies.

In Grand Junction, late-season blueberry harvest usually makes up for financial losses incurred during the previous months. True Blue Berry Management LLC's Shelly Hartmann (far left), Manuel Morales Jr., and Doraelia Nunez discuss farmworker testing and rights. Janelle Brose | Farm News Media

In Bangor, a similar story: 14 employees walked away from Heritage Blueberries LLC.

As problems add up for farmworkers at Smeltzer Orchards Co. LLC and True Blue Farms, plaintiffs in a case against the Michigan Department of Human and Health Services, Michigan farm operators now worry about labor availability in 2021.

"Everybody's affected," said Manuel Morales Jr., plant manager of True Blue's packaging plant in Grand Junction. He currently supervises about 40 employees.

"They don't want to do the test. I don't want to do the test," Morales told Michigan Farm News. "I worked earlier this year down in Florida for about three to four months. ... Florida didn't have to (mandatory test), why does Michigan have to? This governor wants us to do it, and it's only the Latinos. Why? I work with other American people here; they're not getting tested."



In Grand Junction, late-season blueberry harvest usually makes up for financial losses incurred during the previous months. True Blue Berry Management LLC's Shelly Hartmann (far left), Manuel Morales Jr., and Doraelia Nunez discuss farmworker testing and rights. Janelle Brose | Farm News Media

Earlier this month, farm employers and employees challenged an Aug. 3 emergency order by MDHHS, which mandated certain-sized employers of migrant or seasonal workers to test workers for COVID-19, a respiratory illness.

Following the order, the Grand Rapids-based law firm Varnum LLP filed a complaint on behalf of the farmworkers.

However, a recent ruling by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan upheld state testing requirements,

which affect about 75,000 Latino farmworkers, according to the Michigan Farm Bureau. An appeal on the ruling was filed Aug. 25 by Varnum attorney Ronald DeWard.

"We are appealing the district court's decision to the Sixth Circuit, where we will ask for an 'Injunction Pending Appeal' to stay MDHHS' emergency order pending a full briefing on why the MDHHS emergency order unconstitutionally discriminates against Latinos," he said.

Meanwhile, employers

who do not abide by rules face financial penalties, while farmworkers who refuse testing will be prohibited from working until they agree to the testing.

Many Michigan farmworkers come from Florida, Georgia, and Texas, or through the H-2A guest-worker program.

According to Rex Schultz of Heritage Blueberries, the workers like to move from crop to crop.

Now, he said, "they're pulling out of the state; they're just leaving be-

cause they don't want to be a part of this."

Schultz asked his employees if they wanted to be tested. Most said no and are upset after testing began Aug. 24.

Another Michigan operation lost roughly 30 farmworkers during apple harvest when it needs hundreds of migrant and/or H-2A workers. The farm asked to remain anonymous.

"I think it's going to get worse," Schultz said. "My biggest concern is — are they going to come back next year?"

# Correction

Our story reporting the drowning last week should have identified the fisherman as Kyle Franklin Baker, 25, who was fishing under the Marshall Street Bridge. We apologize to Kyle's family as they deal with this tragedy in their family.



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# Allegan County eighth in lowest unemployment numbers

Although no longer on top of the list for the lowest jobless rates among the 83 counties in Michigan, the Lakeshore's two counties are still in the top 10.

In the seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates for July released by the state Department of Technology, Management and Budget on Thurs-

day, Ottawa County was seventh at 7.5 percent, with Allegan County eighth at 7.6 percent. Reflecting the improvement seen in joblessness across Michigan from June, Ottawa County's level shrunk from 11 percent even, and Allegan County's level fell from 11.3 percent.

In a statement, Jason

Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives put a qualifier on these lower levels, "Total employment levels showed only modest change in many regions in July. Industry jobs also edged up over the month as the number of unemployed workers in tourism-related

businesses continued to moderate."

Menominee County in the Upper Peninsula had the lowest unemployment rate among counties in Michigan last month at 6.6 percent, with Montmorency County the highest at 13.2 percent.

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**Celebrating Safely**  
Skylinn Vega-Eding (3) and Alivia Kragt (5) gathered with a small family group at the gazebo in Hanson Park behind the Griswold Auditorium to celebrate their birthdays. Their mom Erica shared, "We decided to celebrate here because it is a nice and open space so we could have everybody out here. It's beautiful and has the park" Just a short trip from their home near the Allegan County Fair Ground's chicken afforded a fun, safe outing for these birthday girls.

# The race for Allegan County's prosecutor will be decided in a recount

Attorney Mike Villar, who ran against incumbent Allegan County Prosecutor Myrene Koch in the Republican primary last month, petitioned about a week after the August election.

The recount will begin Wednesday morning at the Allegan Township Hall. Allegan County Clerk Bob Genetski told News 8 it's expected to take three days or longer.

Villar lost, according to the unofficial results, by less than a few dozen votes. Koch received 8,864 votes to Villar's 8,847. He also lost to Koch in 2018.

No one ran for prosecutor as a Democrat, but the

county's unofficial results show there were 794 write-in votes.

In his petition for the recount, Villar wrote, "I have good faith belief that I would have a reasonable chance of winning the election but for the fact that the canvass of the vote cast is in error."

He cites 350 to 700 spoiled ballots because of crossover voting, meaning voters didn't abide by the straight-ticket requirement, and "that there were irregularities in obtaining the vote counts in Fillmore Township..."

"...This is especially disconcerting as I was leading in the reported

voting until the Fillmore vote count was reported at 4:00 a.m. on the day after the election," the petition went on to state.

Genetski confirmed Fillmore Township was previously deemed uncountable by canvassers and therefore any change in that count won't be eligible toward the recount Wednesday.

"When the Board of Canvassers went to certify the election, they reviewed the situation in Fillmore Township, they compared the poll book up against the tabulator tape and noticed that the two numbers were out of balance," the county clerk said.

Genetski said an increase in absentee ballots led to jams in the machine, making the tabulations difficult on election day.

"One of the canvassers felt the machine should've been shut down and the entire ballot bunch should've been reprocessed or run through later on," he explained.

That did not happen, however.

Wednesday's recount timeline will depend on how many challenges representatives for both candidates make to individual ballots.

## OBITUARIES

### Marilyn Ann (Thompson) Sipple, 78

Marilyn Ann (Thompson) Sipple, 78, passed away on Friday, August 28, 2020. Born February 24, 1942 in Allegan, Michigan, she was the daughter of the late Paul and Anna (Schafer) Thompson. She received her associate degree from Western Michigan University and worked as a teacher in Title I at Martin Public Schools for over 10 years.

Marilyn grew up in the Allegan area, one of six brothers and sisters, all of whom she cherished deeply. On June 23, 1962, Marilyn married Jack Ronald Sipple, a farmer from Martin, Michigan and spent their 58 years together working side-by-side on their dairy farm and enjoying family life with their children and grandchildren. The two explored far-off places together and also volunteered building churches and schools through the Builders for Christ organization. Marilyn is remembered as an incredibly compassionate and intentional mother. A true family woman at heart, she made



**Marilyn Ann Sipple**

sure that they took family vacations—prioritizing time together. Ever a doting mother, Marilyn was just as nurturing as a grandmother.

All her life, Marilyn was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. One of the last things that Marilyn wrote was, "The belief I am most passionate about is my faith and knowing that God is always with me and I will be with my Savior in eternity."

Marilyn was preceded in death by her beloved daughter Kathleen Lane, brother-in-law Carl Sandahl

and sister-in-law Sharon Kelly (Roger). Surviving are her husband Jack; children Christine DeBruyn (Arthur), Karen Hildebrand (Ted), Kirt Sipple; son-in-law Terry Lane; grandchildren John Waldsmith, Allison DeBruyn, Breyanna Waldsmith, Megan Ward (Kristopher), Catherine DeBruyn; siblings Maxine Sandahl, Bernice Wentzel (Charles), Paul Thompson (Sara), Lawrence Thompson (Sharon), Carolyn Miner (Don); sister-in-law Joyce Suhusky (Frank); and several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The family received friends at Gorden Funeral Residence, Allegan Chapel, on Monday, August 31, 2020 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. A funeral service took place at St. John's Lutheran Church on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 1:00 pm. Burial in New East Martin Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church or to Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan.

### Johnnie Junior Boerman, 80

Johnnie Junior Boerman, 80, of Cheshire Township, passed away Sunday, August 30, 2020 at his home. He was born July 25, 1940 to John and Laura (Wolf) Boerman in Allegan, Michigan. Johnnie was an excavator and owned his own business for several years. In his younger days, Johnnie was a race car driver. His car number was 55. He raced in Kalamazoo, Galesburg, Indiana and in Pullman at Jones Speedway. He enjoyed boating in South Haven on his 23 foot Sea Ray and motorcycling in Sturgis, South Dakota and Daytona Beach.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Johnnie is survived by his wife and companion of 26 years – Donna Rutkowski; children – John (Shelly) Boerman of Allegan, Donnie Boerman of Munster, Indiana and Dixie Kovach of Bloomington, Michigan; 2 grandchildren – Colte Boerman and Courtney Gonzales; and four great grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at the Filbrandt Family Funeral Home in South Haven. Funeral services will follow visitation at 12:00 PM with Pastor Milan Bittenbender officiating. Johnnie will be laid to rest at Oakwood Cemetery in Allegan.

Kindly share your thoughts and memories on the family's online guestbook at [www.FilbrandtFFH.com](http://www.FilbrandtFFH.com).

The family is being helped by the Filbrandt Family Funeral Home in South Haven, 637-0333.

## CITY OF ALLEGAN PUBLIC HEARING

THE CITY OF ALLEGAN will be holding a public hearing on September 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM, at the City Hall, 231 Trowbridge, Allegan, Michigan, to receive public comments regarding the adoption of an ordinance amending City of Allegan Zoning Ordinance, Article XIV, PUD Planned Unit Development District 14.01A Qualifying Condition. Copies of the proposed amendment can be obtained at City Hall, 231 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, Michigan.

Christopher Tapper, City Clerk



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# Faces in the Crowd: Church Secretaries

by G Corwin Stoppel

My father was a sergeant in the Army Air Corp during the second World War, and he would always remind anyone in earshot that the sergeants, not the officers, not even the generals, won the war. He was too polite to say what he really thought of newly commissioned officers other than, "Yeah, ninety day wonders, we called them. We saluted them, but everyone knew it was us sergeants who could get things done, and done right."

Not surprisingly, when I went off to school he gave some advice. "Get on the good side of the janitors. Everyone tries to suck up to the teachers and the principal, so don't bother. Just remember, the janitors are the sergeants, and they get things done. It isn't just because they know where the bodies are buried, either. They have the key to the storage room where they keep the shovels."

I discovered a parallel to my father's advice when I was a newly minted clergyman - the church secretary. They're the sergeants. Over the years the job title has changed from secretary to parish assistant to parish administrative assistant, and in some churches the executive parish administrative assistant. The title changes are more than just word inflation. They reflect their changing and increasingly complex work. Long gone are the days of typing the bulletin or church newsletter onto a stencil, transferring it to a Mimeograph machine, and cranking out copies. Today it is computers and an assortment of social media platforms. All of that is just for starters. In their spare time secretaries are expected to read and practically memorize all the Best Practices manuals, and then recite them chapter and verse.



Carol Mollett

Just don't ask what they think of those documents.

Within days of starting they realize they are expected to know the history of the church, all of the previous ministers, and who donated everything to the church. They find out they need to know not only all of the members and their families, and the previous members and when and why they left. If there is an endowment gift, they have to learn all of the restrictions accompanying it. Everyone expects the secretary to know all of the important secrets and never say a

word/ Carol Mollett, the Parish Administrative Assistant at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd here in Allegan is a classic example of her profession. She came to the parish after having retired from a long tenure at a large church in Douglas. Retirement was fun, but only for a while, and she missed caring for people and working. As at many churches, many of the tasks are similar, but each church has its own personality, and a good secretary realizes the needs to understand the

dynamics. Each independent congregation or church within a denomination, has their own set of directives and orders from headquarters. In an increasingly litigious society, knowing how to stay within the parameters without being too legalistic or permissive, and still do ministry, is a balancing act. Then comes the real challenge - breaking in of the new minister. They all have these wonderful ideas they learned in seminary or a recent clergy pow-wow. A rookie secretary will rush ahead

or instantly dig in the heels. An experienced one knows just how to smile sweetly, say, "that's interesting" as if they meant it, and keep a poker face. One of secretary's most important tasks is being the first point of contact, sometimes even the "face of the church" to visitors who telephone or walk through the door. Whether they have the proverbial axe in need of grinding, need information or assistance, or just want to walk, it is the secretary they meet. That is a true example of practical practicing Christianity.

"And then there are the things no in the job description," Carol told me. "I'm proficient with a plunger for jammed up toilets. I've scooped up dead bats from the main aisle in the sanctuary, and removed deceased small animals, including bats, from the church walks."

If you belong to a church that has a good secretary or parish administrative assistant, consider yourself fortunate. A good one makes everyone look good and brings out the best in everyone. They see and hear everything, yet say nothing. They ponder over requests for assistance, and often set the example for outreach into a community.

## Writer reflects on start of kindergarten

By G Corwin Stoppel

Just in time for what might or might not be the opening of the school year, it is the 147th anniversary of the chartering of America's first public kindergarten. At first it was considered to be something of a novelty when five year olds in St Louis, Missouri started attending school. There were objections that they should be home with their mother, or that they were too young to be in school. Fortunately, the city's school board was eager to try this experiment in early childhood education.

"Kindergarten" was the name coined by Frederick Froebel of Germany, and it translates into English as a children's garden. More specifically, it is a children's garden of learning, socialization, and fun. At the same time, it helped prepare them for the following year when they would begin attending grammar school.

In addition to kindergarten, if ever you played with wooden blocks, or had a set of wooden alphabet blocks, you can thank Froebel for developing the ideas.

One of Froebel's great-

est contributions to early childhood education was his box of simple wooden toys known as "Gifts and Occupations." They were simple objects - a block of wood, a block cut into smaller blocks, a wooden ball, an incline, and so on. Parents or teachers would present a child with the first gift of a block. The child was encouraged to play with it for as long as they desired. Then, using some suggestions prepared by Froebel and others, the adult would ask gentle questions about the object. More play followed as the child explored as many different ways as possible the gift could be used.

In time, a child joined together with others his or her age, and they explored together. Like many other educators, Froebel believed that play is the work of children. This work enhanced their creativity and awakened their intellect.

Froebel's inventiveness and philosophy have had a long-last influence on American education. For that matter, an influence on early childhood education around the world. Best known, of course, is the concept of kindergarten that has been adopted by nearly all of our

public and many private schools. In turn, kindergarten has led to a wide range of educational experiences for children. And, because public schools can not do everything, other groups - churches, civic groups, and similar organizations - have started reading camps, summer camps, and much more.

Of course, for many of us the real proof of success is when we recognize the names of those who benefited from Froebel's ideas. Perhaps at the top of that list is the great American architect and designer, Frank Lloyd Wright. When he was a youngster his mother began his education with a box of Froebel's Gifts and Occupations. In his professional career it almost seems as if he borrowed some of the shapes for his designs.

If you have ever visited the Wright Home and Studio in Oak Park, Illinois you may have noticed some of his childhood possessions on a shelf in a cabinet. Among them is the box of Froebel toys.

Nearby are the well-known wooden toys, Lincoln Logs, and for a very good reason. In 1916-1917, Frank Lloyd Wright

and his son were working in Japan. Wright had been commissioned to build an earthquake-proof hotel which he did by constructing the foundation with massive notched logs that interlocked. His son John watched the construction, and soon after took wooden dowels, about 3/8ths of an inch, notched both ends, and created the first Lincoln Logs. He selected the name because our sixteenth President had grown

up in a log cabin. When he returned to America he began manufacturing new toys from his Red Square Toy Company. Although Wright's company was later sold, the toys remain a popular tradition.

Froebel died in 1852, but his Gifts and Occupations remain in existence. Today, they are being manufactured and marketed by the Grand Rapids, MI company, Uncle Goose.

# VIEWPOINTS

## Change course, allow football Life is Performance Art

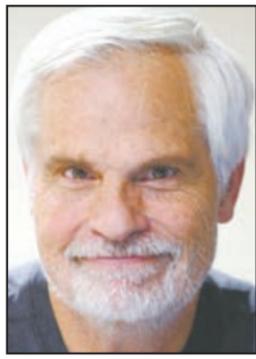
It could be called the tale of two states. In the states where I own newspapers- Alabama and Michigan, high school sports are treated very differently in the age of COVID.

In Alabama, all fall sports including football are in full operational mode. The schools my newspaper covers have already played two football games, four volleyball matches and numerous other sports are in full swing.

In Michigan, only cross country, tennis and outside swimming have been allowed to start. Football, even though teams have been practicing for several weeks, has been grounded. The powers that be- mostly Governor Whitmer and MHSAA, have told aspiring athletes they can't play this year.

We all know the logic behind the decision. It is more important to protect our students from COVID, than it is for football or other sports to proceed, at least according to the decision makers. Science, they say, tells them that the close contact of football, even though players are covered from head to toe with protective gear, is an invitation for COVID to spread.

I humbly disagree and stand with the hundreds of players and parents



**MIKE'S MUSINGS**

**MIKE WILCOX**  
PUBLISHER

who protested the decision on Lansing's State Capitol steps this past Sunday. All fall high school sports, whether it be cross country, where runners travel in close contact on a bus to their meet destination, or football where student-athletes have been working out and practicing for some time without any real COVID spread, ought to be allowed.

If Alabama and other states can play fall sports safely then so can Michigan. COVID lately has hit Alabama residents in greater numbers than Michigan. Although our leaders don't necessarily like to share numbers, I venture to say the

pandemic is very much on the downswing, and has been, in Michigan for several weeks.

I'm wondering if our leaders have taken in to consideration, what the thousands of Michigan high school football players will do if they can't play football. Some of the better players will transfer to Indiana or Ohio. Some will become so distraught that they will turn to drugs and alcohol.

In addition, there are now a whole bunch of private 7-man football teams being started by entrepreneurs looking to cash in and offer athletes an opportunity to play the sport they love. These leagues do not provide the supervision or training that high schools would. I dare say, these teams are far more susceptible to the pandemic, than high school teams.

As a 10 letter athlete in high school I know what sports did for me. It shaped me as an individual. It made me tough mentally and nurtured my "never quit" attitude. More importantly it kept me out of trouble. I was too busy practicing to turn to alcohol, drugs or crime. I think many other athletes can say the same.

Whether we like it or not, COVID is here with us for awhile, if not always. We cannot continue to be told we can't go to church, we can't open up fitness centers, and we can't play high school sports. There are risks in life for us all, and there is no way we can eradicate all those risks. Fortunately for those teens that play high school sports, COVID, with the exception of a few, does not cause grave illness.

Let them play. The socio-economic consequences of not doing so, will be far worse than anything the pandemic can cause. It's time to admit you made a mistake Governor and MHSAA. Reverse your decision and allow fall sports to proceed.

As I wrote sometime ago, it is Tuesday. It is always Tuesday. If I had to take a cognitive awareness test and the doctor asked what day it is, I would say it is Tuesday. It has been Tuesday for about five months now. For a while I was afraid it would always be Tuesday from now until I fall off my perch and someone scrapes me off the bottom of the cage. Now, I am resigned to it.

In part, it is always Tuesday because almost since the beginning of the Great Shut Down our oven has been misbehaving. There is something seriously wrong with the nemesis of the modern age - a computer that probably has more power and capability than the ones that got Voyager I to the edge of the solar system and beyond. Our stove works, but the oven does not, and the computer incessantly beeps and beeps with all the annoyance of a weak battery in a smoke detector in the middle of the night. The circuit breaker is our on-off switch.

Growing up Mother (affectionately known to me alone as Nanook of Norge because of her reliance of TV dinners in the freezer) had a GE stove and four burner top. I think they bought GE because Ronald Reagan touted them on television and they trusted him. It was a simple thing. Plug it in, walk it into the right spot, and turn it on then set the temperature. Nearby on the genuine Formica counter was a sixty minute timer that gave off a loud ping or ding at the end. It didn't have a built-in clock. We had one on the wall if we wanted to know the time. A clock with second, minute, and hour hands that moved around. It was a gift to Dad



**G CORWIN STOPPEL**

from the fellows who sold tulip bulbs. The next year we got genuine wooden shoes.

It was simple, and as for venting it when she created a "well done" dinners (more accurately, burnt offering) that's what doors and winters were for. My parents firmly believed that all meat should be cooked until well done so we wouldn't catch what we thought they said was "toe nail poisoning." They also touted the virtues of fresh air. We aired out the house as needed, even in the midst of a January blizzard in Minnesota.

The standard stove is still being made, but they don't have much market share. We have looked at a number of makes and models, and the spooky thing is that many of them come with wi-fi. I haven't figured that out. I suspect it is so the appliance can talk to a smart phone. Or maybe, when it is cooking if it gets bored it can contact Alexa to entertain it with some music. Then again, maybe the wi-fi gives the safety instructions similar to airplanes before take-off and landing.

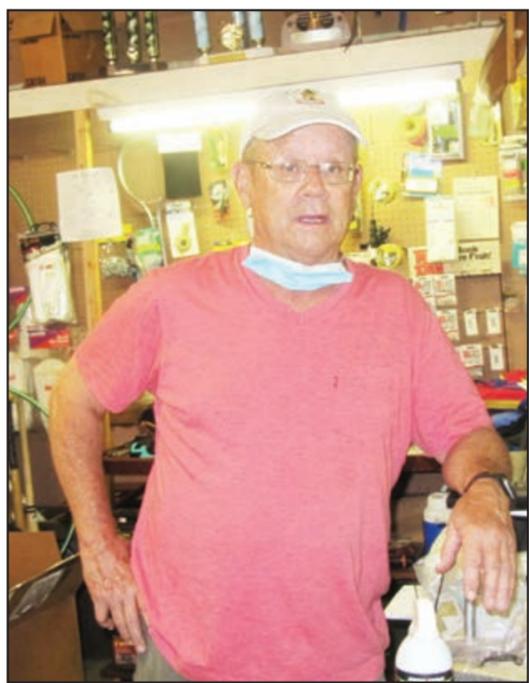
We have a division

of labor in the kitchen. Pat does the cooking and I do a few small jobs that do not require great culinary skill and knowledge; she lets me do the clean up. It works out well for us. Under those circumstances, she is picking out the stove.

The news d'jour is that she found one that looks right. The next step is to go look at it, and then the company tells us that they can deliver it in about another month. That assumes, of course, that there is not a second shut-down because of the virus. We also learned that we have to find someone to install it. More accurately, we have to find a trio of contractors - one to cut a piece of something on the wall so it fits into place, a second one to line up the vent system with the stove, and then an electrician. I'm pretty certain I know how to plug it in, but considering how complex this appliance is, it might be out of my league.

To my way of thinking, the whole world is over-designed, over-engineered, and too complex. A couple of weeks back there was an antique European sports car show on the main drag in Douglas. I wandered through and a few of the owners had opened the hoods of their cars. Pure simplicity - air filter, engine, cooling system, brakes, and transmission. There was empty space. It's much different today.

If we get this stove with the built-in wi-fi I am not ever, ever, ever going to buy a smart car that doesn't require a driver. I have the feeling the stove and the car might have a conversation back and forth and decide to go on a road trip on their own.



Due to technical difficulties we could not download the pictures of Tom Hunter of Western Auto to accompany the story from Faces in the Crowd series.

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4 P.M. Monday

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Music in the park is a blessing

Dear Editor:  
Thank you, Allegan City Council, for allowing the Mahan Gazebo music programs to take place this summer, while all other usual music programs seem to have been

cancelled. Many people have gathered weekly in this great open-air park, including people who live in other areas. We personally have friends from Comstock and Shelbyville who come over every week, and

likely others come from out-of-town. Again, know that many are thankful for your allowing these and other meetings in the park.

Betty Orweller  
Allegan, MI

### White Hot Light

#### The Bookworm Sez

**"White Hot Light: Twenty-Five Years in Emergency Medicine"**

by Frank Huyler

c.2020, Harper Perennial  
\$16.99 // \$21.00 Canada  
272 pages



By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Terri has been reading since she was 3 years old and she never goes anywhere without a book. She lives on a hill in Wisconsin with two dogs and 13,000 books.

MD, or think you might some day. For you, doctors, nurses, or medical support staff, "White Hot Light" is a must-read you'll want to talk about. The Bookworm is Terri Schlichenmeyer.

You don't want to talk about it.

Sensitive topic, that's it. Brings up memories you don't care to examine, things you aren't willing to confront in your mind. No, what's done is done, there's no going back, and you don't want to talk about it. At least not until, as in the new book "White Hot Light" by Frank Huyler, you do...

After more than two decades working in emergency medicine, you might think a doctor has seen it all. Done it all, maybe, but Frank Huyler still seems to be surprised at what the human body can endure or accommodate, and still support life.

He sometimes seems surprised at himself. After that long in the ER, a doctor is seasoned. He makes fewer young-doctor mistakes, but the curiosity he once had still exists. He knows that the new crop of residents and interns are too young to have seen diseases that devastated populations a couple generations ago. He has confidence in his own reflexive actions when the job demands it, but even in the comfortable center of his career, he'll never stop second-guessing or what-iffing.

Could he have saved the beautiful boy with skin marred by a small blue hole on the right side of his belly? The boy's tender age reminded Huyler of his own son, bringing back memories of the night his boy was born. Or what about the son who'd been injured in war, and the father whose name Huyler never learned?

Was there any way to help the immigrant woman who couldn't keep appointments, or the one who came in with cancer so advanced that he could see her bones? Or the thousand people brought back from overdoses - could they be saved? Or the suicidal, or those whose stories are learned from police or EMTs - or those whose stories he'd never learn? There were so many heart attacks he's seen, so many last breaths, so many survivors left to mourn, which is where his experience steps in.

Experience puts a callus on a doctor's pain. But it should never numb his reverence for life.

"White Hot Light" is not a pretty read. Not at all, but it's a beautiful one.

If that sounds like a bit of a riddle to you, here: the stories that author Frank Huyler tells are gnashingly ragged, but the language he uses to tell them is breathtaking, in a soft-grass-and-rolling-hills sort of way. Devastating anecdotes, gorgeous prose.

Don't let that scare you off, though, because this isn't just a book on illness and death. Huyler also extends deep appreciation for colleagues here, and that's tinged with frequent awe. He's well-traveled and grew up overseas, so we peek through a window at places and practices we'll likely never know. We see frailty that's strangely comforting.

Indeed, this is a hard read, but you'll be spellbound - especially if you've ever consulted an

AUTHOR OF THE BLOOD OF STRANGERS

**FRANK HUYLER**

**White Hot Light**

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

# FOR THE RECORD

## PEEK AT THE PAST

From the pages of *The Allegan News* and *The Allegan County News and Gazette*:

Aug. 31, 1945

**Plans sets for fair Sept. 10 to 16:** Nine feature attractions on the grounds and before the grandstand are among the treats in store for visitors to the 94th annual showing of the Allegan County Fair opening at Riverview Park in Allegan Monday, September 10, and closing Sunday, September 16.

Among the acts that will appear before the grandstand will be Miss Malikova, the only girl to work alone on a highwire act without a net or any other safety device. Other acts are: Alexander and Dornan, internationally famous dance team, with Ernie Young's revue; the two Carltons, father and son acrobatic sensation; Monahan and Morris, a double xylophone with an unusual routine; Pape and Conchita, a perchpole act from neighboring Mexico, one of the outstanding high perchpole acts in the show world; and Tarzan, a trained monkey act from the circus and show world.

An added attraction for the grandstand crowds will be the war dogs from Fort Custer, showing before the grandstand Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons. Also on display will be the General tank on display all week with other ordnance exhibits brought to the fair through the Detroit ordnance district and Blood Brothers Machine Co. of Allegan.

**Labor Day air meet planned:** The Allegan Junior Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Labor Day Air Meet Monday, September 3, at Padgham Field in Allegan in cooperation with the Northern Air Service, it was announced late this week.

Invitations have been sent by the Air Service manager here to flying clubs all over Michigan to participate in the Air Meet, which will be the largest of its kind ever brought to Allegan, officials said.

Many planes of all types with expert flying person-

nel from the Northern Air Service will take up passengers throughout the afternoon and a spot landing contest for local flyers will also be conducted.

Aug. 27, 1970

**Area resident finds marijuana growing in yard, sheriff reports:** Sheriff's Department personnel continue to be busy. Last week 200 calls were answered by sheriff's officers, 10 of which were accidents injuring 13 persons. Some of the calls answered by the sheriff's department were a stabbing just east of Fennville.

A concerned citizen called sheriff's officers after he found what appeared to be marijuana growing in his yard. The substance was field tested by sheriff's officers and a positive test was obtained. The weed was cut by Sheriff's officers and brought to the Allegan County Jail for disposal. Sheriff Whitcomb said it is this kind of concern that will help overcome our drug and marijuana problem here in Allegan County.

**John Kyes announces county to have new CMHS director Sept. 1:** Effective Sept. 1, Marlot W. Williams, Ph.D., psychologist and administrative director of Allegan County Community Health Services, will assume responsibility for supervision of all Allegan County Aftercare cases, CMHS Board Chairman John Kyes announced here Monday.

Dr. Williams will take over Aftercare, a program of following assistance to former state hospital patients, from James McDowell, who has supervised the program since 1964.

Aug. 24, 1995

**Menasha builds its new power plant for the 21st century:** Menasha's progress can be seen from D Avenue.

According to the Power Recovery Manager All Coleman, the plant's new smokestack can be seen from the D Avenue exit as drivers on US-131 approach the Plainwell-Otsego exits.

For Menasha workers and Otsego city officials, the 175-foot stack is the most obvious example of a \$28 million revamping of the way the company's paperboard plant uses energy—and of a commitment to being competitive.

The stack can't even be properly referred to as a smokestack because very little smoke will emanate from it—another example of Menasha's changing ways.

**Two Gun Plain Township girls prepare lambs for fair showing:** They aren't that little and their fleece isn't as white as snow.

But Brandy and Rebecca McCord lover their lambs anyway.

They've taken care of them since infancy and are excited about the chance to show them at the Allegan County Fair, which runs Sept. 9 through 14.

Brandy, 10, and Rebecca, who will turn 9 Sept. 1, are both 4-H members.

Their lambs, George, Jessica, Nellie and Doc, were born in March and April. They are market lambs, meaning they are raised for meat and not for their fleece.

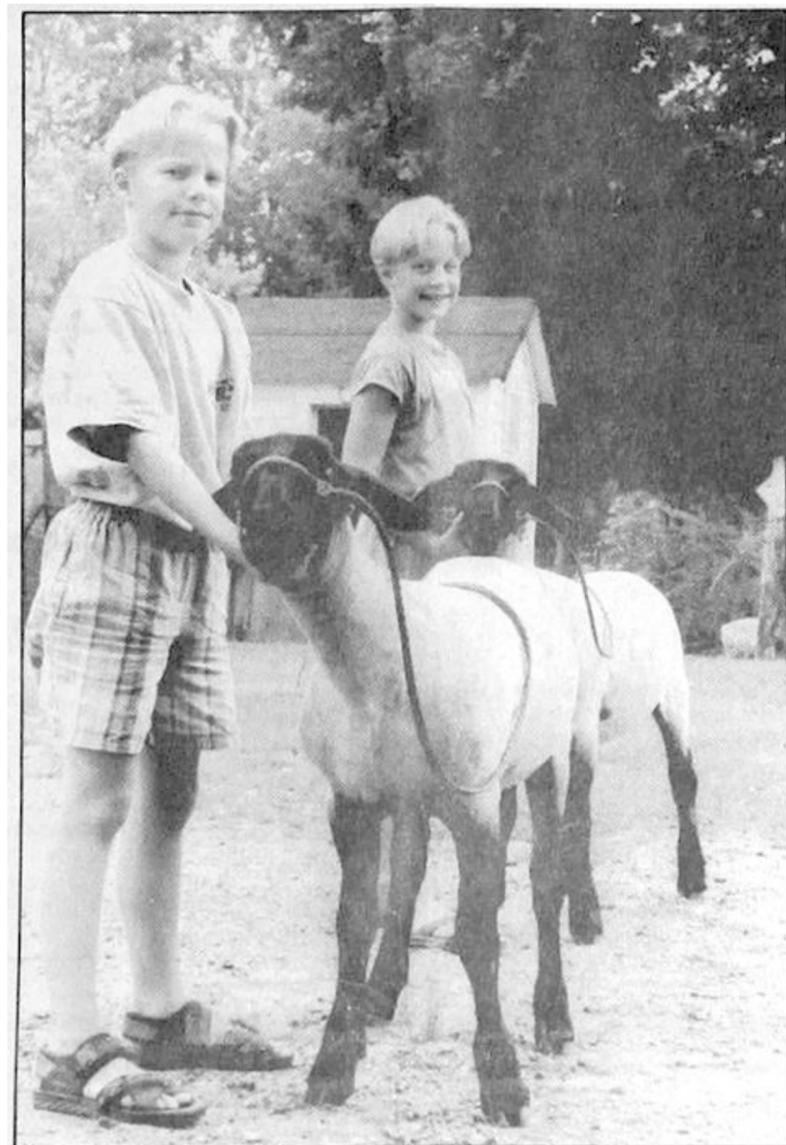
Like any animals, the lambs require lots of special care.

Brandy and Rebecca had to walk them four miles every day to keep them from gaining too much weight and to tame them.

Aug. 27, 2015

**New complex is third milestone for Gun Lake Tribe:** "A dream come true ..." might sound like a bit on an exaggeration for dedicating a set of governmental buildings.

However, tribal elder John Bush said just that at the Gun Lake Tribe's opening of its governmen-



Sisters Brandy and Rebecca McCord show off two of the lambs that raised and showed at the Allegan County Fair.

tal complex Tuesday, Aug. 25.

"It's a proud day for us to be here and have this accomplishment," Bush said. "It's a dream come true for some of our elders who've looked for this for a long

time. Some of them aren't here to see it."

Following an entry and presentation of flags by the tribe's Ogitch-E-Daa veterans group, Bush offered a prayer his grandfather taught him, first in the

language spoken by the ancestors of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish band of Pottawatomini Indians and then in English.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

## MARRIAGES

The following people applied for a marriage license between August 19 and August 25:

Shane Henry Milburn, Logansport, IN, and Bridgett Nicole Williams, Peru, IN

Marc David Albanese, Saint Augustine, FL, and Suzanne Dekorte Walters, Holland

Tina Marie Fields, Hamilton, and Randy Scott Huff, Hamilton

Colten Edward Black, Wayland, and Arienne Mharie Norman, Wayland

Erin Marie Meiste, Hamilton, and Zachary Joseph Vandevusse, Hamilton

Justin Charles Horton, Martin, and Tesa Jean Dalrymple, Martin

Bryan Edumundo Reyes-Gonzalez, Plainwell, and Kaleena Lyn Kowalkowski, Plainwell

Richard Kenneth Rolfe, Dorr, and Roberta Gabier, Kalamazoo

Mary Jo Shelest, Dorr, and Gary Lee May Jr, Dorr

Clayton Allen Frank, Hopkins, and Courtney Michelle Dusseau, Dorr

Rodney Lee Mills, Fairfield, OH,

and Tina Marie Ragland, Fairfield, OH

Martin Brian Marr, South Haven, and Lisa Ann Jobin-Sink, South Haven

Charles Edwin Zolper, Fennville, and Darilyn Winifred Bock, Fennville

Ryan James Wobma, Wayland, and Erica Lynn Elzinga, Grand Rapids

Michael Sheldon Smith, Otsego, and Julie Kay Hermenitt, Otsego

Denise Faye Holden, Wayland, and Michael Phillip Little, Kalamazoo

Ronald Jacob Edward Hoag, Holland, and Diane Marie Santarita Ojendras, Holland

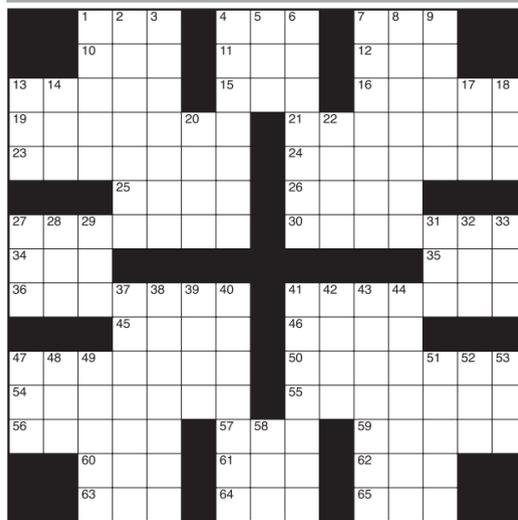
Anthony Joseph Voirin, Crystal Lake, IL, and Sheila Sue Senn, Village Of Lakewood, IL

Jessica Nicole Smith, South Haven, and Brian Micheal Gene Forrest, Pullman

Christine Lynn Edwards, South Haven, and Joseph William Thiel, South Haven

Brittany Margaret Host, Wyoming, and Aaron Matthew Haworth, Holland

## CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

- Chop with an ax
- Where a bachelor lives
- Indicates near
- Doctors' group
- It's just a number
- Type of bread
- Lively ballroom dance
- Charles S. Dutton TV series
- A way to use up
- Singular event
- Home of Disney World
- Minerals
- Most insightful
- Consult
- In addition
- Agents of downfall
- Organizations
- Supervises flying
- Bar bill

### CLUES DOWN

- Czech monetary unit
- Arousing intense feeling
- Elks
- Muscular weaknesses
- Before the present
- Figures out
- Infinite
- A low wall
- Silly
- Political organization
- Used of a number or amount not specified
- Divisions of the psyche
- Denial
- Ancient Iranian person
- Count on
- Popular sports league
- Water (French)
- Partner to cheese
- Alfalfa
- Dish soap
- Witnesses
- Ancient Greek City
- Newspaper bigwigs
- Discuss again
- Small group with shared interests
- Support
- Popular sportcoat fabric
- Take hold of
- Pre-Mayan civilization
- Woman (French)
- Wheeled vehicle
- Georgia rockers
- Cold War player (abbr.)
- Pitching stat
- Attempt

## DEATHS

August 12, 2020  
Wendy Lyn Gunn, 53, Caledonia Twp.

August 14, 2020  
Jack Lavern Buist, 84, Leighton Twp.

August 15, 2020  
Connie Lynn Meyer, 68, Laketown Twp.

Bennie Gates, 72, Salem Twp.

August 16, 2020  
Barbara Mae Kapenga, 97, Wayland

August 17, 2020  
Wallace Oetman, 93, Berrien Springs

Donald Lloyd Nottingham, 77, Prarieville

August 18, 2020  
Diane Edwardine Tobolt, 76, Casco Twp.

August 19, 2020  
Dolores Marie Truax, 84, Salem Twp.

August 21, 2020  
Sonya Kay Keene, 41, Otsego

## CIRCUIT COURT

Judge Margaret Zuzich Bakker handed down the following decisions on Aug. 17:

**Edward George Allen, 60,** of Saugatuck, was sentenced to a minimum of 3 years in prison to a maximum of 10 years in prison with no days credit for breaking and entering with intent to commit a felony or larceny, a minimum of 3 years in prison to a maximum of 6 years in prison with no days credit for larceny of a building and habitual offender - second offense notice. Allen was ordered to pay \$266 in court costs and fees.

**Thomas Ray Fletcher, 60,** of Kalamazoo, was sentenced to 10 months in jail with 58 days credit for operating under the influence of liquor, operating - while intoxicated/impaired/with the presence of a controlled substance - third offense notice and probation violation. Fletcher was ordered to pay \$498 in court costs and fees. Probation continued.

**Juan Carlos Martinez-Nunez, 51,** of Wyoming, was sentenced to 30 days in jail with 25 days credit for operating under the influence of liquor and operating - while intoxicated/impaired/with the presence of a controlled substance - 2nd offense notice. Martinez-Nunez was ordered to pay \$425 in court costs and fees. As part of 12 months probation, Martinez-Nunez must complete all treatment programs as directed by probation agent and pay \$30 per month supervision fee.

**Kenneth Wayne Parker II, 25,** of Pullman, was sentenced to 2 days in jail with 2 days credit for child sexually abusive activity- distributing or promoting and 2 days in jail with 2 days credit for computers - using to commit a crime. Parker was ordered to pay \$566 in court costs and fees. As part of 60 months probation, Parker

must complete all treatment programs as directed by probation agent and pay \$30 per month supervision fees.

**Marc Dakota Wiggins, 17,** of Plainwell, was sentenced to a minimum of 16 months, 21 days in prison to a maximum of 60 months in prison with 270 days credit for breaking and entering with intent to commit a felony or larceny. Wiggins was ordered to pay \$498 in court costs and fees.

Judge Roberts A. Kengis handed down the following decisions on Aug. 17:

**Susan Jaye Ellis, 51,** of Allegan, was sentence to 1 day in jail with 1 day credit for domestic violence and domestic violence - second offense notice. Ellis was ordered to pay \$425 in court costs and fees. As part of 18 months probation, Ellis must perform 50 hours community service, attend parenting classes as directed by Child Protective Services, complete mental health domestic violence/batterer intervention or other treatment as directed and pay \$30 per month probation supervision fees.

**Ashlee Kay Kuieck, 25,** of Allegan, was sentenced to 11 months in jail with 42 days credit for knowingly or intentionally possessing controlled substance methamphetamine and probation violation. Kuieck was ordered to pay \$598 in court costs and fees. Probation revoked.

**Julie Patrice-Brancal McCarthy, 54,** of Gobles, was sentenced to 90 days in jail with 3 days credit for weapons - firearms - discharge in or at a building attempt. McCarthy was ordered to pay \$198 in court costs and fees.

In a separate case, McCarthy was sentenced to 6 months in jail with 1 day credit for third degree

arson. McCarthy was ordered to pay \$154,714.51 in court costs and fees including \$154,316.51 in restitution. As part of 60 months probation, McCarthy must complete mental health and domestic violence/batterer intervention treatment and pay \$30 per month supervision fees.

**Jacob Paul Oisten, 26,** of Allegan, was sentenced to 30 days in jail with 3 days credit for weapons - carrying concealed. Oisten was ordered to pay \$498 in court costs and fees. As part of 24 months probation, Oisten must perform 40 hours community service, complete the cognitive behavioral therapy program, comply with any testing and treatment as directed, follow curfew from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. and pay \$30 per month probation supervision fees.

**Ashley Jody-Aline Vermilyer, 36,** of Kalamazoo, was sentenced to 5 months in jail with 10 days credit for knowingly or intentionally possessing controlled substance methamphetamine. Vermilyer was ordered to pay \$498 in court costs and fees. As part of 24 months probation, Vermilyer must perform 40 hours community service, complete the cognitive behavioral therapy program, participate in assessments and treatment as directed, adhere to curfew of 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. and pay \$30 per month probation supervision fees. Jail time suspended unless Vermilyer violates probation.

Unless otherwise noted, the fines set forth above include \$130 for the crime victims rights fund and \$68 state fee per file.

Sentences are concurrent unless noted.

Listings compiled by correspondent Jim Hayden.

# RELIGION SECTION



Surprisingly, Jesus said almost six times more about wealth and our material possessions than He did about anything else. Obviously, that means He believes it is an important factor in our spiritual life. We sometimes quote, and far more often, misquote St Paul's statement about money - that the love of money is the root of all evil. It isn't the money itself because money is an inanimate object that has no feeling, soul, or even voice. Rather, it is the inordinate love of money that creates challenges for us because it can get in the way and even block our relationship with Jesus.

One of my favorite short stories is Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. In the story we are introduced to Ebenezer Scrooge who is a hard driven miser who lives only for the opportunity to hoard ever more wealth. His nephew Fred challenges him, demanding to know what good all of his money is doing him. He never spends it on others, never helps those in need, he won't even spend money on

his own needs, much less his personal pleasure.

It takes the visit from the three ghosts of Christmas

(past, present, and future) to catch Scrooge's attention, and in many ways it is a conversion

experience. Scrooge amends his life - turns it around, and shares what he has with others. Not only

does he share his possessions with others, he begins sharing himself with them.

Many of Christ's followers see as a tool that can be used to benefit the rest of humanity. The pursuit of money is sheer vanity and egotism; the pursuit of the goodness that our possessions can bring others fulfills the message and teachings of Jesus.

It has long been a tradition in many American churches to begin their stewardship campaign in the autumn. Members are asked to look at their own financial situation, the financial needs of their church, and do what they can to be supportive. Even if your church is not doing that program right now, now is the right time to carefully audit your relationship to your possessions in light of your relationship with Jesus.

*G Corwin Stoppel  
Episcopal Church of the  
Good Shepherd, Allegan.*



## Directory of Area Churches

**Allegan Assembly of God**  
424 DeLano St, Allegan  
Rev. Paul Hays  
Church: 673-6577

**Allegan Bible Church**  
412 S. Sherman, Allegan  
Pastor Jon Gruss  
Church: 673-6831

**Allegan Christian Center**  
700 Ely St., Allegan  
Paul Knuckles, Pastor  
Church: 673-2921

**Allegan County Jail**  
Chaplain Sarah Farkas  
Phone: 673-0350

**Allegan United Methodist Church**  
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan  
Pastor Bob Lynch  
Church: 673-4236;

**At the Master's Feet**  
814 21st St., Otsego  
269-694-6897  
Paster Ray Brown

**Blessed Sacrament Church**  
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan  
Fr. Simon Manjooran  
Church: 673-4455

**Bravo Community Church**  
5587 113th Ave., Fennville  
Pastor Mark Douglas  
616-886-1214

**Burnips United Methodist**  
4241 30th, Burnips  
Craig VanBeek, Pastor  
616-896-8410

**Chicora Country Chapel**  
4399 108th Ave., Allegan  
Pastor Herb Curry  
Phone: 521-7657

**Christ Community Church**  
3370 113th Ave., Allegan  
www.alleganccc.org ·  
(269) 673-2329  
Pastor Wally Coots

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
687 Linn Street, Allegan  
Church: 673-9617

**Church of God - Otsego**  
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego  
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.  
269-694-9481  
www.otsegocog.com

**Corner Bible Church**  
4001 124th Allegan  
673-5995  
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

**Dunningville Reformed Church**  
2559 M-40, Allegan  
Church: 751-5894

**East Martin Christian Reformed Church**  
510-118th Ave., Martin  
269-672-5746  
www.eastmartincrc.org

**Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd**  
101 North Walnut St, Allegan  
Office: 673-2254

**Faith Baptist Church**  
2846 125th Ave., Allegan  
John Looman, Pastor  
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

**Fennville Assembly of God**  
5897 124th Ave.  
Fennville, MI 49408  
P.O. Box 571  
269-561-2683  
mobile: 269-686-6831

**Fennville United Methodist Church**  
5849 124th St., Fennville  
269-561-5048  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Douglas Tipken, Pastor  
www.fennvilleumc.org

**First Presbyterian Church**  
200 Cutler Street, Allegan  
Church: 673-4631  
www.fpcallegan.org  
Rev. Kathlyn Nealand

**First Baptist Church**  
1290 32nd St., Allegan  
Service at 10:00am  
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley  
www.fbcalleagan.com

**First Church of God**  
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan  
673-4302 www.pathtohim.org  
Pastor, Tim Secord

**First Congregational Church**  
323 Cutler Street, Allegan  
Church Office: 673-3139  
Pastor Cory Klein

**First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell**  
303 East Bridge St.  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
Pastor Ruth Lowry 685-5990

**Friendship Bible Church**  
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI  
Pastor Len Schildroth  
Office 793-7929

**Grace Temple**  
430 Robinson Avenue, Allegan  
Rev. Harriette Portrum  
Church: 673-4927

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
290 12th St., Plainwell  
Pastor Kari Past ·  
(269) 685-1348

**Hopkins Community Reformed Church**  
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins  
(269) 793-7361  
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

**Hopkins United Methodist Church**  
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins  
(269) 793-7323  
Pastor Andrew Phillips

**Horseshoe Community Bible Church**  
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction  
269-521-4580 ·  
Pastor Don Miller

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
631 Grand Street, Allegan  
Church: 673-3335  
Pastor Dan Ward

**Immanuel Reformed Church**  
500 E. Main St., Fennville  
(616) 335-6230  
Pastor Ralph Houston

**InTents Life Ministry**  
245 Court St., Otsego, MI  
Service: Sunday 10:00am  
Leigh Larson - 269-290-4363  
www.intentslifeministry.com

**Johnson Temple Church of God in Christ**  
3299 Academy Street, Allegan  
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.  
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

**Journey Family Church**  
313 Depot St., Gobles  
628-2288  
Rev. Gary Napp

**Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness**  
2199 Taft Road, Allegan  
Phone: 673-6179

**Living Waters Community Church**  
5458 M-89, Fennville  
Service: 10:30 Sundays  
Pastor Andrew Leach  
269-561-5277

**M-40 North Church of God**  
1900 M-40, Allegan  
Pastor Nathan Strom  
Church: 673-4412

**Martin Reformed Church**  
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin  
Pastor Mark Heijerman ·  
672-5596

**Martin United Methodist Church**  
969 E. Allegan St., Martin  
Rev. Corey Simon  
269-672-7097  
www.martinumc.org

**Merson Church**  
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI  
Pastor Alan Carson  
Office: 673-5274  
www.mersonchurch.org

**Montage Ministries**  
"A Community in Worship"  
Griswold Auditorium  
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

**Monterey Center United Methodist Church**  
3022 130th Ave.  
Monterey Center, 49328  
Craig VanBeek, Pastor  
793-7288

**Mt. Calvary M.B. Church**  
5425 105th Ave., Pullman  
Pastor Everett Belue  
269-382-3405

**New Hope Baptist Church**  
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)  
Pastor Tadd Butler  
673-1938

**Northbridge Church**  
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo  
269-385-4378 ·  
www.northbridge.cc

**Open Door Worship Center**  
2449 · 54th St., Fennville  
Pastor Dale Scholten  
(269) 561-5711

**Passion Hill Church**  
206 Russell St., Allegan  
Pastors Daniel & April Holly  
269-512-2763

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego  
www.peaceotsego.com  
694-6104

**Pearl United Methodist Church**  
1689 56th St., Fennville  
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am  
Douglas Tipken, Pastor  
www.fennvilleumc.org

**Plainwell First Baptist Church**  
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell  
(269) 685-8888  
Pastor George Osborn

**Plainwell First United Methodist Church**  
200 Park St. Plainwell  
269-685-5113  
www.fumcplainwell.com

**Rectify Church**  
247 N. Main St., Allegan  
616-218-1556  
Pastor Sarah Lindstrom

**Refreshing Springs Ministries**  
201 Briggs St., Allegan  
616-510-7416  
Pastor Adrian Hall

**Restoration Christian Community**  
The MAC · 728 River St.  
269-567-8330  
Pastor Austin Kreutz

**River of Life Church**  
605 W. Allegan, Otsego  
269-672-9904  
www.alleganchurch.com

**Riverside Chapel**  
4242 Blue Star Hwy., Holland  
269-561-2686  
Pastor Rick Jones

**Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
229 Cutler Street, Allegan  
Alex Rybachek, Pastor  
Church: 673-3284

**Shelbyville United Methodist Church**  
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville  
672-7097 · Church office  
Rev. Corey Simon

**South Monterey United Methodist Church**  
Rev. Joel Fitzgerald  
Church: 793-7323

**St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church**  
11850 9 Mile Rd.  
Shelbyville, MI 49344  
269-664-4345  
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
1764 34th St., Allegan  
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079  
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

**St. Margaret's Catholic Church**  
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego  
269-694-3111

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
309 Union Street,  
Plainwell, MI 49080

**The Bridge**  
269-509-6458  
247 W. Main St, Allegan  
Sundays 10:30am  
www.thebridgeinallegan.com

**The Path of Allegan**  
Griswold Auditorium  
401 Hubbard St., Allegan  
(269) 650-3933 Todd Vieniing  
Sunday Worship 10am  
www.thepathofallegan.org

**Trowbridge Community Church**  
355 26th Street, Otsego  
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor  
Church: 673-5502

**The River Flows with Hope and Healing**  
1652 M-40 North, Allegan  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Watson Bible Church**  
1626 116th St., Otsego  
Pastor Tim Farley 672-2166

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269-673-3080

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892 34th St., Allegan  
269-673-2309  
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tedsab1@gmail.com

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8337 M-140 Hwy., South Haven, MI  
(269) 637-6135  
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# Boys' Cross Country Preview:

BY JASON WESSELDYK  
SPORTS EDITOR

## ALLEGAN

Entering the season with five straight Wolverine Conference championship, Otsego appears to be the team to beat in the league again this season.

If there is a team that has a chance to hang with the Bulldogs, it just might be Allegan.

The Tigers return three runners who finished in the top 10 at the Wolverine Conference Championship last season as part of a group of 18 runners.

That bodes well for Allegan coach Paula Chalupa.

"I'm very excited to have such a strong returning team this year," Chalupa said. "It's a good group."

The senior duo of Connor Harlan and Blane Johnson have led Allegan the past couple of years, with Harlan finishing third at the league meet (16:26) and Johnson placing sixth (16:34). Classmate Mason Kleeves joined them in the top 10 at 10th with a time of 17:12.

"Connor and Blane have been a great one-two punch for us," Chalupa said. "I'm excited for their senior year. They are feeling the excitement of their last year and heading into their college years."

Not surprisingly, Harlan and Johnson are co-captains this season.

"They have been putting in the miles and are well prepared," Chalupa said. "They have been leaders on the team for years."

"Blane is more of a take-charge leader and very supportive of the younger class man, while Connor is more of a quiet leader and leads through example."

In addition to Harlan, Johnson and Kleeves, the returning letter winners are juniors Spencer Koch, Logan Vernia and Joe Allegan along with sophomore Culver Neldon.

Also returning are seniors Seth Badillo and Ben Burgoyne as well as sophomores Mason Duff, Aidyn Underwood and Sawyer Childs.

Senior Lucas Reitman and sophomore Tristan Barnett join a quartet of freshmen—Brodie Morton, Nicholas Cabrera, Campbell Brooks and Brycen Heckman—as newcomers.

## FENNVILLE

The last several years, one of the biggest challenges for Fennville coach Alex Best has been finding enough athletes for his team.

This year, he has done just that. "We have a full varsity team here at Fennville for the first time in many years," Best said. "It's a great group of kids who are eager to run at the varsity level."

A pair of returning letter winners lead the charge for the Blackhawks. JJ VanderKuyl is back for his junior season, while Nathan Griffin returns for his sophomore campaign.

Among the freshmen who hope to make their mark this season is Mason Gardea.

It's a team of which Best likes the looks.

"I think one of our main strengths this year will be our balance," he

said. "We have equal amounts of experienced upperclassmen as we do freshmen."

And if the younger runners are able to make steady progress and the team is able to stay healthy throughout the season, then Fennville could enjoy a successful campaign.

"I think we will surprise some people in the SAC," Best said. "We haven't been competitive in many years and we will certainly compete this year."

"We're looking forward to an exciting season, that's for sure. It's a great place to be."

## HAMILTON

When asked what he viewed as the strength of his team this season, Hamilton coach Travis Pertner was ready with an answer.

"We are young," he said. "We have all freshman and sophomores."

He was then asked what he viewed as an area of concern heading into the season.

"We are young," he said. "We have all freshman and sophomores."

In other words, Pertner is excited about the potential of his youthful team, while also recognizing the fact that having such a young squad will come with a unique set of challenges and that he must remain patient.

The sophomore duo of Nate Freyhof and Max VanHuis are the two returning letter winners for the Hawkeyes who will be asked to take on leadership roles.

Last season, Freyhof ran a personal best of 17:33 at the Otsego Bulldog Invitational to place 48th. The next week, he ran a 17:49 at the Allegan Invitational to place runner-up.

VanHuis was one spot behind Freyhof at the Allegan Invite, as he turned in a personal best of 17:57.

Newcomers include sophomore Josiah Banks along with freshmen Evan Kraker, Josh Langeland and Liam Pothoff.

"We are looking to build a stronger program with more state meet qualifiers this year and next," said Pertner, who is entering his eighth season as coach. "There is a lot of young talent in our program, which will help us meet that expectation."

After finishing fifth in the OK Blue last season with a record of 2-4, the Hawkeyes are making the move to the new OK Blue Conference following league realignment. It's a league that will present plenty of challenges.

"The newly formed OK Blue will be a solid cross-country league," Pertner said. "Allendale, Holland Christian and Spring Lake will be competitive."

## HOPKINS

Throughout his high school career, Todd Henley was one of the top runners for Hopkins.

In addition to finishing in the top 10 at the OK Silver Conference Championship all four years of his high school career—including a sixth-place showing of 17:16 last season—Henley qualified for the state finals the past three years.

But with Henley now graduated and off to continue his running ca-

play from its upper flights in both singles and doubles, Allegan came away with the 5-3 victory.

The win brought Allegan's record to 2-0-1.

"We were glad to get a win over a team that will be in our regionals," Allegan co-coach Seth Arthur said. "I think this was the first match this season that we played with a little pressure, which is good."

Allegan got its singles wins at No. 1 as Tyler Aldrich defeated Wil Good-

paster (6-2, 6-1) and No. 2 as Eli Festerling upended Collin VanderHulst (6-2, 6-3).

In doubles, the Tigers won the first three flights: No. 1 Korbin Sisson and Jack Nahikian beat Mason Blauwkamp and Brandt Goodpaster 7-6 (10), 6-1; No. 2 Chase Williams and Vance Muenzer beat Justin Essink and Jackson Miller 6-3, 6-4; and No. 3 Conrad Eichbauer and Drew Ellis beat Marinus Reister and Trent Lampen 6-2, 6-3.

"We performed well in our top positions, although we started shaky," Arthur said. "Our upperclassman in our top positions stepped up and got important wins."

Hamilton's flight wins came from Colin Costello at No. 3 singles (6-2, 6-1 over Cole Muenzer), Kyle Theodore at No. 4 singles (7-5, 6-0 over Jurien Carter) and Gavin Lezman and Jason Tanis at No. 4 doubles (6-3, 3-6, 6-3 over Jackson Morrie and Mason Stahl).

"I think some of our younger players still are getting accustomed to our



Allegan's Connor Harlan (right) and Saugatuck's Nik Pettinga are among the top returning runners in the county. (File photo)

reer at Northwood University, the Vikings are in need of someone else to step up and lead the charge.

That person very well could be junior Adam Ball.

As a sophomore last year, Ball earned All-Conference honors by placing 18th at the league meet and posted a personal-best time at the regional meet at Portage Central.

Fellow junior Zach Visser was also among the scoring runners for the Vikings at the conference championship meet, as was sophomore Dean Heiden.

That trio comprises the group of returning letter winners who are on the roster for coach Brooke Brenner. "Although we have a young team, I think we will have a couple of All-Conference athletes this year," Brenner said.

Newcomers include the junior tandem of Trevor Shealy and Caleb Beilby.

When it comes to the OK Silver, Brenner knows that realignment that goes into effect this year only made the league that much more competitive.

"Our league will be tough this year adding on Sparta and Comstock Park in addition to both Calvin Christian and Belding being strong," she said.

## MARTIN

Two spots.

That's all that separated Carsen Young from earning All-State honors as a junior last season.

As it was, Young settled for a 32nd-place showing at the Division 4 state final at Michigan International Speedway, posting a time of 17:26.

It was the third straight year Young, who set a personal-best time of 17:14 at the regional meet in Allendale last season, had qualified for the finals.

"Carsen ran great at the finals last year," Martin coach John Visser said. "He's had a great career for

us."

And that career isn't over yet, as Young enters this season with a goal of making it a perfect four-for-four when it comes to running at the finals.

"Carsen is looking to be a four-year state qualifier, which would be quite an accomplishment," Visser said.

With Young leading the way, Martin placed fifth at the Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship meet. Young placed fifth with a 17:29.

The Clippers hope for even better this season.

"We're looking toward improving our final placement in the league from last year," Visser said. Visser knows, though, that the league competition will be stiff as usual.

"Our league will look different that our conference meets will be quads," Visser said. "Saugatuck will again be the team to beat."

In addition to Young, fellow seniors Kyle Pallett and Travis Marsman return for the Clippers. Junior Eli Dykstra is also back, as is sophomore Jason Blackburn.

Freshman Malakai Vanvolkinburg is the team's newcomer.

## OTSEGO

Otsego has had some memorable seasons in the past.

None, though, were any more memorable than the 2019 campaign.

Not only did the Bulldogs go unbeaten in the Wolverine Conference to claim their fifth title in a row—and the eighth championship in coach Steve Long's 20-year tenure—but they also won a regional title and finished runner-up in the Division 2 state finals to match the best finish ever in the finals.

Memorable, indeed.

And what do Long and his runners plan for an encore this season? More of the same, of course.

■ see Boys' cross country, Page A10

# Allegan posts victory over county rival Hamilton

BY JASON WESSELDYK  
SPORTS EDITOR

HAMILTON—When boys' tennis enters regional competition in early October, Allegan and Hamilton are among the teams that will compete in the Division 3 regional hosted by Holland.

Those two teams got a sneak peak at each other with a non-conference match in Hamilton on Thursday, Aug. 27.

And thanks to some solid

play from its upper flights in both singles and doubles, Allegan came away with the 5-3 victory.

The win brought Allegan's record to 2-0-1.

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"I think some of our younger players still are getting accustomed to our



Hamilton's Colin Costello picked up a win over Allegan at No. 3 singles. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

expectations on the court," Arthur said. "We need to do a better job at being competitors. So, we'll keep working on that."

"I'm still not satisfied with the effort and intensity at times. But overall, it was a good team win."

## Allegan shuts out Vicksburg

Five days after its win over Hamilton, Allegan hosted Vicksburg for the opening match of Wolverine Conference play.

It turned out to be more of a mismatch, however, as the Tigers swept every flight for the 8-0 victory.

Aldrich was the lone Allegan player to not lose a game, winning 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 singles. Carter at No. 4 singles and the team of Vance Muenzer and Williams at No. 2 doubles won 6-1, 6-0.

Other wins for the Tigers were:

Singles: No. 2 Festerling won 6-2, 6-1 and No. 3 Cole Muenzer won 7-5, 6-2.

Doubles: No. 1 Nahikian and Sisson won 6-1, 6-1; No. 3 Eichbauer and Ellis won 6-4, 6-3; and No. 4 Morrie and Stahl won 6-2, 6-0.

Will Johnson 6-1, 6-4.

In their match with Holland Christian, Rapa and DeSmit fell 6-3, 6-1 to Isaac Snyder and Gavin VandenTop.

Other results for Otsego were:

Singles: No. 1 Mac Kruienza lost to Holland Christian's Jaden Bender 6-0, 6-0 and lost to Grand Haven's Isaac Burdosta 6-1, 6-0; No. 2 Daelan Post lost to Holland Christian's Austin Becksvoort 6-0, 6-1 and lost to Grand Haven's Tyler DeGram 6-1, 6-1; No. 3 JJ Kruienza lost to Holland Christian's Tucker Heneghan 6-0, 6-0 and lost to Grand Haven's Grant Taylor 6-0, 6-1; No. 4 Jack Chapman lost to Holland Christian's

Jackson Engbers 6-0, 6-1 and lost to Grand Haven's Brayden Rowley 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles: No. 3 Aiden Hopkins and Dylan Chandler lost to Holland Christian's James Strabbing and Leif Bauman 6-0, 6-0 and lost to Grand Haven's Frank Roberts and Robert Greene 6-2, 6-1; No. 4 Gabe Second and Kyle Gaines lost to Holland Christian's Mitchell Boerman and Simon Langejans 6-3, 6-2 and lost to Grand Haven's Zack Lans and Payden Pittman 6-3, 6-4.

Other scoring runners for Saugatuck were Jillian Johnson (sixth at 21:50), Hannah Smit (11th at 22:49), Becky Pond (12th at 23:01) and Sydney Stickel (14th at 23:33).

"I thought Tristan also had a solid race," Bauer said. "He was close to his (personal record) and we expect that he will be under 17 before too long."

Luke Gorgas rounded out the scoring runners for Saugatuck, placing 10th at 19:02.

On the girls' side, freshman Maya Veldt turned in a time of 21:09 to lead the way for Saugatuck with a third-place finish.

Other scoring runners for Saugatuck were Jillian Johnson (sixth at 21:50), Hannah Smit (11th at 22:49), Becky Pond (12th at 23:01) and Sydney Stickel (14th at 23:33).

# Saugatuck boys' cross country claims win

BY JASON WESSELDYK  
SPORTS EDITOR

WYOMING—The conditions were hot and humid when the members of the Saugatuck boys' cross country team toed the line to run against Calvin Christian at Gezon Park on Wednesday, Aug. 29.

That didn't seem to bother the Indians all that much.

A trio of Saugatuck runners finished in less than 17 minutes to lead their team to the 25-30 victory in its first competition of the season.

The Saugatuck girls fell to Calvin Christian by a score of 19-42.

Max Sharnas and Nik Pettinga led the charge for Saugatuck, posting respective times of 16:13 and 16:17.

That was good enough for Sharnas to take the runner-up spot and for Pettinga to take third behind Calvin Christian's Luke Witvliet, who posted a time of 15:59.

And while pleased with the performances he received from Sharnas and Pettinga, it was the showing of Adam Martinson that really stood out for Saugatuck coach Rick Bauer.

Turning in a personal-best effort, Martinson broke 17 minutes for the first time with a 16:49 that put him in fourth place.

"I was really happy for Adam," Bauer said. "He has been working really hard at this for the past two years. He did an exceptional job of training during the pandemic and over the summer. I knew he was ready to make a breakthrough and that's exactly what he did."

Martinson went out hard to start the race, staying with right with Sharnas and Pettinga for the first mile as the trio clocked in at 4:53.

And while Martinson wasn't quite able to maintain that pace, he still had the fastest time of his high school career by 16 seconds, bettering the 17:05 he ran at the Portage Invitational on Oct. 5 of last year.

And, if Bauer is correct, the best is yet to come for Martinson.

"I think this is just the start for him," Bauer said.

Sharnas thought his time could have been even better had it not been for an unexpected obstacle on the course.

"Max felt jumping over a log on the course cost him some time, but he has learned from that," Bauer said. "Hopefully something like that doesn't happen again, but if it does he will react differently."

Pettinga, meanwhile, was racing for the first time since a long layoff.

"This was Nik's first race since the cross country state finals last year," Bauer said. "I felt he did extremely well given his lack of racing over the last nine months."

Tristan Ashley was the fourth runner for Saugatuck, placing sixth with a time of 17:17.

"I thought Tristan also had a solid race," Bauer said. "He was close to his (personal record) and we expect that he will be under 17 before too long."

Luke Gorgas rounded out the scoring runners for Saugatuck, placing 10th at 19:02.

On the girls' side, freshman Maya Veldt turned in a time of 21:09 to lead the way for Saugatuck with a third-place finish.

Other scoring runners for Saugatuck were Jillian Johnson (sixth at 21:50), Hannah Smit (11th at 22:49), Becky Pond (12th at 23:01) and Sydney Stickel (14th at 23:33).



Korbin Sisson and partner Jack Nahikian beat Hamilton at No. 1 doubles. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

# No. 1 doubles McPherson, Korringa shine for Otsego boys' tennis

BY JASON WESSELDYK  
SPORTS EDITOR

HOLLAND—The Otsego boys' tennis team faced some tough competition at the Holland Christian Invitational on Saturday, Aug. 29, including the state-ranked host Maroons.

The Bulldogs' No. 1 doubles team of Luc McPherson and Caleb Korringa proved to be up to the challenge.

After taking the first set against the Holland Christian duo of Noah Bosgraaf and Trenton DeMeester 6-1, the Otsego tandem survived for the 7-6 (3) in the second set to claim the match.

McPherson and Korringa had a much easier time against Grand Haven's Alex Waite and Ben DeGram, winning 6-1, 6-3 to finish 2-0 in the tournament and secure the flight championship.

Otsego coach A.J. Swoboda was understandably impressed with the performance of his top doubles team.

"The play of Luc and Caleb was the highlight of the day for us," Swoboda said. "They played really well beating both Holland Christian and Grand Haven and getting first place in the tournament in their flight. Both are quality wins over good programs."

Swoboda is confident that

McPherson and Korringa will have plenty of other solid performances as the season progresses.

"I can't wait to see what they do throughout the rest of the season," Swoboda said.

The wins by McPherson and Korringa accounted for two of the three points scored by the Bulldogs, who finished third in the tourney. Holland Christian won with 14 points, while Grand Haven took the runner-up slot with seven points.

Otsego's No. 2 doubles team of Derek Rapa and Hudson DeSmit provided the other point for the Bulldogs, as the duo defeated Grand Haven's Johan Sispera and

Will Johnson 6-1, 6-4.

In their match with Holland Christian, Rapa and DeSmit fell 6-3, 6-1 to Isaac Snyder and Gavin VandenTop.

Other results for Otsego were:

Singles: No. 1 Mac Kruienza lost to Holland Christian's Jaden Bender 6-0, 6-0 and lost to Grand Haven's Isaac Burdosta 6-1, 6-0; No. 2 Daelan Post lost to Holland Christian's Austin Becksvoort 6-0, 6-1 and lost to Grand Haven's Tyler DeGram 6-1, 6-1; No. 3 JJ Kruienza lost to Holland Christian's Tucker Heneghan 6-0, 6-0 and lost to Grand Haven's Grant Taylor 6-0, 6-1; No. 4 Jack Chapman lost to Holland Christian's

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# Boys' cross country ■ from Page A9

"Our goals stay the same every year," Long said. "We'll focus on working hard and pursuing individual excellence. We're looking to win another conference title, another regional title and put ourselves in the conversation to be a podium team at the state finals."

A group of 17 returning letter winners—including six runners who competed at the state finals last season—should help that cause.

Senior Colin Mulder spearheads that returning group after posting a ninth-place showing with a time of 16:06 at the finals to secure All-State honors. Junior Mason Kolhoff nearly joined Mulder as an All-State runner, missing by one spot as he finished 31st with a time of 16:32. Junior Logan Kolhoff (76th at 17:07) and senior Andnet Deboer (129th at 17:31) were also scoring runners at the state finals, while sophomore Colin Wesseldyk (17:56) and senior Andrew Kubiak (18:12) also ran at the finals.

Senior Isaiah Wilkins traveled with the team to the finals as an alternate.

Other returning letter winners include seniors Alex Peterson and Andrew Bickel; juniors Chase Brown, Zach Byron, Nick Cockerel and Donovan Goodwin; and sophomores Trevor Johnson, Luke Aldrich, Pierce Bentley and Ethan Raseman.

Freshman Matthew Schreiner is the team's lone newcomer.

"Our area of strength is that we have a group of guys that are committed to working hard and pursuing individual and team success," Long said.

And while he fully believes his team has what it takes to extend its streak of consecutive Wolverine Conference championships, Long also knows better than to take anything for granted... especially in a season that is so strange due to COVID-19.

"There are just so many unknowns this year, but I think we'll be in the top two teams looking to win another conference championship," he said.

### PLAINWELL

As a sophomore last year, Eli Veen had a breakout season as a member of the Plainwell boys' cross country team.

After securing a top-10 finish in the Wolverine Conference Championship meet with his eighth-place showing of 16:54, Veen ran a personal-best time of 16:32 at the Division 2 regional meet at Portage Central to finish fifth and earn his first berth in the state finals.

At the finals, he broke 17 minutes again with a time of 16:53, good for a 49th-place finish.

Plainwell coach Scott Evans expects even bigger things from Veen this season.

"Eli did a great job qualifying for the state finals last year," Evans said. "This year, I look for him to finish in the top 30 and become an All-Stater."

Veen is one of six returning runners for the Trojans. The others include the senior trio of Ethan Johnson, Alex Blanton and Chris Sellers along with junior Dillon Vlietstra and sophomore Thai Nguyen.

Newcomers include Veen's younger brother Isaac as well as Abraham Longcore. Isaac Veen and Longcore are both freshmen.

It's a group for which Evans has high hopes.

"The team is looking strong for the upcoming season," he said. "We graduated some of our top seven last year, but the underclassmen are already stepping up and taking their places."

When it comes to the Wolverine Conference, Evans hopes his team can feed off some of the momentum it had at the end of last season.

"Last season the boys came on strong at the end of the season and finished in the top half of the conference," Evans said. "This year, I think we will be in the top five of the conference again."

"I see Otsego leading the conference again this season, but I also see Allegan making a push towards the front as well. I would also watch out for Vicksburg as the season moves forward."

A collective strong work ethic among the team members is one of the reasons Evans is optimistic about his team's prospects this season.

"I have a team that has had a great summer and they are working hard," he said. "Most of the runners are ahead of where we were last season at this point of the fall."

"One of things we need to improve on is just pushing ourselves a little harder in practice, but I already see this happening."

### SAUGATUCK

When asked about the strength of his team this season, it didn't take long for Saugatuck coach Rick Bauer to come up with an answer.

"We are extremely strong up front," Bauer said. "Yes, the Indians are."

Senior Nik Pettinga enters his senior season as a three-time All-Stater, while junior Max Sharnas enters his junior year as a two-time All-Stater. Last season, Sharnas finished 27th at the Division 3 state finals with a time of 16:46, while Pettinga was 29th with a time of 16:47.

Bauer knows those two are capable of even more this season.



Allegan's Blane Johnson (left) and Otsego's Mason Kolhoff were both All-Conference performers last season. (File photo)

"With Nik and Max, we have the best one-two punch in our division," he said. "Both of these guys are contenders for individual state championship."

Not that Pettinga and Sharnas are the only weapons the Indians have on the roster.

Juniors Adam Martinson and Tristan Ashley also return after showing continued improvement the past two years, while Luke Gorgas is back for his sophomore season.

Bauer believes all three of those guys have All-State potential.

"Adam and Tristan are guys that could be top 10 (at the state finals)," Bauer said. "Luke is ready to make the jump to top 30."

That quintet comprised the top five runners from a Saugatuck team that won its eighth straight Southwestern Athletic Conference championships in addition to claiming regional and Allegan County titles.

"If we can stay healthy, we should win our ninth straight SAC title," Bauer said.

The Indians are also hoping to have a better showing at state finals than the 10th-place finish they had last season.

"We had a disappointing state finals performance last year and placed 10th," Bauer said. "We have used our disappointment with last year's finals as motivation for this season."

"This is a strange year (with COVID-19) and from day to day I sway in my expectations of the season. If

things go well and we have a full season and a tournament, I believe we will not only contend for a conference title, but also regional and state championships."

Newcomers who hope to help push that top five include freshman Ethan Smith and junior Benny Diaz.

"Benny isn't exactly new to the team, as he ran his freshman year and was a member of the 2018 state championship as a dual sport athlete (with football)," Bauer said. "Last season he committed full time to football as that is his real passion. With the football season being postponed, Benny decided to give cross country a go again."

### WAYLAND

Wayland coach Ray Antel knows his team's home course is one of the more challenging ones in the area.

"Our course is very hilly and normally runs 45 to 90 seconds slower than most other courses," he said.

That discrepancy was even more pronounced when Wayland hosted Hopkins and Kelloggsville for a season-opening meet on Monday, Aug. 24, as temperatures were in the low 90s.

"With the heat, the times were more like two to three minutes slower than most courses," Antel said.

The fact that the season started on a bit of an unusual note seems only fitting, given everything that

is going on with COVID-19.

"Of course, with everything going on surrounding COVID, this season will look quite old school compared to a normal season," Antel said.

"Most invites have cancelled and we are filling them in with dual and tri meets. So, there will be smaller numbers with perhaps some spectators."

"There will be no fancy timing devices. No immediate results. It's just going to be a let-'em-run mentality."

Antel feels fortunate to have a good coaching staff around him to help navigate such a unique season.

Tracie Makowski and Jennifer Antel will share duties as assistant varsity coaches and middle school coaches, with Bill Myers serving as the assistant middle school coach.

"I look forward to working with our new and very knowledgeable coaches, while we entice kids to train smarter and work harder to reach their potential all while making it fun," Antel said.

The team includes James Brand, Casey Jansen, Jared Jandernoa, Devin Weaver, Travis Koon, Andrew Tyner, Peyton Williamson, Michael Duggins, Henry Oudbier, Tristan Baisch, Cainon Fenn, Jordan Weers, Isaac Dyer, James Butler and Carter VanWyk.

"This is a larger group of young men than in the past few years and we've got some talent and hard workers," Antel said.



Martin senior Carsen Young is hoping to qualify for the state finals for the fourth time. (File photo)

The Allegan County News

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**Illustrator** ■ from Page 1

that he kept drawing his cat doing different things. He eventually gave him the name Tom Cat.”

Tom Cat wasn't just some random name Levi thought of. Rather, it has a special meaning.

“Levi's middle name is Thomas after his great grandfather Tom Bent,” Sarah said. “So, he says he named his character after his great grandfather.”

In addition to drawing, Levi also enjoys modeling clay, having taught himself to make stop-motion Claymation videos using an old cell phone. He makes characters from the England-based Aardman Amination Studios such as Shaun the Sheep or Wallace and Gromit.

“He also uses his Legos and edits those videos to be like 1920s silent movies,” Sarah said.

Given his passion for drawing and animation, it was no surprise when Levi chose Walt Disney when his class was assigned a “biography-in-a-bag” project last year.

“I really like how Mr. Disney focused many projects on children and happiness,” Levi said. “And he didn't give up when his character Oswald was stolen from him. He started over and with Ub Iwerks he came up with Mickey Mouse instead and started his own company.”

In addition to Walt Disney and Aardman Amination, Levi counts Dav Pilkey

(“Captain Underpants” and “Dog Man” series) and Charles Schulz (“Peanuts”) as illustrators he admires.

“They didn't give up,” Levi said of Pilkey and Schulz. “They kept going even when people said they wouldn't be successful. They made changes and progress with drawing their characters.”

Levi also enjoys the Mickey Mouse cartoons from the 1920s and '30s. He would also like to make Tom Cat into a comic book series.

“He would like to go to school for animating,” Sarah said. “He especially wants to learn some of the older techniques. I can't wait to see what he accomplishes next.”

**Proposals** ■ from Page 1

provide matching funds when seeking grants. In addition, the funds will go directly to support projects for landowners and farmers.

The Conservation District has never before solicited millage from the voters of Allegan County in their efforts to carry out the Rabbit and Gun Rivers' Sediment Reduction Programs, the restoration of the oak savanna in the Allegan State Game Area, and participation in the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP).

“We are thankful to the people of Allegan County who value the work of the Conservation District,” stated an elated Ludwig.

The response from Kimberly Turcott, administrator of the Allegan County Medical Care Community paralleled Ludwig's. With a tone of enthusiasm and relief, Turcott shared that this first-ever request for millage would assist the Community in numerous ways.

“At upcoming Board meetings there will be an extensive review of the budget and an in-depth needs assessment will be completed. The millage will allow for a fund balance to weather the next storm.”

In addition, they will figure out the next steps in repairs of some roofs and some new construction. Turcott emphasized that

“it is important to complete the needs assessment so we meet the needs of our seniors and work with other groups in the county. There are changing needs for services, and the facility must address needs of the current generation, like private rather than shared rooms.”

Both Ludwig and Turcott stressed their thanks to the many communities and voters in Allegan County for showing trust in their work to identify and meet county needs. These millages mean much to these organizations, and they want to show their gratitude to all voters across the county.

**Life Care Center of Plainwell hosts drive-thru car show**

BY JASON WESSELDYK  
SPORTS EDITOR

As the director of activities at Life Care Center of Plainwell, Brittany Zeman is always trying to come up with unique, fun ways to engage the facility's residents.

Last year, that included a classic car show in the parking lot, with residents able to get a close-up look at several cars from the past.

“The car show was a big hit with everyone,” said Tyler Connors, the director of admissions and marketing at Life Care Center. “The residents really seemed to get a kick out of it and they people who brought the cars had a good time interacting with the residents.”

Zeman hoped to have another car show this year, but, as with so many things, the COVID-19 pandemic threw a monkey wrench into those plans.

But rather than simply postponing the event until next year, Zeman came up with another idea: a drive-thru classic car parade, which took place at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 31.

“The State of Michigan and the Allegan County Health Department recently released new guidelines when it comes to COVID-19,” Connors said. “Now, as long as the residents don't leave the grounds and proper social distancing is being observed along with other precautions, we can take them outside and we have a little more freedom when it comes to activities. So, Brittany thought (the drive-thru car show) was a good compromise.”

“It's not quite the same as last year, but we thought this would be a great way to still bring out the cars and let the residents see them while still maintaining proper social-distancing and other safety practices to keep every healthy and safe. Looking at cars they might have owned or seen when they were younger is a great way for the residents to reminisce.”

About a dozen cars and trucks showed up to be part of the drive-thru parade. Many of them are part of the Dean's Cruisers group that meets at Dean's Ice Cream in Plainwell for car shows each Monday during the nice weather.

After driving past the residents—who lined the sidewalk in front of the facility—the cars and trucks parked in the parking lot to give residents a longer look.

The event was open to any resident who wanted to attend.

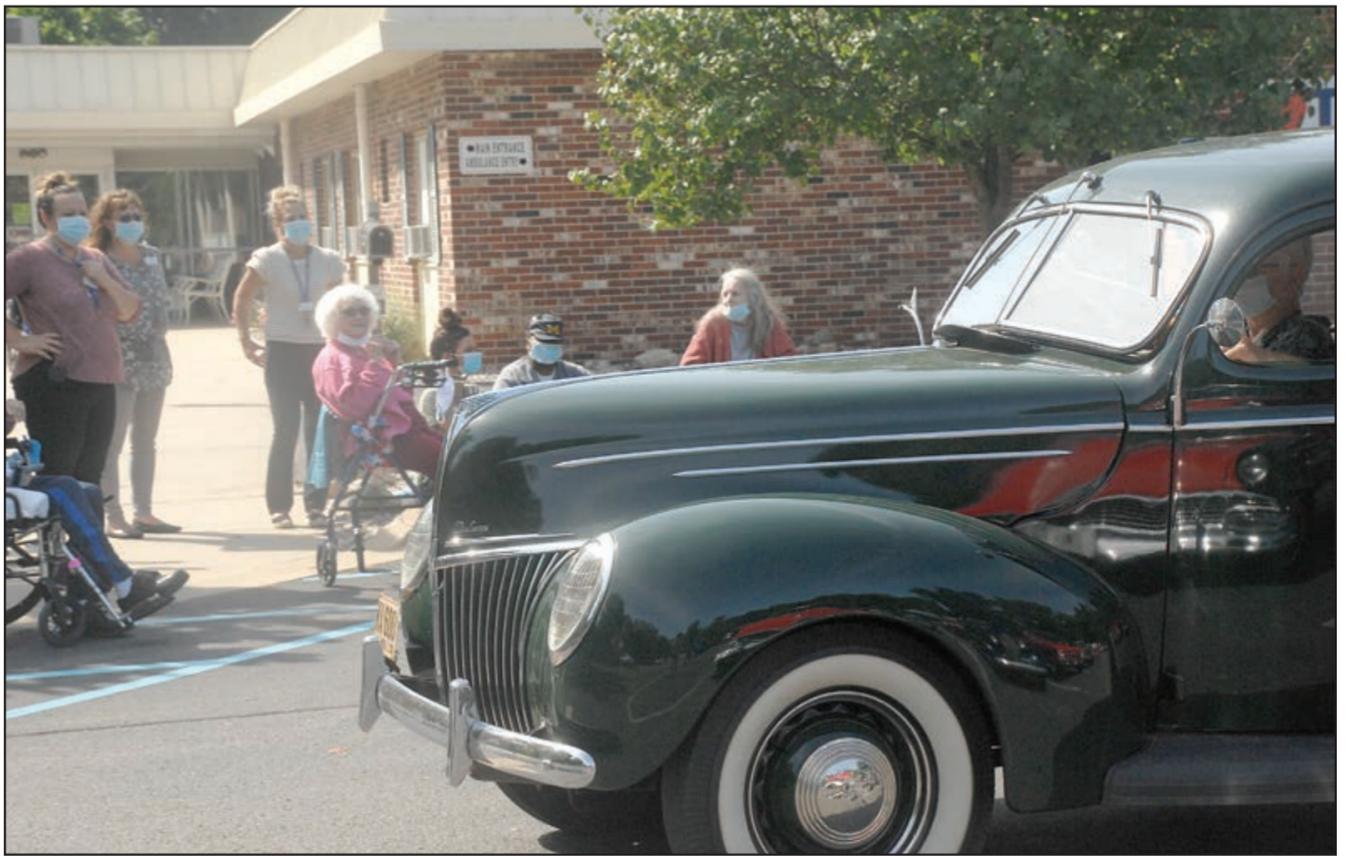
“Some residents wondered if we were only going to let a certain number of people participate, but we wanted it to be open to everyone,” Connors said. “We had plenty of room to keep people far enough apart.”

Even some residents who weren't able to express an interest in going were included.

“We have some residents with issues like dementia, but if, from their history, we knew cars were something they enjoyed, we checked with their families and got the okay for them to attend,” Connors said. “You never know what might help bring back some of those positive feelings from the past.”

Connors said he enjoys activities like the car show as much as the residents.

“It's just so fun and cool to see them having a good time,” Connors said. “This is by far the most enjoyable job I've ever had. No two days are the same, that's



**Back-to-school smiles**

Before heading off to start the school year last week, several Otsego Public Schools were all smiles. Among those students who were excited to get back to class following the COVID-19 shutdown were (at left) Tucker Moore (fourth grade at Dix Street Elementary) and siblings Braden Stout (sixth grade at Otsego Middle School), Gabi Stout (junior at Otsego High School) and Leah Stout (second grade at Dix Street). (Photos provided)

