

# The Courier Leader

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AS MATTAWAN SCHOOLS PREPARE TO DEMOLISH THE CENTER BUILDING...

## Mattawan grad recalls the construction of former high school

By Paul Garrod  
news4garrod@vineyardpress.biz

**MATTAWAN** - As demolition workers ready the former Mattawan High School, built in 1936, to be razed this month, one Mattawan graduate remembers the time when the construction project could have been lost due to record setting snowfalls and blizzards in the winter of 1936.

Harry Moyle, a 1941 MHS graduate, recalled when his father, Norman Moyle, the village mailman, received a phone call from Mattawan School Board Secretary C.J. McNeil, who said he had to be in Lansing to sign the paperwork for the new school the next day, or the entire Public Works Administration (PWA) project would be lost.

According to Moyle, McNeil lived about 10 miles southeast of Mattawan. As snowfall had made roads treacherous, Norman Moyle set out on skis with McNeil to Mattawan to make sure McNeil caught the train to Lansing that next morning.

Harry Moyle said his father and McNeil spent most of the night cross country skiing and climbing over fences to catch that train to the state capitol.

Harry Moyle remembered McNeil was a large man, but somehow he managed to stay on the skis during that 10-mile trek to Mattawan.

In the summer of 1935, the Mattawan School Board was making plans for a new school building, designed to include a gymnasium, auditorium and an athletic field.

Following the Great Depression, federal funding was made available for the construction of a new school building. According to school history, in October of 1935, Mattawan School Board President Andrew Murch received a telegram from the Michigan director of the PWA that a grant and loan had been approved.

The government grant of nearly \$32,000 was a direct gift that did not have to be repaid. The government loan needed to be secured by a bond issue.

In the fall of 1935, district taxpayers approved the necessary bond issues



HARRY MOYLE

by a 129-5 vote. In December of 1935 when construction bids were opened, school officials were dismayed that the \$40,000 bond approval would not be enough.

The school board had to seek voter approval for another \$7,500. It took two special elections to obtain the additional funding.

According to school history, the one-story building went up and a dedication was held Oct. 31, 1936, in conjunction with the first annual Community Fair. The fair was followed by a dance in the new gymnasium.

Schools officials at that time reported that high school enrollment saw a jump of approximately 60 percent, prompting them to consider the construction of a second story.

According to school history, this time the PWA provided \$22,500 and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation provided \$21,000.

The second story was dedicated in May of 1939 during a ceremony in which George Schutt, the county commissioner of schools was quoted as saying, "Mattawan has undoubtedly one of the finest consolidated school systems of any in the State of Michigan."

The building had overcome one obstacle - Mother Nature and snowstorms



As workers prepare the former Mattawan High School, above, built in 1936, to be razed this month, remodeling of the former Mattawan Later Elementary building into the Early Childhood Education Center, below, is on track for a fall opening. Lifelong Mattawan resident Harry Moyle, left, remembers the buildings going

up. In 2018, district voters approved a nearly \$20 million bond to demolish the Early Elementary School building, as well as the 1936 former high school building (Center Building), while renovating the new ECEC and other district-wide building maintenance.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod



er Nature and snowstorms in 1936, only to face another one just over two years, a fire in the spring of 1938 that caused an estimated \$10,000 to \$15,000 in damages.

According to newspaper accounts reported by The Lawton Leader, Mattawan, Paw Paw and Lawton fire departments responded to the March 16, fire, reported at approximately 6 a.m. The fire was contained to the gymnasium, where it originated. The fire, of unknown origin, was finally extinguished after firemen had battled the blaze for more than an hour.

Harry Moyle spent 12 years on the Mattawan Board of Education, from 1964 to 1976.

He said that during that time, the Center Building underwent upgrades, including dropped ceilings and florescent lighting, to bring everything up to current levels.

Former longtime Mattawan Consolidated School Superintendent, Jim Weeldreyer's office was located

in the Center Building, as part of the former science room.

He recalled the first time he met Harry Moyle when he arrived at the school district.

"Russ Young (maintenance and grounds) and Harry were behind the Center Building building a steam line."

Weeldreyer said Moyle, who retired from The Upjohn Co., Kalamazoo, was always willing to help.

## Bloomingtondale Supt. Paquette to retire at school year's end

By Paul Garrod  
news4garrod@vineyardpress.biz

**BLOOMINGDALE** - A 33-year career in education, including 23 years in administration, will come to a close in June as Bloomingtondale Public Schools Superintendent Deb Paquette has announced her upcoming retirement.

Paquette, who began as the Bloomingtondale Elementary principal in 1998, will conclude 11 years at the top post when she steps down on June 30.

Prior to coming to Bloomingtondale, she served 10 years at Bangor Public Schools; two years as a first grade teacher and eight years as a middle and high school physical education and health instructor.

"I've had the best career. I've worked with some amazing people and families over the years. It was exactly the career I wanted," said Paquette. "I've been blessed with a great place to be and work. I've been very lucky."

Paquette gave credit to her "school family" saying, "I wouldn't have accomplished anything without them."

Among those accomplishments Paquette said, are being named the district's interim superintendent in 2010, the district's 2020 COVID-19 response, leaving the district in a fiscally sound position, and building meaningful relationships with students, community and staff.



DEB PAQUETTE

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

With COVID-19, Paquette said the district's 60 teachers are teaching in-person learners and remote learners at the same time. They have created their own curriculum for remote students to watch later. The in-person learning and remote learning is essentially the same. "They work very hard to create their own content and lessons and I'm very, very proud of them. We have amazing teachers and doing both face-to-face and remote makes us really unique. Our district's response to COVID-19 is something I am very proud of and it has been a total team effort across the board with all staff," said Paquette. "Implementing our plan has required a lot of hard work from every employee in our district."

Paquette leaves the school district in a fiscally sound position. "We really worked hard and made a lot

of sacrifices to be in this position," said Paquette of the district's teachers, staff and Board of Education. "We have an extremely dedicated Board of Education that has worked hard to collaborate with the administration and staff to put the district in a fiscally stable position."

"The Bloomingtondale, Grand Junction, and Pullman communities have always supported our school," said Paquette. "These communities responded positively by approving bond issues twice on the first vote for a new high school, as well as elementary school improvements and a brand new athletic complex."

Paquette recalled pursuing a career in education at an early age. "In seventh grade science class, I decided I wanted to be a teacher. I wanted to be a teacher because I had amazing teachers. I had a great school experience and had wonderful coaches, too. I wanted to be that kind of teacher and coach to others."

Paquette graduated from Olivet Community Schools, then went to Olivet College where she obtained her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She then went to Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, where she obtained her master's degree in Educational Leadership.

"Growing up on a 500-acre farm in Olivet taught

(Continued on page 10...)



## Paw Paw Schools names communications director

**PAW PAW** - Lisa Shanley has been named as Paw Paw Public Schools' new communications director, following Paw Paw Board of Education approval in February.

In the newly created position, Shanley, who began her new role Feb. 22, will be responsible for developing and distributing internal and external communications for the district. She will also oversee the comprehensive marketing, branding and public relations efforts.

"We are excited to add this position in order to assist in strengthening the district's internal and external communications strategies, as well as to manage the public relations and marketing for our district," said Superintendent Rick Reo. "By adding a communications director, I feel that we are investing in our future, as this is an important step in assuring our district's commitment to providing a guaranteed quality education and wide range of other educational opportunities to our students remains front and center."

Shanley holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, and has 25 years experience in communications, marketing and non-profit administration in southwest Michigan.

Previously, Shanley served as executive director of the South Haven/Van Buren County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and as marketing director for an automotive dealer group in southwest Michigan.

"Initially, what attracted me," said Shanley, "was how forward-thinking Paw Paw Public Schools must be to recognize the crucial role communications plays in education. By creating this new position, it not only sets us apart from other districts, but also sends a strong message that we value communication and engagement at all levels. I look forward to sharing the great news of all that is happening in and around Paw Paw Public Schools."

# voices

Mike,  
I am writing to address your February 18 "Musings" titled, "College virtual learning is disastrous". I am a registered nurse, and an educator at a university, and was astonished by your lack of knowledge on this subject.

Online education is not a foreign concept, and is attractive to many students. I worked full time as a nurse and was able to earn a master's degree in Nursing Education in an online learning environment. It worked for me, someone who had been out of school for many years.

As for your statements, "Professors don't take it seriously, and they don't give a damn"; many educators, at every level of education, had to switch from an in-person learning plan, to an online learning plan within a matter of days. Many of us had to create and update content for both. We have spent countless hours on virtual meetings, creating online activities for our students, and online proctoring of testing.

Additionally, when in-person skills labs were a necessity, we needed to conduct twice as many sessions than we did prior to COVID restrictions that limited group size. Believe me; we take it very seriously, and we give a damn!

Since I do not have all the facts about your son's situation, I cannot speak directly to it. However, it sounds like an issue that might be better addressed

with your son's college, where you may get a positive resolution, instead of condemning an entire system of learning in your paper. If your son is not adapting well to online learning, consider giving him a job until this pandemic passes and can resume his in-person college experience. After all, why keep paying for a "disaster"?

I totally agree with you that we need to get students back into in-person classrooms as soon as possible. Maybe we would already be to that point had we not wasted so much time and energy debating whether COVID was a hoax, giving it silly nick names, and refusing to have a national strategy to combat the spread of the pandemic.

Lori Van Zoeren MSN, RN

Dear Editor,

Mattawan's Wastewater Treatment Facility plan, the pollution and destruction of Hayden Creek, have been pretty well covered but that's only part of it. I object to the sneaky way the Village has gone about this project.

Just recently during a meeting, a Village Council member, in response to the overwhelming public comments, had the audacity to ask where we have been. If we hadn't been blind-sided finding out by public notice, if the Village had done the neighborly thing, taken the moral and ethical route, had the common courtesy to notify townships impacted by this plan, they'd have

known earlier where we were.

There is a problem when one community thinks they have the right to impose their will upon others. It's incomprehensible, non-Village residents can't vote on what the Village wants to do in our own backyard. We protest yet the Village won't stop.

They haven't stopped, just "paused" to correct their feasibility study. We have not stopped, have not "paused".

This is not just a Hayden Creek issue, it's a community issue. If Hayden Creek is

not an option, they will find another another creek, causing problems for someone else. If they are hoping we will go away, we won't.

Thank you for your continuing coverage of Mattawan's WWTF and its plan to discharge into Hayden Creek. Thank you to the Almena, Antwerp and Waverly township boards, the businesses, the multiple organizations and the people for the support shown in opposing this ill-conceived project.

Respectfully,  
Pat Smetana  
ALMENA RESIDENT

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## TOWNSHIP OF ALMENA 2021 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 27625 CR 375, Paw Paw, Michigan, 49079, to examine and review the 2021 Assessment Roll. The board will convene on the following dates for the hearing of appeals of assessment or taxable values, poverty exemptions, veteran's exemptions, parcel classification appeals and/or current year qualified agricultural denials:

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF THE REVISED DATES AS PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED:**  
**Tuesday, March 2, 2021 - 8:00 a.m.**  
**Organizational Meeting**  
**Monday, March 8, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. to Noon and 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, March 9, 2021 - Noon to 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

and on such additional days as required to hear all persons who have given notice of the desire to be heard until assessment rolls have been revised, corrected and approved.

**DUE TO COVID-19 APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED.** Contact the Assessor at 269-655-1144 or by email at [ben.apgllc@gmail.com](mailto:ben.apgllc@gmail.com) for further information. Letter appeals will be accepted and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. March 9, 2021. Address listed below.

**Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2021 are as follows:**

Agricultural	48.16%	1.0382
Commercial	50.21%	0.9958
Industrial	51.92%	0.9630
Residential	47.15%	1.0604
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Tentative equalization factor of 1.0000 for all classes is expected after completion of Board of Review.

Bill Van Tassel, Supervisor Almena Township  
Ben Brousseau, Assessor Almena Township

Almena Township Board Meetings are open to all without regard to race, national origin, sex or disability. American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to Almena Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Almena Township by writing or calling.

Sandra Rickli  
Almena Township Clerk  
27625 County Road 375  
Paw Paw, MI 49079  
(269) 668-6910

Mar. 4, 2021

TO PLACE AN AD IN THE COURIER-LEADER: **Call (269) 657-3072 • DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.**

# Come Worship With Us

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES AT AREA CHURCHES

## PAW PAW

**ALMENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
27503 CR 375, Paw Paw  
Pastor Len Schoenherr  
668-2811  
[www.almenumc.com](http://www.almenumc.com)  
SUNDAY:  
Summer Worship - 11 a.m.  
(Childcare provided)  
FRIDAY: AA - 8 p.m.

**COVEY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
33566 28th Avenue, Paw Paw  
Daniel Wilson, Pastor  
628-2139  
[www.coveyhill.org](http://www.coveyhill.org)  
SUNDAY:  
Indoor Services - 10:45 a.m.  
Masks & social distancing observed

**FAITH OF THE APOSTLES CHURCH**  
34580 M-40 Highway  
Elder David Harn  
1 (269) 512-4586  
SUNDAY:  
Christian Education - 10 a.m.  
Worship Service - 11:30 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY:  
Bible Study - 7 p.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
32464 Red Arrow, Paw Paw  
Pastor Horace M. "Buddy" Turner  
657-2090  
Worship Sunday at 11 a.m.  
on Facebook:  
[www.Facebook.com/buddyturner2](http://www.Facebook.com/buddyturner2)  
Or search: "Buddy Turner"

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
120 Pine Street, Paw Paw  
Reverend Tiffany McCafferty  
657-3111  
e-mail: [firstpres1@btc-bci.com](mailto:firstpres1@btc-bci.com)  
Find us on Facebook  
[www.pawpawpres.org](http://www.pawpawpres.org)  
for weekly worship videos.  
Call 269-657-3111  
for pastoral care.

## PAW PAW

**NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP**  
201 W. Michigan Avenue, Paw Paw  
Pastor Tim Gunderson  
[www.newhopefellowship.org](http://www.newhopefellowship.org)  
SUNDAY:  
Morning Worship - 10 a.m.

**PAW PAW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**  
60409 South M-40, Paw Paw  
Pastor Michael Taylor  
Lawn Services, 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.  
Visit: [www.pawpaw.church](http://www.pawpaw.church)  
Online worship services on Facebook and YouTube

**PAW PAW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
420 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw  
Rev. Dr. David Small  
657-7727  
SUNDAY:  
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.  
Visit: [www.pawpawumc.com](http://www.pawpawumc.com)  
Online worship at  
Facebook page "Paw Paw United Methodist Church"

**REDARROW MINISTRIES**  
31133 Red Arrow Highway, Paw Paw  
Rev. G. Ben Bowater, IV  
FOUNDING PASTOR  
SUNDAY:  
Worship - 9:30 and 11 a.m.  
[www.redarrowministries.org](http://www.redarrowministries.org)  
for live stream worship

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
412 Cedar Street, Paw Paw  
HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE  
Rev. Rebecca Crise, Pastor  
657-3762  
[www.stmarkpawpaw.com](http://www.stmarkpawpaw.com)  
e-mail: [stmarkspawpaw@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkspawpaw@gmail.com)  
MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 307, Paw Paw, MI 49079  
SUNDAYS:  
Worship **Outdoors** - 9:30 a.m.



## PAW PAW

**ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
500 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw  
Rev. Father Joseph Xavier, MSFS  
657-4459  
SATURDAY: Vigil - 4:30 p.m.  
SUNDAY:  
Masses - 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Holy Days & Daily Masses - Consult bulletin

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
721 Pine Street, Paw Paw  
Pastor - Phillip Phifer  
Administrator - Beverly Schafer  
Church: 657-4840  
School: 657-5921  
SUNDAY:  
9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Services

**TRUTH CHURCH**  
32560 56th Ave., Paw Paw  
[www.truthchurchpawpaw.com](http://www.truthchurchpawpaw.com)  
Pastor Steven Green  
657-5042  
SUNDAY:  
Sunday School - 10 a.m.  
Evening Service - 6 p.m.  
THURSDAY:  
Bible Study - 7 p.m.

## MATTAWAN

**CALVARY REFORMED CHURCH**  
7829 S. 5th Street, Mattawan  
Pastor Gregory VanHeukelom  
375-6240  
[www.calvaryreformed.org](http://www.calvaryreformed.org)  
SUNDAY:  
Worship - 10 a.m.  
Also available on Facebook Live  
JODI'S CLOSET - Free clothes  
2nd Saturday of the month  
Check website for additional days

**FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH**  
56070 Murray Street, Mattawan  
Chuck Rawthorne, Pastor  
SUNDAY:  
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.  
(In person and on Facebook)

**MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
23680 Front Ave., Mattawan  
668-3263  
[www.mattawancc.com](http://www.mattawancc.com)  
[mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com](mailto:mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com)  
Rev. Jonathan Lam, Pastor  
SUNDAY:  
Worship - 10:25 a.m.

**ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
23830 Front Ave., Mattawan  
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen  
668-3312  
[www.stjohnbosco.com](http://www.stjohnbosco.com)  
SUNDAY:  
Mass - 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
SATURDAY at 4 p.m.

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
63855 N. M-40, Lawton  
624-1050  
Rev. Wayne McKenney  
SUNDAY:  
Worship - 9:30 a.m.  
Visit: [www.stpaulsunclawton.com](http://www.stpaulsunclawton.com)  
or on Facebook  
[www.Facebook.com/Lawton-St-Pauls-UMC](http://www.Facebook.com/Lawton-St-Pauls-UMC)

**ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
23830 Front Ave., Mattawan  
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen  
668-3312  
[www.stjohnbosco.com](http://www.stjohnbosco.com)  
SUNDAY:  
Mass - 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
SATURDAY at 4 p.m.

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23830 Front Ave., Mattawan  
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen  
668-3312  
[www.stjohnbosco.com](http://www.stjohnbosco.com)  
SUNDAY:  
Mass - 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
SATURDAY at 4 p.m.

## LAWRENCE

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
231 W. James St., Lawrence  
674-4381  
Pastor Brian Vinco  
SUNDAY:  
Sunday School - 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Service - 7 p.m.

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Corner of Exchange and James streets, Lawrence  
674-8381  
Pastor Wayne McKenney  
SUNDAY:  
Worship - 11 a.m.  
[www.lawrencemethodist-church.org](http://www.lawrencemethodist-church.org)  
for information of online videos

## LAWTON

**LAWTON EVANGELICAL CHURCH**  
425 S. Nursery Street, Lawton  
624-1524  
Call if you need help in some way.  
[www.lawtonevan.com](http://www.lawtonevan.com)  
Pastor Bill VandeGiessen  
SUNDAY:  
Worship Service - 10 a.m.

**IGLESIA PENTECOSTES del Movimiento Misionero Mundial, Inc. BILINGUAL**  
117 S. Franklin Street, Lawton  
Pastors Arturo and Lourdez Hernandez  
(616) 656-0137  
SERVICES:  
Domingo - 9:30 a.m.  
Martes y Jueves - 7:30 p.m.  
Local: (269) 655-8071

**NEW COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Lawton Middle School  
Adam Potgiesser, Pastor  
(269) 501-2788  
SUNDAY:  
Worship - 11 a.m.  
Visit: [www.NC2online.com](http://www.NC2online.com) or visit Facebook for streaming services at [www.Facebook.com/NC2online](http://www.Facebook.com/NC2online)

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[www.Facebook.com/Lawton-St-Pauls-UMC](http://www.Facebook.com/Lawton-St-Pauls-UMC)

## GOBLES

**GOBLES SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**  
32146 6th Avenue, Gobles  
Pastor Alex Rybackek  
269-628-4821  
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SUNDAY:  
Mass - 9:30 a.m.  
Confessions by appointment  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ARLINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW**

The Arlington Township Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall Corner of 52nd St. & 34th Ave. on the following days and times:

**Organizational meeting:**  
Tuesday, March 2, 9:00 AM  
(Public welcome but no Appeals heard at organizational meeting)

**Appeals sessions:**  
Monday, March 8, 2 PM - 5 PM  
AND 6 PM - 9 PM

**Friday, March 12, 9 AM - Noon  
AND 1 PM - 4 PM**

As usual, taxable value increases are capped by the current cost-of-living increase (exceptions are transfers of ownership or certain physical changes to the property in the previous calendar year). This year the COLA is 1.4 %

Covid-19 protocols in effect on the meeting dates will be followed. Appointments are recommended to minimize occupancy at any given time. Call Hal Manning for an appointment (or explanation of assessment matters), 269-637-0421.

Principal Residence or Agricultural exemptions are not Board of Review items - usually those matters are solved by filing a form.

Contact the Assessor for assistance instead. Phone (#above) or email: [assrdood@gmail.com](mailto:assrdood@gmail.com)  
Written appeals are also encouraged - they may be US mailed to the return address on your official Assessment notice or emailed - email address above.

Letters or emails must be received by March 8th.  
Feb. 18-Mar. 4, 2021

**Paw Paw District Library Notes**

Join the Heartbreak Book Club on Zoom for a discussion of *The Proposal* by Jasmine Guillory at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 9. Find the link on the library's website at [www.paw-paw.lib.mi.us](http://www.paw-paw.lib.mi.us).

Debby Stassek is back on Saturday, March 13 from 10 a.m. to noon with internet tips, insights and even fun stuff for "Gmail and the Googleverse". This is also a Zoom program with a link on our website.

Also on Saturday, March 13 celebrate March is Reading Month by creating your own posable superhero reading buddy. Your buddy will always look forward to hearing you read. You can find instructions on our Facebook page at 11 a.m. Pick up your kit beginning March 8.

Even though we are open to the public, you may still prefer not to come into the library. Remember, we have curb service available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 to 3 p.m. Call the library to reserve your pick-up time.



**LAKEVIEW FOUNDATION Community Thrift Shop**  
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HOURS: **RETAIL** - TUES.-SAT., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
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Lakeview Foundation is a non-profit whose proceeds go toward Health and Medical Scholarships, and improving healthcare in Eastern Van Buren County. Please check out the new "Holiday Department" at the Community Thrift Shop!



Do you have a child entering Kindergarten this Fall 2021? This is such an **EXCITING** and **IMPORTANT** time for your child!  
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**Mike's Musings**



Mike Wilcox, Publisher

**Am I co-habiting with Sasquatch?**

A co-worker was over to my house the other day, and he kept referring to my home as the Overlook Hotel - you know the fictional abode where Steven King decided to locate "The Shining." For those that don't know or remember "The Shining," which starred Jack Nicholson, the crazy, demented caretaker of the desolate, foreboding Overlook Hotel, was one of King's most popular books. It was made in to a movie in the late 1980's by Stanley Kubrick, and enjoyed tremendous popular and critical success.

I'm not sure I understand the comparison with the Overlook and my house other than they are both big and majestic structures located in very remote areas. My co-worker envisioned me being snowed in, never to be seen at the office in the winter. He also imagined all sorts of critters in the woods and on the land that surrounded the home. His descriptions got me wondering, not about the ghosts and evil creatures that inhabited the Overlook, but more about the creators that inhabited the my 20 acres.

As a warning I must say my imagination can run wild. I once wrote about a Sasquatch sighting at another home. The only problem was that home was in a subdivision and as I gazed out to my wooded area it probably spanned a half acre. No reasonable Sasquatch figure could live there.

But not true in my Overlook-like home. It was not unrealistic to imagine I shared my estate with such a being. And then incredibly while gazing out my back window, scanning the property with my high powered binoculars for deer, a dark, furry, human-like figure appeared from the woods. He was on two legs and I would guess between 7 and 8 feet tall. The creature had a big head and broad shoulders. It looked left, then right, and then turned to retreat in the woods.

Now one might surmise I was viewing a black bear, but no bears had been sighted in this region in years. Others might say it was simply a human being since it was walking on two legs and the fur I was seeing could have been a winter coat. Others might strongly suggest I was hallucinating, which knowing me, was probably the most likely scenario. But despite the cold and snow I had to know more, so I gathered my coat and boots and sauntered out to the area of the sighting. I had wondered why I hadn't seen any deer lately. One telltale sign was a dead deer carcass laying in the blood-covered snow. I also came upon tracks that appeared to be those of a very large foot. I didn't see Sasquatch, but the signs were certainly there of a lot of activity.

Could it really be true, or was it me conjuring up more images of the Overlook Hotel and all the scary creatures that inhabited it? Let's just say this isn't the end of my search. Those binoculars will come in handy as I search each morning at dawn. So far the creature hasn't returned, but stay tuned, this chapter isn't over yet.

**St. Julian names two to vice president positions**

**PAW PAW** - Two staff members at St. Julian Winery in Paw Paw have been promoted to Vice President positions according to John Braganini, company presi-

dent. Joel Szakaly has been named Vice President-DTC (direct to consumer) and Matt White has been named Vice President-Operations.

Szakaly was hired as a Regional Retail Manager in February 2017, overseeing the four St. Julian tasting rooms that operated at that time. Since then, two additional locations have opened which fall under Szakaly's responsibility. He also oversees the Wine Club and online/shipping sales for the company.

White has been with St. Julian since 1992 working at the Paw Paw tasting room, before moving to the warehouse, where he was named warehouse manager. He most recently served as Director of Operations. His responsibilities include inventory control, purchasing, scheduling and overseeing the warehouse, as well as managing the winery's private label products and co-pack customers as part of the specialty services division.

**MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

With COVID-19 safety precautions in place, some meetings may be held by remote, while others may be cancelled. To attend, call ahead for information.

- MAR. 8 Mattawan Village Council, 7 p.m.  
Texas Township Board, 6 p.m.  
Mattawan School Board, 7 p.m.
- MAR. 9 Antwerp Twp. Board, 6:30 p.m.
- MAR. 10 Mattawan Lions, 7 p.m.

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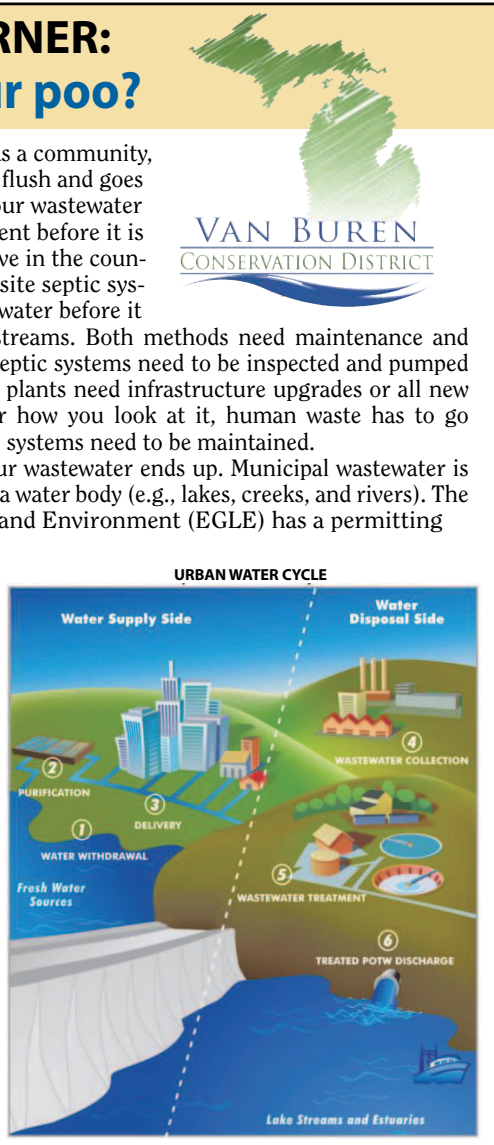
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**CONSERVATION CORNER: What to do about our poo?**

There has been a lot of attention on how, as a community, we handle our wastewater - the water that we flush and goes down our drains. In most cities and villages our wastewater is piped to water treatment plants for treatment before it is discharged to a nearby stream or river. If we live in the country, wastewater is usually treated with an on-site septic system. A septic system collects and filters wastewater before it enters the groundwater or nearby lakes or streams. Both methods need maintenance and careful planning to prevent water pollution. Septic systems need to be inspected and pumped out every 3-5 years and wastewater treatment plants need infrastructure upgrades or all new facilities to accommodate growth. No matter how you look at it, human waste has to go somewhere: treating our poo costs money and systems need to be maintained.

What we don't always consider is where our wastewater ends up. Municipal wastewater is treated and filtered before being discharged to a water body (e.g., lakes, creeks, and rivers). The Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes, and Environment (EGLE) has a permitting process for these wastewater discharges that takes the current river conditions into consideration before allowing a discharge. Septic systems that aren't properly maintained regularly can fail and pollute nearby waterways with pathogens, excess nutrients, and chemicals. Whether that river is in your back yard, upstream or in Kalamazoo, wastewater is always a reality.

Below is an image from the Environmental Protection Agency which shows an urban water cycle. It shows the withdrawal from fresh water and the disposal (sometimes into the same water bodies). If you have concerns about your community's wastewater, make sure you understand the permitting process. There is a public comment period where you can voice your concern. Any interested party can be placed on the public notice list for a specific facility. Contact EGLE Kalamazoo District Office Phone: 269-567-3500, our local permitting authority if you have any questions or concerns.



## Mattawan man apprehended by deputies after chase

By Paul Garrod  
news4garrod@vineyardpress.biz

**ALMENA TWP.** - A 26-year-old Mattawan man faces charges of fleeing and eluding police, resisting and obstructing police, possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine, smuggling contraband into jail, and outstanding warrants, after he was apprehended in Alma Township on March 1, according to a press release from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott said on Saturday, Feb. 27, a Van Buren County Sheriff's Office K-9 deputy was on patrol in the Village of Bloomingdale when the deputy observed a Ford pick-up truck being driven by a subject whom the deputy knew to have multiple outstanding warrants for his arrest.

The K-9 deputy attempted a traffic stop on the subject, who fled in his pickup truck. Abbott said the suspect drove through a village park and a pursuit ensued, through county roads in Bloomingdale and Columbia townships. It was eventually terminated after nearly 30 minutes, according to Abbott. But the investigation contin-

ued and deputies were able to locate the suspect at a residence in 2500 block of M-43 in Alma Township on March 1.

The suspect was in a vehicle in the driveway and after briefly attempting to escape was apprehended. Deputies found a large amount of methamphetamine in his possession.

A search warrant was later obtained for the residence where more narcotics and paraphernalia were discovered.

Abbott said the investigation is ongoing and additional charges may be sought at a later time.

The Pokagon Tribal Police Department assisted Van Buren County Sheriff's Office units.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

**As of March 1, 2021:** there were 4,706 cases confirmed positive, with 85 deaths in Van Buren County.

Statewide, 589,150 positive cases of COVID-19 have resulted in 15,534 deaths; while across the country, 28,405,925 confirmed positive cases and 511,839 deaths were recorded.

### PUBLIC NOTICE VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN COUNCIL MEMBER

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Village of Mattawan Village Council will accept letters of interest for one (1) open seat on the Village of Mattawan Council. Village Charter requires that any applicant must have lived in the Village for at least 1 year

All interested persons should send a letter of interest along with your qualifications and reason for wanting to serve on the Village Council to either Village Hall or by e-mail.

**Village of Mattawan**  
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(269) 668-2128  
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Deadline: Until vacancy filled

Terri A. McLean  
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## LAWRENCE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**With COVID-19 safety precautions in place, some meetings may be held by remote, while others may be cancelled. To attend, call ahead for information.**

- MAR. 8 Lawrence School Board, 7 p.m.
- MAR. 9 American Legion Auxiliary, 6:30 p.m.  
Lawrence Village Council, 7 p.m.
- MAR. 10 Lawrence Lions, 7 p.m.  
Neighborhood Watch, 7:30 p.m.
- MAR. 11 Community Development Committee, 7 p.m.  
Lawrence Township Board, 7 p.m.

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### BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP 2021 NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

THE BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW FOR 2021 WILL BE HELD AT THE BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP HALL, 109 E. KALAMAZOO ST., BLOOMINGDALE, MI 49026 ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

- MARCH 2, 2021 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)**  
ORGANIZATION MEETING - NO APPEALS
- MARCH 10, 2021 (1:00 PM - 7:30 PM)**  
APPEAL HEARING\*\*
- MARCH 12, 2021 (1:00 PM - 7:30 PM)**  
APPEAL HEARING\*\*
- MARCH 18, 2021 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)**  
FINAL MEETING\*\* IF NEEDED  
NO APPEALS \*\*

\*\*ALL APPEALS WILL be heard virtually ONLY PER STATE ORDER. Virtual appeals will be offered by APPOINTMENT only. NO random virtual appearances will be heard. Please call 269-521-3800 extension 3 to schedule a virtual hearing. Written appeals must be received by 5 p.m. on March 10, 2021. You may e-mail written appeals to [mrichmond-assessing@yahoo.com](mailto:mrichmond-assessing@yahoo.com). These must also be received by 5 p.m. March 10, 2021. ZOOM LOGIN INFORMATION:

TO JOIN MEETING: Zoom Meeting ID 861 9528 1471  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86195281471>  
FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE please contact the clerk at 269-521-3800 ext 3

#### TENTATIVE RATIOS AND ESTIMATED MULTIPLIERS FOR 2021 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLASS	RATIO	FACTOR
*Agricultural	55.70%	.8977
*Commercial	55.14%	.9068
*Personal Property	50.00%	1.00000
*Residential	43.91%	1.1387
*Industrial	52.45%	.9533

#### AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES (ADA) NOTICE:

The township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon five (5) days notice.

Contact: Linda Stange at 269-521-3800 ext 3.

**MICHAEL RICHMOND - ASSESSOR**

Feb. 25 - Mar 11, 2021

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# HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

## BASKETBALL

### Tigers show improvement

By Gala Rock  
galarock@yahoo.com



Gobles' Kevin Heard looks for an opportunity to score as he brings the ball down the court. The Tigers lost to Martin and Saugatuck, but the young squad is showing growth "from game to game," according to Coach Scott Sherrod.

Tigers Rock Photography/Gala Rock

Gobles played Martin Tuesday night, Feb. 23, showing improvement as the Tigers struggle to capture their first win. Gobles had a spark from freshman Nick Lopez who scored 17 points. But, despite Lopez's efforts, the Tigers fell to the Clippers, 67-34.

"We played good basketball for about 2.5 of the four quarters tonight and it was the most growth we've shown all year from game to game," said Gobles Coach Scott Sherrod. "Practices have helped us get more in touch with the concepts we want the young men to exhibit. Andrew Lee played big down low, and Nick Lopez made a monster debut

in his first full varsity contest with 17 points and a handful of rebounds and assists."

On Friday night, Gobles played Saugatuck with both teams still looking for a first win. The Tigers had a slow start and were down quickly, 15-0, and could not bounce back, losing the game 42-33.

"We came out flat and dug ourselves a hole," commented Sherrod. "I wish we had another chance to match up against Saugatuck this year, as this was definitely our most competitive game so far and we'd love another shot at them. We will regroup over the weekend and get after the remainder of our schedule."

Nick Lopez had nine points, Andrew Lee, eight, Alex Doolittle, seven.



Mattawan's Ryan Kiesling (42) launches himself over his Lakeshore opponent as he moves into the key for a shot during last week's Southwestern Michigan Athletic Conference contest. The Lancers proved to be too quick for the Wildcats, who eventually lost, 52-36.

Haley Hagen photo

### Wildcats are outpaced by Lancers

By Haley Hagen  
couriersports@vineyardpress.biz

The Mattawan boys basketball team hosted Stevensville Lakeshore last week, and struggled against the quicker Lancers, resulting in a 52-36 loss for the Wildcats.

In the first quarter, the score remained close. The Wildcats were down 8-2 when Andrew Foster sank a long three pointer to try to spark some Mattawan momentum. But the Lancers continued to extend their lead. Mattawan managed only one more basket in the period when Ryan Kiesling connected for two points. Mattawan trailed 13 -7 to start the second quarter, which was more of the same.

Lakeshore stretched the lead, while Mattawan struggled offensively, with no shots being made in the quarter. The Lancers scored 14 unanswered points to lead by 20 points at halftime.

The Wildcats broke out of their scoreless rut in the third quarter, as Foster, Colin DeBoer, and Mark Yetter all sank three pointers to make a small dent in the Lancers lead, 36-18. Mattawan's final points of the quarter came from Michael Phelps sinking two free throw attempts.

The Wildcats, now 3-4 on the season, will play at home again on Tuesday, March 9 against Loy Norrix. Game time is 7 p.m.

The visiting Wolves never got untracked with their shooting or their defense. Nearly 50 percent of the Hawks' points came from within the paint, as they found an open person near the hoop.

Justin Baird topped the Red Wolves' scoring list with 11 points, followed by Finlay Tate with nine, and Cullen Sylvester, seven. The visitors only hit on 25 percent of their shots (14 of 56). Tate was high in rebounds with seven, and Mitchell Mason assisted on four scores.

### Wolves play tough in tight conference matchups

By Butch Hindenach  
pawtwice@bloomingdale.com.net

In the Otsego gym, Monday, Feb. 22, The Red Wolves and Bulldogs provided a highly entertaining Wolverine Conference basketball game. The contest went down to the final seconds, with the Wolves pulling out a 67-60 victory.

Otsego has ruled the league in recent years, and the loss was their first conference defeat in 47 games, going back to December, 2017.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a seven point lead after eight minutes on the map, and maintained a small positive margin the next two stanzas.

Paw Paw's Finlay Tate had been held to two points at the break for the second game in a row; but as he did earlier in the week, he took charge late when it was needed the most. Tate began the final period with a quick pair of triples, and Mitchell Mason followed with five points to claim a 56-54 lead

midway through the quarter. Mason kept the lead for the Pack with a two pointer, and with less than 30 seconds remaining, the Red Wolves went to the free throw line for the first time all evening. Tate calmly swished a pair, and twice more after failed shot attempts by the Bulldogs, he repeated the performance. Justin Baird completed the job with a free throw of his own, and the Otsego winning streak was over.

Tate's late surge put him first in team scoring with 18, followed closely by Mason with 16, and Caleb Bowen with 15 in a career best game for him. Kolby Nichols added seven points to the team total, with Aaron Hayes putting six in the score book, and Baird five.

Tate and Mason led the rebounding stat with eight and six, respectively. Mason assisted on eight baskets, and Tate five.

Also key to winning were Paw Paw's 47 percent shooting from the floor, plus very determined defensive

play by the whole team led by Bair, Caleb Vanderveen, and Hayes.

At Three Rivers last week, a close game featured scoring runs by both teams, with the host Wildcats pulling off a 59-51 win over the Red Wolves.

Senior John Hatt led a 12-2 run by Paw Paw to start the night, and held a 20-6 margin after eight minutes of play. In the next stanza the Wildcats caught fire while the visitors cooled off. A quarter long 22-5 run put the Wildcats up by three at the break. After that it was a tight contest until the final minute when a game ending 8-0 stretch gave the Wildcats the victory.

Late in the game, the Three Rivers zone defense caused the Red and White problems for they were unable to penetrate the paint or get the ball inside, and were forced to move the ball around the perimeter look-

ing for three point opportunities.

Mitchell Mason and Finlay Tate shared team high scoring honors with 17 points each. Caleb Bowen added 11 points. Mason led in assists with four, and steals with five. The Wolves took care of the ball well with only a dozen miscues.

Last Saturday, for the first time since 1988, Paw Paw and Fennville met in the Blackhawks' gym for a boys basketball contest, with the host team claiming a somewhat surprising, 64-44, win.

The Blackhawks broke out quickly, hitting a high percentage of their shots; while the Red Wolves were cold as ice and trailed 28-6 just into the second period. As it turned out, the first quarter set the tone for the day and Bloomingdale cruised to the easy victory, never less than 20 points ahead until the final horn sounded.

## LAWTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

With COVID-19 safety precautions in place, some meetings may be held by remote, while others may be cancelled. To attend, call ahead for information.

MAR. 8	Lawton Lions, 7 p.m. Fire Dept. Practice, 7 p.m.
MAR. 9	Antwerp Township Board, 6:30 p.m. Lawton Village Council, 7 p.m.
MAR. 10	Porter Township Board, 7 p.m.

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<b>TUESDAY 3/9</b>	Library open to patrons <b>11 am-6 pm</b> Curb service <b>11 am-3 pm</b> <b>Heartbreak Book Club 10:30am - 11:30am on Zoom</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 3/10</b>	Library open to patrons <b>11 am-6 pm</b>
<b>THURSDAY 3/11</b>	Library open to patrons <b>11 am-6 pm</b> Curb service <b>11 am-3 pm</b>
<b>FRIDAY 3/12</b>	Library open to patrons <b>11 am-4 pm</b>
<b>SATURDAY 3/13</b>	Library open to patrons <b>11 am-3 pm</b> Internet Users Group on Zoom - <b>10am - noon</b> <b>Make a Superhero Reading Buddy 11:00 - 11:15am on Facebook</b>

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Gobles' Kaya Huizenga (34) takes the pass and looks to score against Martin in a tough defensive battle last week. The Tiger defense took control in the second half to hold off the Clippers.

Tigers Rock Photography/Gala Rock

## Paw Paw plays strong but runs out of steam against Three Rivers

By Butch Hindenach  
pawtwice@bloomingdale.com.net

In their second meeting against Bloomingdale this season, the Red Wolves turned the tables on the host Cardinals. In the season opener, Bloomingdale won by 19, but this time the Wolf Pack jumped out to a commanding early lead, and held on for a 51-45 win on the road.

One key difference this time was freshman Katelyn Baney who had missed the first match. Baney took control of the game at the onset, scoring 12 first period points, and controlling the offensive glass. This led to a 20-8 margin after eight minutes of play.

In the second quarter, Baney was still in command with some help from Taylor Rickli and the defense. By the end of the third period, the Red Wolves held a seven point margin to take into the last stanza.

The Cardinals mounted a rally, cutting the lead to just three points with 3:12 still on the clock, and the final outcome was still in doubt with under 25 seconds left, when Kate Nelson stepped to the free throw line twice, and calmly sank three of four charity tosses to resolve the issue.

Baney had a big night with 27 points and 21 rebounds. Rickli was also a key part of the effort, with 10 points, seven boards, and six

steals, plus a lot of hard work on defense. Sophia Griffin added four steals and three blocked shots, and Madison Mitchell chipped in with six tallies, and a disturbing presence around the hoop.

At home last week, the Paw Paw Red Wolves played one of the best games they have played this year so far, staying close with a good Three Rivers team throughout. After the visitors took an 17-11 first period lead, the stream nearly dried up in quarter number two and it appeared there was a lid on each basket.

Taylor Rickli managed the lone Paw Paw score as the two teams combined for just five points in eight minutes of play. They battled quite evenly the rest of the way, until the Wildcats mustered a six point margin going into the final stanza of play. With Katelyn Baney scoring eight straight points, the Wolf Pack took a two point advantage midway in the period. But, the 'Cats took over by scoring 10 of the final 12 points of the night to leave town with a hard earned victory.

Baney accounted for much of the Paw Paw offense with 21 tallies and 13 boards. Rickli had a nice all-around performance with six points and with Kate Nelson provided a sound defensive effort.

Madison Mitchell pulled down six rebounds and was credited with three blocked

## BASKETBALL

### Gobles hands Saugatuck first loss of the season

By Gala Rock  
galarock@yahoo.com

The Gobles girls basketball team faced Martin on Tuesday night, Feb. 23, in a tough defensive contest. Gobles trailed just 4-3 after the first quarter, then scored 15 points in the second quarter to hold the 18-12 halftime advantage.

The Tigers' defense was superb in the second half, holding the Clippers to only one point in each of the final two quarters, and winning the game, 24-14.

"We managed to pull out a win in a game where we could not get our shots to fall. We used a big second quarter to get some separation, then hung on in the second half to get the win," said Gobles Coach Greg Barber.

For the winners, Amanda Barber and Karlee Henderson each scored seven points. Kennadi Killeen added six points and eight rebounds.

In an exciting battle battle of the SAC's Lakeshore division Friday night, the Tigers played Saugatuck, who came into the game undefeated on the season. Gobles had a slow start and fell behind by 10 points in the first quarter,

## CHEER

### Red Wolves stay on top

By Butch Hindenach  
pawtwice@bloomingdale.com.net

**PAW PAW** - The Paw Paw cheer team continued to exhibit its talent last Saturday with another first place finish, this time in the team's own Red Wolves #2 Invite. Their top score of 779.44 was their best total of the season to date.

shots. Sophia Griffin, in her first substantial playing so far into the schedule, accounted for four points, four rebounds, an assist, four steals, and one shot rejection.

A long evening for Paw Paw's girls in the Wolf den Monday, Feb. 22 as Otsego jumped out to a 32-13 lead at by halftime and never looked back for a 53-20 victory in Wolverine Conference girls basketball play.

Strong defense by the Bulldogs held the home team to 23 percent shooting from the floor, including an 0 for 10 effort from behind the three point arc.

Sophomore Hannah Conway led the scoring chart with six points, and Caralyn Deming was first in rebounds with four, and steals with five.

but regrouped for a comeback.

Gobles and Saugatuck traded baskets during the second half and the contest ran down to the final seconds of the game. With the score all tied up, Karlee Henderson made two free throws to put the Tigers ahead and seal the victory, 49-47.

"We had a slow start but we worked it out and hung on for a win," said Coach Barber "We had a big night from Karlee Henderson and Amanda Barber tonight. But it was a total team effort that gave us the win."

Barber scored 22 points for the Tigers. Henderson added 10 points and 17 rebounds.

Gobles carried that winning momentum to a matchup with Marcellus on Saturday night. The Tigers jumped ahead early and never trailed in the game, winning, 39-26.

"After a quick start, we battled through tired legs in the second quarter," said Coach Barber. "It was a good win."

Amanda Barber again led Gobles' scorers with 23 points and five steals, and Kennadi Killeen had six points



The Lawrence competitive cheer team hosted two area schools last week, Berrien Springs and South Haven for the second BCS conference meet. The Tigers ended the opening round with a score of 173, the second round with a score of 134.4, and third round with a score of 183.8 for an overall final total of 491.2, and a second place finish in the meet. The Tigers will face Berrien Springs again on March 10 when they travel to the home of the Shamrocks.

Haley Hagen photo

The four senior members of the team - Mackenzie Miller, Rebecca Brown, Kylie Chai, and Raelyn DeGroff - were honored for their years of

exemplary participation on the squad.

At Vicksburg last week, the Red Wolves walked off with another first place fin-

ish in the Wolverine Jam-boree held Tuesday, Feb. 23. This one brought Paw Paw's streak of consecutive league top finishes to 16.

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## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

### HOCKEY

#### Wildcats batter Kalamazoo Eagles, 14-6

By Haley Hagen  
couriersports@vineyardpress.biz

The Mattawan Wildcat hockey team recorded its highest scoring game of the season last week, with a 14-6 win over the Kalamazoo Eagles. The Wildcats wasted little time taking a lead when junior Carson Byers scored back-to-back goals within the first minute of play.

Mattawan held the two-goal lead until Logan McClish assisted Zach Kruzich during a Mattawan power play to net the third goal of the game. With 10 minutes left in the opening quarter the Kalamazoo Eagles scored their first goal of the game to make it a 3-1 game. In the remaining minutes Mattawan scored three more goals and took a 6-3 lead into the

Mattawan's Lucas McKeey clears the puck from the fray as he fights to push through the Kalamazoo Eagle defense in high school hockey action last week. The Wildcats pummeled the Eagles in their highest scoring games of the season so far.

Haley Hagen photo

second period.

The Kalamazoo Eagles came on strong to start the second period and cut the Wildcats' lead to 6-4, but that would be the closest the Eagles would come to taking the lead.

The winning goalie was Mattawan junior Alexander Ciesielski, who ended the night with 26 saves of the 32 shots on goal. Mattawan's current record is 3-5-1.

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## WRESTLING

### Wolves take 5 more match wins

By Butch Hindenach  
pawtwice@bloomingdale.com.net

Highlighting a stellar season for the Paw Paw varsity wrestling team, four Red Wolf grapplers were included last week on the list of the state's top ranked wrestlers. Anthony Bradley, Niko Martinez, Jason Bowers, and Ashton Dean were each recognized.

The season record for Paw Paws' wrestling team now stands at 12-2, as the Red Wolves added five more wins from matches over the past week.

Last Saturday, the Red Wolves claimed a 39-36 win over a very good Battle Creek Lakeview team, and easier conquests over Allegan, 69-12, and Marshall, 66-18.

In three matches on Tuesday, Feb. 23, the Red Wolves dominated Niles, 78-21, and Sturgis, 72-12; then lost a very tight and competitive match to Plainwell, 46-42.

### Gobles wrestlers shine

By Gala Rock  
galarock@yahoo.com

Gobles wrestlers are taking their lumps as a team with just six wrestlers on the roster. But the Tigers are doing well as individuals. Senior Joe DeYoung (189/215) and freshman Gavin Hopper (103) are both off to a 9-2 start this year, while junior Chris Ruiz (125) and freshman Gavin Jones (145/152) are 3-2 and 2-1, respectively.

Freshmen Josh Thomas and Greyson Imus saw their first meets this week, both at 152 lbs. Thomas struggled with an 0-3 start, while Imus went 1-2.

"We have not had all six wrestlers together at a match yet. We hope that when we are at full strength, we can be more competitive," said Gobles Coach Vincent Lindel.

**PORTER TOWNSHIP MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW**  
will be held at the township hall,  
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Appeals are by appointments: call 269-358-4497.  
Meeting dates are:  
**Monday, March 8 - 9 a.m. to Noon & 1 to 4 p.m.**  
**and Saturday, March 13 - 9 a.m. to Noon & 1 to 4 p.m.**  
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## Seasonal weight limits in force on county roads

**LAWRENCE** - The Van Buren County Road Commission implemented full seasonal weight restrictions on Monday, March 1, for all roadways under the jurisdiction of the Van Buren County Road Commission, with the exception of its State Class "A" and County Class "A" roadways, according to a press release from the road commission.

The seasonal weight restrictions reduce the maximum axle load by 25 percent per axle on concrete pavements, and by 35 percent per axle on all other types of roads.

In addition, the speed on those county roads will continue to be reduced to not more than 35 mph for all vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or more.

A list of Class "A" unrestricted roadways, and a list of all other roadways under the restrictions, is available by contacting the Road Commission or by accessing the Road Commission's web site: [www.vbcrc.org/frostlaws](http://www.vbcrc.org/frostlaws).

Most Van Buren County roads have not been constructed to Class "A" standards.

Overweight citations may be issued listing the driver as the defendant. It will be the driver's responsibility to pay any fines incurred. These fines can be quite substantial, with some of them as much as 20 cents a pound for each overweight axle.

Special attention will be given to all trucks with droppable axles (tag axles) to ensure that the axles are in the lowered position. Any truck found with its axle in the raised position on a restricted road will be stopped and weighed.

Further changes or updates may be found by accessing the Road Commission's web page, [www.vbcrc.org/frostlaws](http://www.vbcrc.org/frostlaws).

For more information or questions, contact the Van Buren County Road Commission's Weighmaster, AJ Brucks, at (269) 674-8011, or via e-mail at: [AJBrucks@vbcrc.org](mailto:AJBrucks@vbcrc.org).

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# Obituaries



The Republican Women's Federation of Michigan held a Facelift Reveal Kick-off last Thursday, Feb. 25, at The Outpouring, Paw Paw. The event was hosted by the Van Buren County Republican Women's Club. Among those in attendance were, from left, Gerry Hildenbrand, former Administrative Vice Chair; Beth Griffin, State Representative 66th District; Diane Shindlbeck, current Administrative Vice Chair; Bernadette Smith, Republican Women's Federation of Michigan Chaplain and Ethics Vice Chair; Meshawn Maddock, Co-Chair; and Robyn Peake, Republican Women's Federation of Michigan President. There are currently 22 clubs in Michigan.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

## Paw Paw pair faces multiple drug charges

By Paul Garrod  
news4garrod@vineyardpress.biz

PAW PAW - A Paw Paw man and woman face several drug-related charges following an incident Feb. 24, in Paw Paw Township, according to a press release from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reported that the Narcotics Unit conducted an investigation in the 38000 block of Paw Paw Road, Paw Paw, of illegal manufacturing of methamphetamine. He said detectives went to the residence at 11 a.m. on Feb. 24, where they made contact with a 26-year-old Paw Paw female who was standing in the driveway where they believed the manufacturing of methamphetamine was taking place. Detectives spoke with her for several minutes.

Abbott said detectives were able to draft a search warrant for the residence. After the search warrant was obtained, a 48-year-old Paw Paw man arrived on scene and started talking with detectives. Detectives told him that a search warrant was obtained for his house; he then became visibly upset. Detectives called in a Uniform Patrol deputy and secured the house to conduct a search.

Inside the house, detectives found a small amount of user methamphetamine. A search of a garage turned up several

older methamphetamine labs and one active methamphetamine lab. Abbott said other methamphetamine components found inside the garage by deputies and meth lab responders were disposed of.

Once this investigation is complete, a report will be sent to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for charges of operating and maintaining a methamphetamine lab, possession of methamphetamine, and maintaining a drug house on both the male and female.

Anyone with information can contact the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office at (269) 657-3101, Crime Stoppers 1 (800) 342-7867, Silent Observer (269) 343-2100 or your local police department.

### Pauline Haskin

Pauline Haskin, 95, of Paw Paw, passed away Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021, at Maple Lake Assisted Living, Paw Paw. She was born Oct. 9, 1925, in Sand Lake, MI, the daughter of George and Edith Pierson.

Pauline was a loving and caring mother who was devoted to raising her family. She enjoyed gardening, cooking and baking. During World War II, she worked at the Willow Run manufacturing plant, located near Ypsilanti, MI, building Liberator Bombers.

On Nov. 1, 1948, she married John Haskin, who preceded her in death July 20, 2011. They were married 62 years.

She is survived by her sister, Alice Terpstra; her son, Steven (Pamela) Haskin; and four daughters, Carol Beckman, Debbie Arnold, Kim (Dave) Kondor and LuAnn (Robert) Thatcher; eight grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren.

Remember her by gifting through the Salvation Army, 233 Michigan St., Benton Harbor, MI, 49022-4509.

Share a memory or sign the online tribute wall at: [www.adamspawpaw.com](http://www.adamspawpaw.com).



### Ruby J. Frank

Ruby Jean Frank, 64, of Decatur, passed away Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021, at her home in Decatur.

The family received guests Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26, at Newell Chapel, 83313 M-51, Decatur, and Feb. 27, at Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, 66325 M-152, Dowagiac, (Sister Lakes), where services were later held. Burial followed in Hamilton Township Cemetery, Decatur.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Those wishing to leave an online condolence for the family may do so at: <http://www.newellchapel.com>.

Ruby was born Dec. 4, 1956, in Niles, MI, to Melvin and Donna (McCarty) Knapp.

On Jan. 24, 1976, she married Dale Frank in Coloma, MI.

Although she had several jobs over the years, her most important role was a homemaker. Her main priority was her family, especially her grandson. Ruby enjoyed cooking and hosting family gatherings. She was an avid sports fan. Ruby prided herself in being a long-time member of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Ruby will be missed by her husband of 45 years, Dale Frank; her son, Jared (Allison) Frank; her grandson, Jacob Frank; and her siblings, Deborah (William) Sunday, Ellen Knapp, and Scott (Teresa) Knapp.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

## DEATH NOTICES

James J. Bosco, 81, of Kalamazoo, died Feb. 18, 2021, in Kalamazoo. Arrangements by Betzler Life Story Funeral Homes, Kalamazoo, [www.BetzlerLifeStory.com](http://www.BetzlerLifeStory.com).

Nikki Lynn Byler, 34, of Lawton, passed away Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021, at her residence. Arrangements by Adams Funeral Home, Paw Paw, [www.adamspawpaw.com](http://www.adamspawpaw.com).

Katherine J. Hodgson, 88, of Paw Paw, died Feb. 19, 2021, in Paw Paw. Visitation held Wednesday, Feb. 24, with burial in Maple Grove Cemetery, Mattawan. Arrangements by Betzler & Thompson Life Story Funeral Homes, Paw Paw, [www.BetzlerLifeStory.com](http://www.BetzlerLifeStory.com).

Tom Lynch, 76, of Kalamazoo, died Feb. 19, 2021. Arrangements by Betzler Life Story Funeral Homes, Kalamazoo, [www.BetzlerLifeStory.com](http://www.BetzlerLifeStory.com).

Sara Anne Oliver, 73, of Kalamazoo, died February 20, 2021 in Kalamazoo. Betzler Life Story Funeral Homes, Kalamazoo, [www.BetzlerLifeStory.com](http://www.BetzlerLifeStory.com).

Sr. Lucy Schneider, CSJ, 86, of Nazareth, MI, died Feb. 21, 2021, in Kalamazoo. Live Burial Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Nazareth. Arrangements by Betzler Life Story Funeral Homes, Kalamazoo, [www.BetzlerLifeStory.com](http://www.BetzlerLifeStory.com).

DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISING: Monday • 5 p.m.

<b>Driver's License Restoration</b>	<b>Drunk Driving &amp; Criminal Defense</b>
It's a Process... We Can Help!	"Friends... Don't Let Friends Plead Guilty!"
<b>Law Office of</b> <b>FREDERICK J. TAYLOR</b> <b>269-388-6060 • 1-800-250-FRED</b>	

**VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Mattawan Council will hold a Public Hearing to consider a levy up to three and one half (3.5) mills, or other such amount as determined by the Village Council, to provide support for police operations and capital improvements within the district. This action would be in compliance with Public Act 33 of 1951. The current levy is three and one half (3.5) mills. The Council shall consider any appropriate levy including a level in excess of three and one half (3.5) mills.

The Special Assessment District will include the same boundaries as the incorporated Village and the tax levy will be on all "real" property, not "personal" property.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a Public Hearing on said request will be held on Monday, March 22, 2021 before the Village Council at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, at which time all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. Please check Village of Mattawan's website for Zoom information at [www.mattawanmi.com](http://www.mattawanmi.com).

**Please send all written comments to:**  
 Village of Mattawan  
 24221 Front Avenue  
 Mattawan, MI 49071  
 (269) 668-2128  
[offices@mattawanmi.com](mailto:offices@mattawanmi.com)

March 1, 2021

Terri McLean  
 Village Clerk

Mar. 4, 2021

## Edward Jones Celebrates Women in Business



**Grace M. Gant, AAMS®**  
 Financial Adviser  
 179 W. Michigan Avenue  
 Suite 3  
 Paw Paw, MI 49079  
 269-657-0047



**Jay Doll**  
 Financial Adviser  
 179 W. Michigan Avenue  
 Suite 3  
 Paw Paw, MI 49079  
 269-657-0047

**Edward Jones**  
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

TO PLACE AN AD:  
 Call (269) 657-3072

## PAW PAW COMMUNITY CALENDAR

With COVID-19 safety precautions in place, some meetings may be held by remote, while others may be cancelled. To attend, call ahead for information.

MAR. 5 AA & AI-Anon, 8 p.m. (Almena Methodist Church)  
 MAR. 6 AA, 7 p.m. (First Presbyterian Church)  
 MAR. 7 Narc-Anon, 7 p.m. (First Presbyterian Church)  
 MAR. 8 Kiwanis Club, noon (Bronson LakeView Classroom 1)  
 Paw Paw Township Board, 7 p.m.  
 Paw Paw Village Council, 7 p.m.  
 AA & AI-Anon, non-smoking, 8 p.m. (St. Mary's School)  
 MAR. 9 Senior Citizens, noon (via Zoom)  
 Paw Paw Service League, 7:30 p.m.  
 MAR. 10 TOPS, 7:45 to 9 a.m.  
 Paw Paw Chamber Board of Directors, 8:30 a.m.  
 Wine & Harvest Committee, 6 p.m.  
 Paw Paw School Board, 7 p.m.  
 O.E.S.  
 MAR. 11 Paw Paw Rotary Club, noon  
 AI-Anon, non-smoking, noon (St. Mary Church)  
 Narc-Anon, noon (First Presbyterian Church)  
 Domestic Violence Education Class, 1 p.m. (Call 1-888-655-9008 to verify location)  
 Knights of Columbus  
 American Legion Post 68, 7:30 p.m.

**OASIS**  
 BEER • WINE • LIQUOR • LOTTO  
 Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
 Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
 Sunday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
 Since 1962 Phone 657-5481

## Land Auction • 35.57 Acres

Buildings include pole barn with electric, trailer & apartment for employee housing  
 Currently used as a blueberry farm  
 Frontage on Paw Paw Lake Road (Berrien Co.) • Parcel has pond & well

**Mitchell Family Farms**  
**Tuesday, March 23 | 1 p.m.**  
 Auction will be held at 36800 M-140, Covert, MI

**MIEDEMA AUCTIONEERING, INC.**  
**LIVE & ONLINE AUCTIONS**  
 BRYON CENTER • MI

Detailed information is available at [MiedemaAuctioneering.com](http://MiedemaAuctioneering.com) or call 616-538-0367.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m., on April 1, 2021. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

Default has occurred in the conditions of a Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by GUILLERMO MARTINEZ, a single man, as Mortgagor(s), to Honor Credit Union, as Mortgagee. The Mortgage is dated April 3, 2018 and was recorded April 23, 2018 at Liber 1667, Page 756 of Van Buren County Records. The amount claimed to be due on said Mortgage and unpaid at the date of this Notice is SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE AND 45/100 (\$7,753.45) DOLLARS, including interest on the applicable indebtedness at the rate of 4.750% per annum. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue under the Mortgage and its related note and which are permitted under Michigan law offer the date of this Notice. No legal or equitable proceedings have been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, and the power of sale in the Mortgage has become operative by reason of the default.

At the date and time as referenced previously in this Notice, the Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the property herein described, or some part of them, at public auction, to the highest bidder, for the purpose of satisfying the amount due and unpaid on the Mortgage, along with interest due, the legal costs and charges of sale as allowed by statute and/or the Mortgage, and any taxes and insurance that the Mortgagee pays on or prior to the date of said sale. The property mentioned and described in the Mortgage, as located in the City of Bangor, County of Van Buren, and State of Michigan, are more particularly described as follows: Lot 209; Except the West 82.5 feet thereof, according to A.H. Morrison's Map of South Bangor, recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Van Buren County;

Address: 324 Alexander Ave., Bangor, MI 49013;

Tax Parcel No.: 80-54-700-209-00; together with all existing or subsequently erected or affixed buildings, improvements, and fixtures; all easements, rights of way, streets, roads, alleys, and public places, privileges, and appurtenances, public or private, now or later used in connection with the premises; and all rights to make divisions of the land that are exempt from the platting requirements of all applicable land division or platting acts, as amended from time to time.

Attention Purchasers: the foreclosing Mortgagee reserves the right to cancel the sale prior to sale or to rescind this sale at any time. In that event, your damages, if any, will be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at the sale, plus interest. If the mortgaged property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

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

The length of the redemption period will be one (1) year from date of sale, unless the redemption period is shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3241a or MCL 600.3238. In which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of sale or as otherwise provided by statute.

**DATED: March 4, 2021**  
**ANDREW W. BARNES (P70571)**  
**KOTZ SANGSTER WYSOCKI PC,**  
**ATTORNEYS FOR HONOR CREDIT UNION**  
 317 Center Street, South Haven, MI 49090  
 (269) 591-6915  
 Mar. 4-Mar. 25, 2021

### STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF VAN BUREN NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate FILE NO. 2021-1132-DE

Estate of Linda C. Sobol, Deceased Date of birth: November 6, 1938

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, Linda C. Sobol, died September 2, 2020.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Michael Sobol, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. Date: February 25, 2021

Attorney Andrew W. Barnes (P70571) 317 Center Street South Haven, MI 49090 (269) 591-6915

Personal Representative Michael Sobol 546 Summit Avenue Oconomowoc, WI 53065 (262) 490-4851 Mar. 4, 2021

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS JAMES EVERETT ST. CIN

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The Decedent, James Everett St. Cin, died Nov. 7, 2015.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Elizabeth St. Cin, named personal representative, within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice. Date: February 22, 2021

Attorney Nicholas R. Hogue (P81291) 107 Pennsylvaniana Avenue Dowagiac, MI 49047 (269) 782-9895

Trustee Elizabeth St. Cin 19250 Stateline Road Edwardsburg, MI 49112 Mar. 4, 2021

### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 1, 2021. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Name of the mortgagor: Seth Belden, an unmarried man  
 Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns  
 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing  
 Date of Mortgage: September 2, 2015  
 Date of Mortgage Recording: September 4, 2015  
 Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$84,653.09  
 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Pine Grove, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning on the East line of Section 30, Town 1 South, Range 13 West at a point 1012.00 feet South of the Northeast corner of the section; thence South on the section line, 120.00 feet; thence West 315.0 feet; thence North 120.0 feet; thence East, 315.00 feet to the place of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 16772 32nd St, Gobles, MI 49055-9647

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

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

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

This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: March 4, 2021

Trott Law, P.C. 31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 642-2515 1430619 (03-04)(03-25) Mar. 4-Mar. 25, 2021

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Decedent, Raymond V. Peckstein, whose last known address was 67863 CR 388, South Haven, MI 49090, died January 29, 2021. There is no Personal Representative of the Decedent's Estate to whom letters of administration have been issued.

Creditors of the Decedent are notified that all claims against the Decedent's estate will be forever barred unless presented to Roberta Knapp, Trustee of the Raymond V. Peckstein Trust Dated November 26, 2002, within four months after the date of this publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Dated: February 26, 2021

Roberta Knapp, Trustee of the Raymond V. Peckstein Trust Dated November 26, 2002 03681 68th Street South Haven, MI 49090  
 Attorney for Trustee: Andrew W. Barnes (P70571) Kotz Sangster Wysocki PC, 317 Center Street South Haven, MI 49090 (269) 637-1151 Mar. 4, 2021

### STATE OF MICHIGAN IN THE 36TH CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF VAN BUREN CIVIL DIVISION

BRADLEY RICHARDS and Case No.: LYNNEL KIELY, 2021-070761-CZ Plaintiffs,

vs. ALLEN BOEHMER; CLARICE BOEHMER; FENELPE BRUMM; EDWARD ROBERT BRUMM; JOHN FLYNN; ALEXIS FLYNN; THOMAS DORBY; GERALDINE DORBY; GREGORY DOMEL; MICHELE DOMEL; WILLIAM K. HENRICH; JOHN KOSMOWSKI; DONNA LaGLIA; ANDREW PETERSON; JOANNE PETERSON; TOM POVSNER; LAURA POVSNER; Defendants.

### ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION AND NOTICE OF ACTION

At a session of said Court, held in the Courthouse, in the Village of Paw Paw, County of Van Buren and State of Michigan on the 17th day of February, 2021.

PRESENT: Honorable David J. DiStefano, Circuit Court Judge. To: Allen Boehmer, Clarice Boehmer, Edward Robert Brumm, Penelope Brumm, Greg Domel, Michele Domel, Thomas Dorby, Geraldine Dorby, John Flynn, Alexis Flynn, William K. Henrichs, John Kosmowski, Donna Lagiglia, Andrew Peterson, Joanne Peterson, Tom Povsner, and Laura Povsner.

IT IS ORDERED: 1. You are being sued in the Thirty-Sixth Circuit Court for Van Buren County, Michigan, by Bradley Richards and Lynnel Kiely in an action to quiet title and revise the plat of Woodland Park, Subdivision, located in Keele Township, Michigan. The real property at issue is the south one-half of Lake Court, Woodland Park Subdivision, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 3 of Plots, Page 5, Van Buren County Records. 2. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the Court's address of 212 East Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079, within 60 days after publication of this notice is completed. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint filed in this case.

Date of Entry: February 17, 2021 Honorable David J. DiStefano (P35010) Circuit Court Judge Mar. 4, 2021

### DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISING IS: Monday at 5 p.m.

### STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF VAN BUREN NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate FILE NO. 2021-1029-DE

Estate of Marcella Agnes Merriman, Deceased Date of birth: May 17, 1927

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, Marcella Agnes Merriman, died November 28, 2020. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Douglas Merriman, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. Date: March 1, 2021

Attorney WILLIS LAW Adam D. Bancroft (P70318) 491 W. South Street Kalamazoo, MI 49007 (269) 492-1040

Personal Representative Douglas Merriman 56662 Orchard Lane Bangor, MI (269) 427-8006 Mar. 4, 2021

### STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF VAN BUREN NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

Estate of Living Trust of Donald B. VanBrussel, dated April 16, 2019. Date of birth: May 22, 1941

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The Decedent, Donald B. VanBrussel, died February 14, 2021.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Monica D.S. Marler, Successor Trustee, 33547 56th Avenue, Paw Paw, MI 49079 or Brent M. Lamkin, Esq., 22374 Garrison, Dearborn, MI 48124; (313) 561-5700 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: February 24, 2021  
 Attorney Brent M. Lamkin (P57072) 22374 Garrison Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 561-5700

Successor Trustee Monica S. Marler 19250 Stateline Road Edwardsburg, MI 49112 Mar. 4, 2021

### Almena Township 27625 CR 375 Paw Paw, MI 49079

### SYNOPSIS January 27, 2021

The Almena Township Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Bill Van Tassel.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held by teleconference for the board members and the public to participate.

Board members present (in person): Sandra Rickli, Bill Van Tassel, Tim Kloosterman.

Via teleconference: Nick Toman, Geoff Moffat, Kelly Redmond, and Greg Babik (joined at 8:00 pm)

Via teleconference: Guests: Deputy Walter Grech and Sheriff Dan Abbott.

Roll call: Kelly Redmond-home, Tim Kloosterman-township hall, Geoff Moffat-home, Greg Babik-home, Nick Toman-home, Sandra Rickli-township hall, and Bill Van Tassel-township hall.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Supervisor.

Business conducted: a. Supervisor Van Tassel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. b. Agenda approved as amended. c. Meeting minutes of December 16, 2020 approved as presented. d. Bills received/motion passed for approval of bills, total of \$48,323.83 e. Report received from Dick Godfrey, County Commissioner. f. Road report received from Geoff Moffat.

g. Report received from Deputy Wilton, Sheriff's Department h. Clerk report received from Sandra Rickli.

i. Treasurer report received from Geoff Moffat as he announced his resignation from the Van Buren County Road Commission as of January 31, 2021.

j. Commissioners report received from Dick Godfrey. k. Deputy Walter Grech presented his report remotely. December calls for service were 127. Trustees-Nick, Kelly, and Tim will form a committee to analyze fire and police data.

l. Limited Public Comment received from a few residents. m. Clerk report received from Sandra Rickli. n. Treasurer report received from Geoff Moffat.

o. Supervisor report received from Bill Van Tassel. p. Planning Commission - No report. q. Rose Lane residents were informed that December 1, 2020 was the last special assessment collection for residents of Rose Lane. At the end of the season in 2021, the road contractor will submit a bill signed off by the Rose Lane representative to the township for payment; any funds left at the end of the year will be distributed to the residents that have contributed through tax collection. Comment was received from residents of this area.

r. Hurley and Stewart Special Land Use for a Self-Storage facility. Motion approved to table the special land use until the next Township Board meeting on February 17, 2021 contingent on the applicant submitting additional documents as requested.

s. Motion passed to approve Resolution 2021-01 with revision which is authorization to allow local residents to protest in writing to the Board of Review.

t. Motion passed to accept the agreement between the County of Kalamazoo and Almena Township for household hazardous waste as written.

u. Motion passed to release the funds for the purpose of purchasing an AED for the Van Buren County Sheriff's Reserve Division as proposed in the quote from Deputy Wilton with up to 10% leeway in cost with payment to be made to the Reserve Division.

v. Motion passed for budget amendments for escrow fees and expenditures as presented.

w. Roadwork for 2021 was discussed. x. Motion passed to appoint Nick Toman as the Planning Commission Township Board Liaison.

y. Motion passed to appoint Rich Wyrwa to the Board of Review for another two year term.

z. Motion passed to appoint Sandra Curtis to the Board of Review for another two year term.

aa. Motion passed to appoint Julie Cauter to the Board of Review for another two year term.

bb. Motion passed to appoint Joe Vyverman as the Board of Review alternate.

cc. Motion passed unanimously to approve Resolution 2021-02 which officially opposes the Village of Mattawan proposed Wastewater Discharge into Hayden Creek.

dd. Motion passed unanimously to approve five hours a week for services from Van Buren County Sheriff's Department.

ee. Open Public Comment was received. ff. Motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Complete copy available at Almena Township Hall, Office hrs: M-W-F 9-4 p.m. Complete copy also available on our website at [www.almenatownship.net](http://www.almenatownship.net). Summary submitted by Sandra Rickli, Clerk Almena Township Mar. 4, 2021

### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 18, 2021. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Robin Read, an unmarried woman  
 Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns  
 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Amerifirst Financial Corporation  
 Date of Mortgage: November 14, 2018  
 Date of Mortgage Recording: November 21, 2018  
 Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$128,697.19

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Hartford, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: The South 1/2 of the North 1/2 of the Section 14 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Common street address (if any): 57270 65-1/2 St., Hartford, MI 49057-8815.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

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

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

This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: February 18, 2021

Trott Law, P.C. 31440 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 642-2515 1429647 (02-18)(03-11) Feb. 18-Mar. 11, 2021

### STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIAL COURT-FAMILY DIVISION VAN BUREN COUNTY PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING FOR NAME CHANGE CASE NO. and JUDGE 2021 7003 NC

Court Address: 212 E. Paw Paw St., Ste. 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 Court telephone no.: 269-657-8225

In the matter of: RHONDA MARIE FIORILLO TO ALL PERSONS, including those whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

**TAKE NOTICE:** A hearing will be held on April 1, 2021 at 10:15 a.m. at PROBATE COURT, Courtroom #3 before Judge David J. DiStefano (P35010) to change the name of:

RHONDA MARIE FIORILLO 203 Silver St., #198 Gobles, MI 49055 (734) 634-2791 to RHONDA MARIE HILL Mar. 4, 2021

### STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIAL COURT-FAMILY DIVISION VAN BUREN COUNTY PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING FOR NAME CHANGE CASE NO. and JUDGE 2021 7002 NC

Court Address: 212 E. Paw Paw St., Ste. 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 Court telephone no.: 269-657-8225

In the matter of: ADAM JAMES YOUNG TO ALL PERSONS, including those whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

**TAKE NOTICE:** A hearing will be held on April 1, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at PROBATE COURT, Courtroom #3 before Judge David J. DiStefano (P35010) to change the name of:

ADAM JAMES YOUNG 40231 20th Avenue Bloomingdale, MI 49026 (269) 666-3017 to DENIS DEWAYNE SILER. Mar. 4, 2021

### STATE OF MICHIGAN 36th CIRCUIT COURT - FAMILY DIVISION VAN BUREN COUNTY PUBLICATION OF HEARING (NOTICE TO PUTATIVE FATHER) CASE NO. 19-019208 NA

IN THE MATTER OF: Lincoln Jade Novotny (DOB: 07/18/2019)

**TAKE NOTICE:** A petition has been filed with this court regarding the following minor: Lincoln Jade Novotny, who was born on July 18, 2019, at Bronson Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The mother of the minor is Debra Novotny. If you are or may be the natural father, you should appear at Circuit Courtroom 2 on March 31, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. to state any interest you may have in the minor. Failure to appear at this hearing is a denial of interest in the minor, waiver of notice for all subsequent hearings and a waiver of a right to appointment of an attorney. Failure to appear at this hearing COULD RESULT IN PERMANENT TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS.

Mar. 4, 2021

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Decedent, Daniel J. Moritt, whose last known address was 78 Clinton Street, South Haven, MI 49090, died January 25, 2021. There is no Personal Representative of the Decedent's Estate to whom letters of administration have been issued.

Creditors of the Decedent are notified that all claims against the Decedent's estate will be forever barred unless presented to Lois L. Chappell, Trustee of the Daniel J. Moritt Trust Dated December 27, 2001, within four months after the date of this publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Dated: March 1, 2021

Lois L. Chappell, Trustee of the Daniel J. Moritt Trust Dated December 27, 2001 1209 Bryan Avenue Auburn, IN 46706

Attorney for Trustee: Andrew W. Barnes (P70571) Kotz Sangster Wysocki PC, 317 Center Street South Haven, MI 49090 (269) 637-1151 Mar. 4, 2021

# CLASSIFIEDS

## AUTOMOTIVE

**BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery.** Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

**L&L AUTO BUYING** junk cars & trucks. All metal for recycling. L&L specials: Burn barrels, \$10; Reconditioned batteries, \$50; 269-657-5933.

**WANTED:** Clark's Auto Parts, Inc. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

## EMPLOYMENT

**NOW HIRING:** Full & part-time positions available for Direct Care Staff. No experience necessary. All training provided. Please call 269-628-9099 to schedule an interview or apply online at [cornerstoneaf.com](http://cornerstoneaf.com).

**PART-TIME CARE SPECIALIST,** 2nd and 3rd shift. Must have high school diploma or GED. Please apply in person at Maple Lake Assisted Living, 677 Hazen St., Paw Paw or on indeed.com.

**EXPERIENCED WINE grape pruners wanted** in Cheshire Township. (269) 521-4047.

**HELP WANTED - ALL POSITIONS:** Line cooks and dishwashers, servers, hostesses, and food expeditors. Must be able to work weekends. Apply at Big T in Lawton.

**PART-TIME HOUSEKEEPER,** 1st shift. Must have high school diploma or GED. Please apply in person at Maple Lake Assisted Living, 677 Hazen St., Paw Paw or on indeed.com.

## MISCELLANEOUS

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### Township approves special land use permit for Almena storage facility

**ALMENA TWP.** - A special land use permit for a proposed self-storage facility along Almena Township's M-43 corridor was brought before the Almena Township Board's Feb. 17 meeting.

Almena Township Treasurer Geoff Moffat said he uncovered a conflict with the township's Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance concerning the location of the proposed self-storage.

Nathan Roscheck, property owner, said the request is only for a special use permit. Issues with the wetland property will be addressed on the site plan.

All issues discussed will be addressed in the final site plan to be brought before the Antwerp Township Planning Commission.

Pat Denny Diget, of 31483 25th St., questioned the township board's process of approving the site plan before knowing the full impact on the surrounding environment.

The board approved a motion for a special land use permit, with conditions listed, for the self-storage facility submitted by Hurley and Stewart for Whiskey Run, LLC, at 27581 M-43.

Julia Richardson informed the township board other waste water dumping areas near Heritage Glen Golf Course are being considered by the Village of Mattawan. The Save Hayden Creek group is trying to collect 300 signatures from residents of the Village of Mattawan for a referendum to stop the wastewater treatment facility.

Earlier, during limited public comment, Bob Gaudio, of 31439 42nd Ave., thanked the township board for its position taken with the Village of Mattawan and the Hayden Creek issue.

The board also approved:

- The re-appointment of Jim Horton to another three-year term on the Almena Township Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

- The purchase of an AED for \$1,295 for use at the township hall.

- Spring Clean-Up Day on April 17, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- A request by Township Treasurer Geoff Moffat of the Almena Township Planning Commission to undertake procedures to bring the provisions of the Almena Township Zoning Ordinance into alignment with the adopted Almena Township Master Plan Future Land Use, 2017 edition.



Tapper Chevrolet of Paw Paw recently donated \$2,000 to the Paw Paw Athletic Boosters Club. On hand for the presentation were Jessica Wressel, a Paw Paw Athletic Boosters Club board member, and Don Brown, of Tapper Automotive, center, surrounded by PPHS student athletes Riley Goldberg, Connor Hindenach, Kolby Hindenach, Jake Caron, Ethan Oh, Tyler Wressel, Landon Harris, Paige Miller, and Mackenzie Miller.

### BLOOMINGDALE SUPT. RETIRES

(Continued from page 1.)

me the value of hard work. My parents valued education and made sacrifices so my sister and I could pursue our goals after high school," said Paquette.

Her plans for retirement include "to not have a plan for a while." She said she is looking forward to being able to spend more time with her parents, family and friends, as well as her sister in Florida. She also

plans to continue to volunteer at the school district, and help with Bloomingdale's Hand 2 Hand Food program and with whatever else is needed.

Van Buren Intermediate School District Superintendent Jeff Mills, who also plans to retire in June, said of Paquette, "Deb has done an amazing job leading the Bloomingdale Public School District. Her hard

work, dedication, and passion she gives every day for making a difference in the lives of students have made a positive mark on the district. She has mentored many new superintendents and administrators in Van Buren County helping them become successful leaders. I wish her the very best as she starts a new chapter in her life."

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### BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP MARCH MEETING

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SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS:  
ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 17, 2021 @ 6 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 17, 2021 @ 7 P.M.  
BUDGET MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING  
REGULAR MEETING

ZOOM LOGIN INFORMATION:  
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