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October 15, 2026

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Former Decatur village manager faces felony charge of larceny

By Paul Garrod
Staff writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

DECATUR - The Village of Decatur issued a statement last week following the arrest of its former village manager, Christopher Tapper who faces a felony charge of larceny by false pretenses of \$20,000 to \$50,000. Decatur Village Pres-

ident Jessica Pelfrey issued the following statement, "The Village of Decatur is extremely disappointed and deeply concerned by the allegations involving former Village Manager Christopher Tapper and the misuse of taxpayer dollars. "After discrepancies were discovered regarding tuition reimbursement documentation submitted by Tapper, the Village

initiated a review and referred the matter to law enforcement. The investigation determined that Tapper received approximately \$42,000 in tuition reimbursements over five years based on allegedly falsified documentation. The Michigan State Police subsequently conducted an independent investigation, and the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office has autho-

rized a felony charge of larceny by false pretenses of \$20,000 to \$50,000. "The Village takes its responsibility to safeguard taxpayer dollars seriously. We will pursue every appropriate avenue available to recover any taxpayer funds that have been improperly obtained. We are taking steps to strengthen safeguards so incidents like this don't happen in the

future. "Our residents deserve transparency, accountability and responsible stewardship of their tax dollars, and we are committed to providing that. "Out of an abundance of transparency, the Village is sharing as much information as it appropriately can regarding this matter. However, because this is now an

active criminal case, all questions regarding the investigation, criminal charges or prosecution should be directed to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office." A Village Manager Search Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, Oct. 12, at the Decatur Village Hall.

Escapade parade marches through Lawton



The fourth annual Fall Escapade Parade was held in Lawton on Sunday, Oct. 4. Parade lineup began at the old Lawton middle school parking lot, located at Nursery Street, between Second and Third streets, then made its way through town before finally ending at Reid's Corner. Prizes were awarded for the best decorated entries.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod



Residents complain of noise, planners ask Warner to tone it down

By Paul Garrod
Staff writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - Following approximately 90 minutes of public comment in regard to Warner Vineyards and its outdoor entertainment venue, the Paw Paw Planning Commission on Thursday night, Oct. 8, asked business owner Pat Warner to decrease the sound of the music coming from the South Kalamazoo Street venue, Warner Vineyards, to 85 decibels. Paw Paw Planning Commission Chairperson Kathleen Larson told owner, Pat Warner, and the standing-room-only crowd who gathered at the Paw Paw Township Hall, "Nobody wants to shut you down. Use 85 decibels." Earlier, the Planning Commission heard many audience members express their opinions of the sound issue, many saying what Warner was doing was okay, while others felt the sound level needed to be decreased. One resident, who

had resided at their residence, on Gremps Street for the past 54 years, told the Planning Commission, "The bass is terrible. You just go into the house and it shakes. We just want the music where it's tolerable. The resident further stated, "We plan to sell the house. We don't know if we have to disclose we're by a venue." The resident said last year there were no sound or volume issues with the venue. Following those comments, another audience member said, "We're not listening to music, we're listening to noise." Some of the language at the venue was questionable, according to the audience member. "This year, we've had concerts that were tolerable. It was suggested to that audience member, "If you don't like the noise, wear earplugs. That's a little bit out in left field. I feel like I have been overrun." Another Antwerp Township resident, whose family operated a longtime bar and restaurant, expressed his thanks to Warner.

"I want to thank Pat Warner for bringing this to Paw Paw. He's probably \$2 million in debt," said Rick Mitchell. Mitchell added, "You can hear it, but it's not overwhelming," as Mitchell told the Planning Commission and audience what he experienced from a residence on Lake Boulevard, near-by the Warner venue. "We have something that people are enjoying. Let's work together to make it work," said Mitchell. Another Paw Paw resident, Laurie Boyd, spoke before the audience and Planning Commission saying, "We're not here to shut it down. We're here to say, contain it, please." Paw Paw resident, Nadine Jarvis, said she can hear the music from her residence. "I enjoy that. I can't hear the lyrics." Another resident praised Warner for his efforts saying, "They have done things for the village of Paw Paw that no one else had. The resident said, "In the tough economic times that we are in currently, I see no

one else in the village doing what the Warner people have done." Still, another resident said the sound was just a small part of the issue, referring to the overall general impact. Kim Sage told those gathered that she heard people talk about the Warner concerts from South Haven to Florida. "For that to happen in this town in this short amount of time is incredible. She added, "It's such an incredible venue. You can't move it. They have addressed everything brought up at the last meeting. He's (Pat Warner) already done everything he's been asked to do." Another resident echoed earlier comments about the sound level saying, "They need to turn it down, literally turn it down. It is much worse this year. Some of the language also. We don't want him shut down. We just want it turned down." Kim Vargas spoke before the Planning Commission members saying, "Let's fix it. Figure it out and come up with a solution."

Jeri Pursley spoke favorably of Warner's efforts saying, "Pat's done a great thing for the community that we don't have to drive to Grand Rapids." Rick Boyd, whose wife, Laurie, spoke earlier, said there is a common thread that is being heard tonight at this meeting. "All we're asking is to turn it down." Residents of Pine Street, Boyd said new triple pane windows installed in their 160 year old house rattle during many Warner concerts. Planning Commission Chairperson Larson asked Paw Paw Village Manager Bryan Myrkle what the Planning Commission can and can't do, in reference to a similar question brought up by an audience member. "I think (Pat Warner) has done an admirable job. This is a polarizing issue. We're going to have to strike some sort of balance," said Myrkle. Myrkle said, "This is the third summer that I have been listening to people (about the concerts). The nature of the complaints has changed. People are angry."

Myrkle said he was nervous about how the meeting was going to go. According to Myrkle, in three years he has not heard of any perfect solution. "Whatever is done, someone will not be happy." Paw Paw Chief of Police, Eric Rottman, said the concerts this year have not been over 90 decibels, which is listed in the Special Use Permit granted to Warner. Chief of Police Rottman said crime wise during the concerts, "We've never had anything." Planning Commission Chairperson Larson said, "I think the noise can be controlled." Pat Warner, who attended the meeting, said there were a total of 79 concerts this year, up 10 from 69 last year. "I would like to come visit some of them in their homes and address that issue," said Warner. With all the public comment, Warner said, "I hear it. I would like to have a solution for us... ..I would like to make this work. I really do."

Superintendent Williamson said clean-up repairs to broken windows and interior glass were underway following the break-in.

The Beacon reached out to the three Republicans (Krieger, Wendzel and Moraitis) who did not attend to try to get an explanation for their non-attendance and lack of response to the AAUW's invitation, but they have failed to respond as of the paper going to press. Emails were sent also to the Chair of the Van Buren County Republicans and to the Chair of the Republican Party in Michigan. Neither replied.

SECOND FRONT PAGE

District Library announces director's departure

DECATUR – Van Buren District Library (VBDL) and Executive Director Dan Hutchins have mutually agreed to conclude his tenure “after nine years of valuable service,” according to an announcement from VBDL.

In a release, the VBDL thanked Hutchins for his leadership and recognized his contributions to the library and the communities it serves.

“Since joining VBDL in 2017, Dan has strengthened a seven-branch Library District serving 16 municipalities, leading successful millage efforts that secured lasting public support for library services, including the first ballot proposal in its history to pass on the initial attempt. He also oversaw the retirement of the library’s outstanding pension liability ahead of schedule.”

According to the release, one of Hutchins’ accomplishments was the creation and expansion of VBDL’s mobile Internet hotspot lending program. “Launched with \$53,000 from the Federal Communications Commission’s Emergency Connectivity Fund, the program subsequently grew from 210 to 420 devices. Patrons borrowed hotspots 6,761 times in 2025, an increase

of nearly 59 percent over 2024. The service has helped residents connect to school, work, healthcare, and everyday necessities from home.”

It continued, “Dan also made reaching more residents a priority. Under his leadership, VBDL broadened library card eligibility, removed overdue fines on traditional library materials, and deepened the outreach to the Hispanic

community. That work included Spanish-language events and classes, a Spanish-language library card application, participation in community celebrations, and a renewed Spanish language collection developed with support from the Covert Community Foundation.”

The release further stated, “His tenure also brought greater investment in public programming,

the creation of a District Program Coordinator position, and improvements to library facilities, including the renovation of a VBDL Library branch, supported by a state arts grant. In addition, Dan guided the VBDL through COVID-19 pandemic and helped expand access to online resources and outdoor Wi-Fi.”

The release concluded, “VBDL appreciates Dan’s work, which has made a lasting difference in the services the VBDL provides to the residents who use them. We thank Dan for nine years of dedicated services and wish him continued success and happiness.”

VB County Veteran Stand Down held in Decatur

The Van Buren County Veteran Stand Down was held Friday, Oct. 9, at the Decatur VFW, 560 N. Phelps St., Decatur. The event featured a free

lunch, healthcare resources, surplus items, vocational and rehabilitation support. Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod



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Duo talk about SH Lighthouse lights



Steve Gronow
By James Windell

We may take it for granted that the illumination from lighthouses is there protecting boats and ships from crashing, but there’s a fascinating history behind the saga of humanity’s effort to guide sailors safely through darkness, storms, and dangerous coastlines.

On Wednesday, October



Jay Campbell

21, 2026, Jay Campbell and Steve Gronow talk about that history in their presentation “The Lamps of the South Haven Lighthouse” at the Forest House in downtown South Haven.

Jay Campbell is a local author, historian and genealogist who recently published “Lighting South Haven,” a book that covers the evolu-

tion of illumination between the years 1870-1920. Steve Gronow maintains the Maritime Exchange Museum which is dedicated to artifacts from the U.S. Lighthouse Establishment.

Gronow and Campbell both share a deep interest in the history of lighthouses and illumination. Gronow has an extensive collection of authentic Fresnel lighthouse lenses, fog signal bells and horns, original brass oil lamps and most of the tools used by lighthouse keepers between 1852-1940.

Perhaps the most important development in lighthouse lighting came in 1822 when French physicist Augustin-Jean Fresnel invented the Fresnel lens. The Fresnel lens concentrated light into a powerful beam, allowing the light to be seen 20 miles or more away.

“I have a passion for lighthouse history and life-saving service history,” says Gronow, who lives in Howell, Michigan. He said that in his museum he has a collection of lighthouse Fresnel lenses and all of the brassware – the tools of the trade of the light keepers.

He says he will be bringing some of the artifacts from his museum for the presentation.

“I will be bringing some of the classic brass lanterns made for use inside of the Fresnel lens, that the keepers would have used in South Haven,” he says.

Gronow said that there is much that most people don’t

know about lighthouses and the lighthouse keepers.

“Well, what most people don’t know,” he says, “is that the life of a lighthouse keeper was truly a life of service, because they didn’t do it for the money. These guys worked for \$400 per year in the 1880s. Many of the keepers had families, and they had to raise their own food, they had to have their own gardens. And you know what was interesting is they had to do all of the maintenance on the lighthouses themselves. They had to be part keeper, part mechanic, and part gardener.”

Campbell in his book “Lighting South Haven”

tells about the lighting of the South Haven lighthouse with a gasoline-air “gas-machine” in the 1880s. That, however, was the first use of that technology in a U.S. lighthouse.

The program “The Lamps of the South Haven Lighthouse” will take place at the Historical Association of South Haven’s Forest House location, 313 Center Street, South Haven, on Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00 pm. The presentation is free and open to the public and copies of Jay Campbell’s book will be available for purchase and signing.

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1 Ballotpedia, campaign finance data for Wendzel for State Representative, 2020-2026 election cycles. Total of \$30,000 in contributions from DTE Energy and Consumers Energy political action committees.
2 Michigan House of Representatives, House Bill 4706, roll call vote Aug. 26, 2025, No. 181 (59-45).
3 Michigan House of Representatives, House Bills 4697, 4699, 4568, 4569, 4570 and 4983-4986, roll call votes, 2023-24 legislative session.

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419 Phoenix receives site plan approval from SH commissioners

By James Windell

Model Theater LLC submitted a final site plan for review and approval to the South Haven Planning Commission on October 8, 2026, for the proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD) at 419 Phoenix Street in downtown South Haven.

As proposed, the PUD would allow the applicant to repurpose the former Golden Bakery space into a four-story boutique hotel containing 12 rooms, commercial/retail space, onsite golf cart parking, and a rooftop event and amenity space.

Previously, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and recommended conditional approval to the City Council on July 9, 2026, however, a condition was requested to restrict the fourth-floor event space to hotel guests only. During City

Council consideration of the application, the applicant requested that this condition be reconsidered. The applicant stated their willingness to include a condition of approval on the project requiring the submission of a parking plan to adequately address parking demand for non-hotel guest events.

The parking plan is intended to demonstrate that sufficient off-street parking is available or otherwise provided for the anticipated attendance and use of the event space. The City Council held a public hearing and conditionally approved the preliminary PUD on September 8, 2026, with Resolution No. 2026-33 and Ordinance No. 1112, permitting the applicant to apply for a final site plan and special land use review by the Planning Commission.

When opening the discussion of the site

plan review, Kelly Getman-Dissette, Zoning Administrator, confirmed that the final site plan for 419 Phoenix Street was consistent with the preliminary plan approved at the September 8th meeting. She pointed out that a significant change from the last review is that the event space will now be available for public use – rather than being restricted solely to hotel guests.

Eric Leatherberry, Property Services Manager for Cottage Home, representing the applicant, clarified that while the space is open to the public, it must be reserved and will; not be a walk-in restaurant or bar.

Planning Commissioners Mike Campbell and Mary Hosley expressed concerns regarding parking enforcement, noting that hotel guests might occupy municipal spots

despite off-site parking plans. Leatherberry explained that the plan involves parking guests at an off-site location and providing a shuttle service to the hotel.

He also said that the “golf carts” mentioned in previous meetings are actually GEM cars or electric vehicles (EVs) that are licensed for year-round road use.

Commissioners engaged in a debate regarding the unenforceability of municipal parking, with one commissioner noting that guests often park on public streets regardless of provided lots.

Commissioners raised other concerns about the event space and its capacity. Leatherberry stated that the indoor meeting room has a capacity of 30 people, but the total upper-level capacity, including balconies and outdoor porches, is

approximately 90 people. Hosley raised concerns about noise from the open rooftop event space, noting there is no local precedent for a top-floor open event area in that district.

Commissioner Ryan Servatius supported the mixed-use concept, suggesting that a downtown rooftop convention site is something the city needs.

To mitigate noise and access issues, Leatherberry mentioned that the rooftop would likely use key card access and follow city noise ordinances, with potential hours of operation from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm.

Servatius questioned the exterior lighting on the rooftop to ensure it was downward-facing to avoid light pollution and Leatherberry confirmed that all rooftop lighting would be deck-level down-lighting.

Hosley proposed an amendment to the con-

ditions of approval to specifically include the elevator size requested by South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES) to ensure it can accommodate a gurney. There was discussion regarding whether elevator size is a building code requirement or a specific request, but the commission ultimately voted to include it as a condition. The motion to amend the conditions to include the elevator size passed with a majority vote.

The final motion to approve the PUD site plan for 419 Phoenix Street, including the eight staff-recommended conditions and the new elevator condition, was carried unanimously. The PUD site plan must now go before the South Haven City Council for approval.

STR resolution approved by planners, on to SH City Council

By James Windell

At the September 3, 2026, meeting of the South Haven Planning Commission, the commission reviewed proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that revise the approval process for new short-term rentals (STRs) in the STR Overlay District. At that meeting, the Planning Commission directed staff to schedule a public hearing.

That public hearing was on the agenda for the October 8, 2026, meeting.

At issue was a proposed text that eliminates the special land use requirement and allows new STRs in the Overlay District to be approved by staff.

Specifically, the Planning Commission was looking at an amendment to Section 1703.02 of Article 17 of the Zoning Ordinance for the City of South Haven entitled “Permitted Uses.” In the following text of Section 1703.02 of Article 17 of the Zoning Ordinance for the City of South Haven, the text that is struck out was text to be eliminated and bold text indicated words to be added:

- In addition to any use permitted in the underlying zoning district, short-term rentals are permitted as a special land use in the Short-term Rental Overlay District when approved by the Planning Commission in accordance with Article 19.
- Short-term rentals must comply with the requirements of the underlying

- zoning district in addition to those of Article 19.
- The dwelling and dwelling unit being used as a short-term rental must comply with the requirements of the underlying zoning district relative to the specific type of dwelling or dwelling unit.
 - Short-term rentals must comply with all City licensing and other non-zoning requirements.
 - A zoning permit is required prior to a dwelling and dwelling unit being used as a short-term rental.**

Amendments in Section 1904.37 of Article 19 of the Zoning Ordinance for the City of South Haven entitled “Short-term Rentals” is amended as follows:

Section 1904.37 – ~~Short-term Rentals Reserved~~

- ~~Short-term rentals must be designed, constructed, and operated in a manner that is compatible with the neighborhood in which they are located.~~
- ~~No short-term rental shall be operated in a manner that constitutes a nuisance to adjoining land uses by the creation of excessive noise, smoke, odor, or the creation of unreasonable traffic to the premises.~~

Section 3. Repealer. Any other ordinances or portions of any other ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

Section 4. Savings Clause. The provisions

of this Ordinance are severable. If any part of this Ordinance is declared void or inoperable for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration does not void any or render inoperable any other part or portion of this Ordinance.

Section 5. Publication and Effective Date. The City Clerk shall cause a notice of adoption of this Ordinance to be published. Except as otherwise provided by law, this Ordinance shall take effect 10 days after its adoption or upon the expiration of the 7th day following publication of the notice of adoption, whichever occurs later.

After the proposed changes were introduced and following a short recess as requested by staff and granted by the Chairman, the Planning Commission consideration of these changes were resumed at 8:30 pm.

Following the recess, a public hearing on the text amendments was opened. However, with no citizens coming forward to speak, the public hearing was closed.

One member of the commission inquired about the future impact on property owners who currently hold a special land use (SLU) permit versus those who will receive an STR “by right” zoning permit.

Zoning Administrator Kelly Getman-Dissette explained that anyone with an existing SLU permit would see it function as their zoning permit, and both types of owners would be “on par” with one another.

The members of the commission discussed what would happen if the STR overlay district

were abolished in the future. Getman-Dissette explained that the outcome would depend on the text of a future amendment, but currently all STRs would likely become non-conforming if the use were banned city-wide.

Commissioner Paul Fitton expressed opposition to the amendment, citing a lack of additional reviews for legal non-conforming properties during the STR permit request process. Commissioner Mary Hosley raised concerns regarding setbacks, noting that residential zoning districts like R1C and RM1 have specific setback requirements that she felt should be reviewed under Section 3 of the agenda packet. Getman-Dissette clarified that setbacks are not reviewed for STR applications because

they apply to all structures in a district generally. Instead, they focus on parking compliance, as parking requirements are specific to the dwelling type and the volume of occupants.

Gertman-Dissette went on to say that STRs must comply with the requirements of the underlying zoning district relative to the specific type of dwelling unit, such as single-family dwellings in a B3 district.

During the discussion, City staff noted that administrative zoning permits for “change of use” are common for commercial properties and are handled by the building services office rather than the Planning Commission.

It was further noted that the proposed changes only apply to properties within the

overlay district (including PUDs, central business district, and portions of B3, RM1, and R1C) and do not change requirements for properties outside of it.

Planning Commission Chairman Bob Sherman introduced Resolution 2026-23, which recommends approval of amendments to Section 1703.02 and 1904.37 of the South Haven zoning ordinance. A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution.

A roll call vote was conducted and the resolution was passed by a 7-2 vote.

The proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance that revise the approval process for new STRs in the STR Overlay District will now go on to the City Council for final approval.

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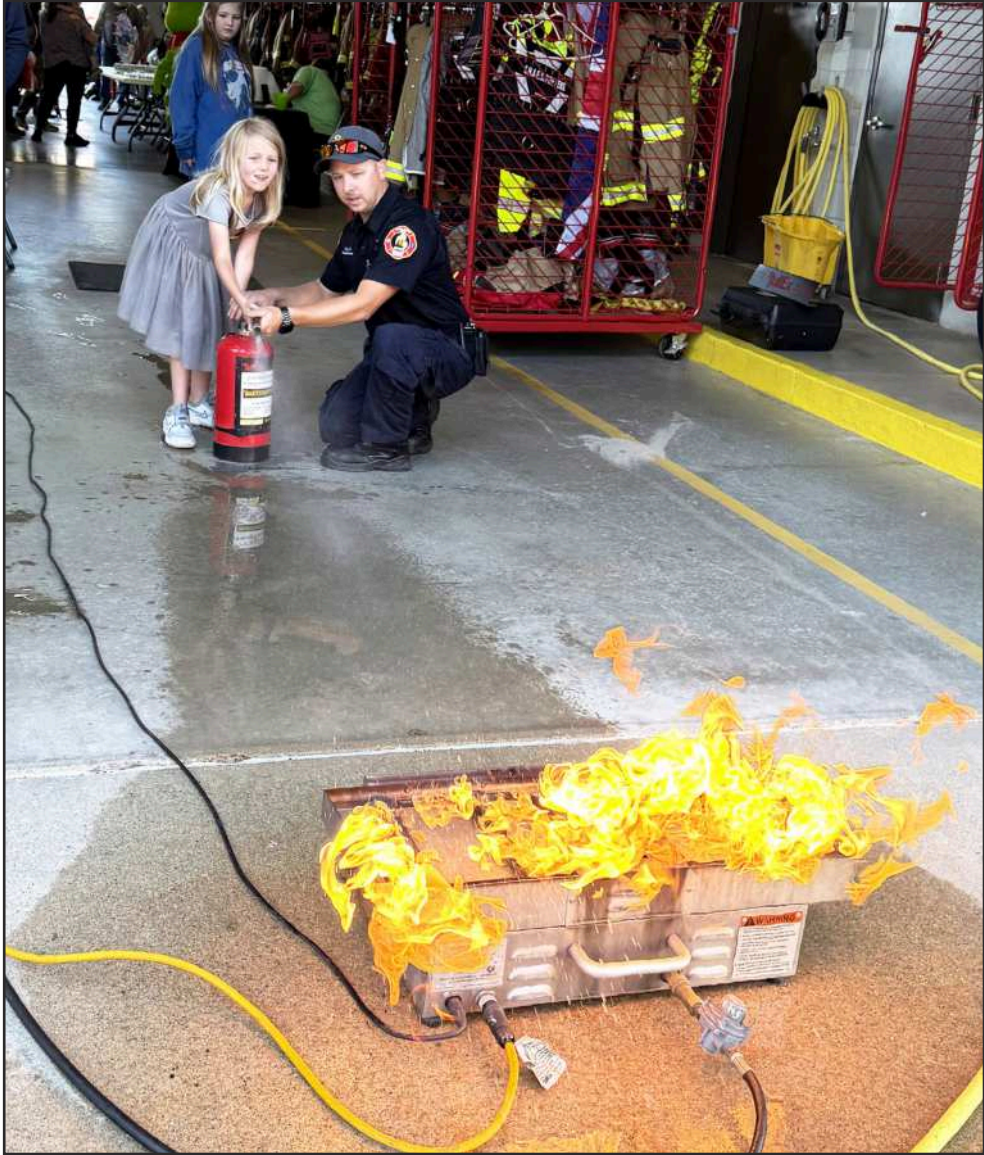
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SHAES hosted hundreds at Fire Safety Fun Night

A Fire Prevention Month tradition is the Fire Safety Fun Night hosted by South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES). The 19th annual event attracted hundreds of kids who enjoyed hands-on challenges and viewed demonstrations by SHAES responders. Later this month, SHAES will bring the fire safety message to area schools.



Sheriff's Report- Car vs tree

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled a car versus tree PIA (personal injury crash) in Hamilton Township. "It was found that the driver was driving too fast on the gravel road, lost control, left the roadway and hit a tree. The driver

sustained minor injuries and was found at fault," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott. Uniform Response handled a suspicious call in Antwerp Township. The call came into Central Dispatch that an individual was at a property walking

around checking doors and looking through windows. "The individual was located and interviewed about the situation. She had out-of-county warrants for her arrest and was lodged at our facility for them," said Sheriff Abbott. "It is that time of the year

when citizens are headed south for the winter. Just a reminder we do property checks (no charge) while you are away. We do them year-round, and they really ramp up during the winter months. You can go to our website and fill out the form so we can watch your residence while you are away and give you a peace of mind not worrying about it," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response drove up on a vehicle that rolled over in a ditch in Bangor Township by a road closed sign. The investigation found the driver to be intoxicated. The driver now faces operating under the influence charges. The driver was transported to the hospital by ambulance due to injuries from the crash.

Uniform Response handled a single vehicle crash in Waverly Township. "The driver accidentally called 911 and thought she was talking to her brother and

told a Dispatcher, 'I was in a crash, but don't call the cops because I'm drunk.' Needless to say, once she was medically cleared from the crash, she was lodged at our facility for operating under the influence of alcohol," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a two-vehicle PIA (Personal Injury Accident) in Arlington Township. The investigation found that the at-fault driver was intoxicated. The individual was lodged for the incident.

Uniform Response continues to do extra targeted enforcement in construction zones. "Several citations and warrant arrests happened again this week," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our Bloomingdale School Resource Deputy handled a break-in to a storage shed at the school which happened in the overnight hours. The suspect/suspects broke in and stole two bikes. "Deputy Schrock located the two

bikes in plain view at a residence in the Village of Bloomingdale while canvassing the area for them. A suspect was developed, but he had fled to Kalamazoo prior to locating the bikes. Once the investigation is complete, the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office will review the case for charges," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response attempted to stop a motorcycle by Paw Paw for speeding (124 mph). "The driver fled and was quickly located again in Paw Paw by another deputy, but he fled again. Deputies had an idea who it was and had Lawton Police Department set on the house immediately. The suspect was located there and admitted to fleeing. The reason he gave for fleeing was he saw it on YouTube. He was lodged for flee and elude, fictitious plate, and no insurance," said Sheriff Abbott.

OBITUARY

Jerry Lee Pearson



Jerry Lee Pearson, 90, of Lawrence, passed away peacefully surrounded by his children on Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026, at Maple Lake Assisted Living, Paw Paw. He was born Aug. 3, 1936, in Hammond, Indiana, the son of Milford Pearson and Margaret (Molenaar) Pearson.

Jerry enlisted in the United States Navy after high school and proudly served his country. Jerry was extremely proud of his military service and always incredibly patriotic. He loved his country deeply. One of Jerry's greatest honors was getting to go on the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. This was a moment he cherished for the rest of his life. Jerry was also active in the Lawrence American Legion Post 174 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6248, Decatur. When he moved into Maple Lake Assisted Living, he wanted to make sure the facility had the

correct flag hanging outside. He educated the staff on the flag and flag etiquette. There is now a plaque on the flag pole honoring Jerry.

Jerry enjoyed volunteering and was a lifetime member and past District Governor of the Paw Paw Lions Club. He was at every food drive, community events, meetings, and Bingo! Jerry also served as a volunteer fireman for the Lawrence Fire Department. In his early years, Jerry was a Little League coach for youth baseball. He enjoyed the lifelong companionship of his friend, Klaas Maring, and the numerous friendships he developed throughout his life.

Jerry was very creative and handy. He owned and operated MJ's Lawn Care for many years before retiring. Jerry loved the outdoors and mowing his and his clients' lawns. If Jerry was outside, he was content. He also enjoyed fishing with his grandsons and snowmobiling in the winter months.

Jerry's faith was a huge part of his life. He was a faithful member of Trinity

Lutheran Church, Paw Paw.

He is survived by his children, Karen Pearson, Beverly (Danny) McMullen, and Jeff Pearson; grandsons, Chase Taylor and Tyler Pearson; sisters, Martha Darcy and Mary Johnson; and sister-in-law, Barbara Green.

Jerry was preceded in passing by his parents, his beloved wife, Marjorie Pearson in 2017; son, Jerry Scott Pearson in 1998; and sister, Carol Scott.

Family and friends are invited to visit on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 721 Pine St., Paw Paw. A memorial service will begin at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Ronald C. Moritz officiating. Jerry will be laid to rest next to his wife at Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, at 1:30 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Paw Paw Lions Club, P.O. Box 92, Paw Paw, MI, 49079 or the Lawrence American Legion Post 174, 130 E. Saint Joseph Street, Lawrence, MI 49064.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

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VIEWPOINT

Public office should come with an expiration date

At some point, a politician ought to look at a long record of public service, feel proud of what he accomplished and make room for someone else.

Chuck Grassley has reached that point. So have plenty of longtime Democrats.

The Iowa Republican is 93 years old and has served in the United States Senate since 1981. Ronald Reagan was entering the White House when Grassley began his Senate career. Many Americans now approaching retirement were still in school.

Reports of reelection paperwork have brought renewed attention to the possibility of another Grassley campaign in 2028. If he wins another six-year term and completes it, he would be 101 before leaving office. Filing paperwork is different from formally announcing a

campaign, but even the possibility raises a reasonable question: How much time in Washington is enough?

Democrats should answer that question about their own officeholders, too.

Chuck Schumer entered the House in 1981 and moved to the Senate in 1999. That means he has spent more than 45 years in Congress. Washington Sen. Patty Murray has served in the Senate since 1993 — more than three decades. Both have substantial experience and records their supporters admire. Both also illustrate how easily public service becomes a career spanning generations.

My standard is the same for Grassley, Schumer and Murray: Serve, contribute, help prepare new leadership and then step aside.

I say that as someone who understands that getting older does not auto-

matically make a person incapable. Plenty of older Americans remain sharp, productive and engaged. Experience matters, and so does the judgment that comes from living through difficult times.

But experience should also teach us the value of giving others an opportunity.

A congressional seat belongs to the people. Decades of service should not create an expectation that one person will occupy it indefinitely.

Supporters of the current system argue that we already have term limits: elections. If voters want someone gone, they can vote that person out.

That argument deserves consideration. Voters should have choices, and an experienced lawmaker can serve a community well.

But incumbents have

familiar names, established donors, political connections and years of publicity. A capable challenger may struggle just to get heard. Some potential candidates never enter the race because the incumbent seems impossible to dislodge.

The result is a system that rewards staying power and makes renewal difficult.

I would support two six-year terms in the Senate and six two-year terms in the House. Twelve years in either chamber gives lawmakers time to learn the job, pursue meaningful legislation and leave a substantial record.

The limits should apply equally to everyone. Republicans should not demand retirement from Schumer while cheering another Grassley campaign. Democrats should not criticize Grassley's longevity while treating their own senior

lawmakers as indispensable.

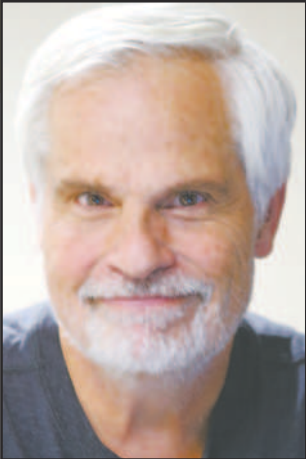
Critics warn that term limits could increase the influence of lobbyists and permanent staff. That concern deserves a serious response, including stronger ethics rules, greater transparency and better preparation for incoming legislators.

Still, indefinite tenure carries risks of its own. Longtime relationships can become comfortable arrangements, and protecting a seat can become an end in itself.

Congress needs experience. It also needs room for people whose lives reflect the pressures of raising children, buying homes and building businesses today.

Grassley, Schumer and Murray can continue contributing after leaving office. They can mentor, advise and share what they have learned.

Their contributions do



MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

not require another term. Public service should include knowing when to hand over the responsibility. That principle ought to survive any change in party control.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader urges a Republican vote

To Editor:

It seems, as in the past, our election outcome results will be critical. This time is no different, perhaps more so. An unfortunate change has taken place with democratic party. Per Senator Feldman it has been hijacked by promoters of socialism/communism. They portray themselves as Democratic Socialist of America party or Democratic Socialist member.

Republicans are not that great either. There are a few who should be removed. It seems that what we need is a 3rd party. But for now it will not happen.

Throughout the country radicals (far left) are on ballots, and there is a significant number of them; even in our state.

Some of the goals of the the socialists are: abolish the senate, pack the Supreme Court, gun control or elim-

ination, defund the police and military, open borders, put government in control of corporations, and socialized medicine. Democrats are after full control of your life. They don't care who votes as they are against the Save America Act (as are some republicans) which would help protect the integrity of elections. Judicial Watch has done an extensive investigation of our election system and has found serious problems. Voter

rolls have dead people and those who moved away on them. They have sued states to clean them up, including Michigan.

If you care about what direction our country is headed, you need to vote republican. In 2 years we could have better candidates in both parties; (or vote for no one). Socialism does not work like capitalism. If you think things are not good now, with socialism things will get worse. Check how

things are in Venezuela. Republican party may not be perfect, but it is a better choice now. A big portion of democrats money comes from Soros who hates our country and wants to convert it to a socialist one. Those who receive his money will be controlled by him (dictator) if they want to get reelected. He controls several Attorney Generals in our country, who have reduced sentences on criminals. To protect your rights

(IE. firearm ownership), fund the police, avoid a socialist state do not vote for El-Sayed (who really hates our country) or Benson who has teamed up with him and his philosophy.

To obtain more correct information about the election, contact: Judicial Watch, Media Research Center or Epoch Times.

Wayne Wilhelmi, Paw Paw

Endless Wars. Higher Prices. Less Freedom.

Dear Editor:

Who pays the price for Washington's endless wars? You do.

Mike Rogers has supported U.S. military involvement in Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, and Syria. He now supports continued U.S. involvement in Ukraine and military action against Iran.

His record raises a fundamental question: When will enough be enough?

These wars carry enormous costs. Military spending adds to the burden on taxpayers and the national debt, while conflicts and disruptions to global energy and fertilizer markets drive up food, fuel and transporta-

tion costs—putting additional pressure on Michigan families already struggling with the cost of living.

And the cost isn't just financial.

Mike Rogers also supported the "PATRIOT" Act, legislation that expanded government surveillance and raised serious concerns

about Americans' Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures.

We shouldn't have to sacrifice our prosperity, our privacy, and our constitutional freedoms for endless foreign wars.

Before you vote, ask yourself:

- Are endless wars

making your family more secure—or leaving you with higher costs?

- Should Washington keep spending billions overseas while American families struggle at home?

- Should the government have greater power to monitor our private communications?

Michigan families de-

serve lower costs, constitutional liberty, and a foreign policy that puts America's interests first.

If you believe it's time to end the cycle of costly foreign wars and defend our constitutional freedoms, make your voice heard at the ballot box.

Ronald Reisterer

Expect Islam to conquer those who put them in power

Dear Editor:

We all remember the story of the boy who cried wolf. This idiom impresses on us that anything overused will lessen its impression over time. Much in the same way that most of us are all tired of the left claiming anyone they don't understand or disagree with is a racist, nazi, fascist, authoritarian, pedophile and so on. Not only is this unwarranted name-calling childish but the real harm from such ignorant behavior is in desensitizing people to the reality of such activities. These are powerful words that have less effect due to the left's incessant overuse and misuse.

Following the Constitutional Convention of 1787, a woman asked Benjamin Franklin what kind of government the delegates had created. His response was "a republic if you can keep it." This was not a flip response. Our founders were aware that a Republic is the only form of government that provides the best opportunity for life liberty and the pursuit of happiness but is also the most fragile of all self-governing political systems. Franklin,

Madison and other Founders stated that our Constitution was created only for a moral and religious people as best provided by the Judeo-Christian tradition. They also realized that the health of the republic relies on involved and informed people. Our founders recognized that liberty, public awareness and personal responsibility cannot be separated.

That in a nutshell is why we find ourselves where we currently are in America, with a failing educational system as well as a corporate media and entertainment industries that have been largely hijacked since the 60's. Don't think for a moment that this was not an organized plan. Lenin, Khrushchev and Mao all forewarned of their strategy to control our nation and destroy our Republic through these very means. We now witness far too many citizens that have a dumb-downed or completely inaccurate understanding of our nations and world history with no capacity for mature thinking or moral compass.

Now those individuals and groups deficient in educational maturity and social

mores lack the aptitude to recognize the repressive regimes that are now allying to control our nation. For the first time in our history, it's acceptable to publicly call oneself a communist, socialist or anarchist. Not that they haven't existed in America, it's just that they have previously been recognized as the seditious, traitorous dregs and miscreants they are. Proof of this is that there has never existed in the history of the world any prosperous socialist/communist nation. Such regimes can only exist within a strong police state with the total elimination of the middle class and repression of religious freedom. Such governments depend on taxation as the only means of paying for public services. As all means of production are owned by the state and only the small group of those in power benefit from the Gross National Income.

Socialism was the first form of government in early America. In establishing the Plymouth Colony in 1620, Governor William Bradford, instituted a socialist economy. After the first winter of starvation and devastation they

realized that a communal system produces poverty for the entire community. If there is no opportunity for improving one's livelihood one will only work to the minimum required. When there is no incentive for personal achievement the "warmth of collectivism", as Communist/Islamist New York City Mayor Mandani likes to repeat, fails each and every time.

Throughout history socialism has been introduced as the only means to racial and economic equality, creating a disdain for personal success while demanding extreme taxation of the rich as the means to provide free government services for all. To perpetuate this class envy, socialism depends on liberal youth, pseudointellectuals and those too lazy to work, what Vladimir Lenin referred to as "useful idiots" to provide the revolutionary front to break down orderly society and usher in the "warmth of collectivism". Socialism by its very nature can only exist under authoritarian rule. Whether that nation then results in a communist government or simply another corrupt authoritarian

regime is inconsequential, an enslaved nation is an enslaved nation. This is no grand revelation. In 1971 Saul Alinsky, yes, the very same that Barak Obama so admired, published a book entitled Rules for Radicals and therein Alinsky laid out the plan for the destruction of America's Republic. That is to overload government services and programs that will ultimately bankrupt the nation. Liberals have done their best to offer welfare, free education, free housing, free health care (Medicare for all from cradle to grave) and various tax supported subsidies to as many people as possible. This includes as many non-citizens as can invade our once open borders. Once our nation goes broke the next step is to overtax every individual and then take control of private property, industry and business in the name of saving the nation.

In America the socialist/communist have allied with the Islamists to destroy the final vestige of Judeo-Christian western civilization. History demonstrates that once Islam invades a country, they will crush any obstacles in pursuit of their califate. Islam has never suffered fools and once

Islam rules and institutes Sharia law they quickly crush those who brought them into power. Recent examples of successful Islamic invasions are Afghanistan and Iran. Let's see, government control of everything, total religious intolerance, violent racial discrimination, no personal economic opportunities, government-controlled education (and everything else), no rights for women, no tolerance for gays, lesbians or any make-believe gender. No legal rights and no limit on capital punishment or torture.

So, when you see the local Democrats, Democratic Socialists of America, Indivisible and other entitled, angry and ridiculous no-kings protesters chanting senseless slogans and talking about our Democracy our Constitution and other principles they know nothing about, just remember that once the Islamists have eliminated the socialists/communists they will eliminate the useful idiots that put them in power. It won't be pretty but it will be effective.

Thank you,
John R. Young

Letter from the Superintendent

Letter To the Editor,

As members of our community prepare to head to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026, I want to take a moment to share essential facts regarding the Paw Paw Public Schools non-homestead operating millage proposal on the ballot. While ballot language around tax measures can often sound complicated, this request is a routine, necessary step to protect our school district's operating budget.

Here are the key details every resident should know before casting their vote:

Zero Tax Increase for Primary Homeowners: A homeowner with a single primary residence does not pay this non-homestead operating millage. The millage applies exclusively to non-homestead properties, such as local business properties, rental units, vacation or second homes, and other non-exempt property.

Protecting the 18-Mill Standard: Michigan school districts are legally allowed

to levy 18 mills for day-to-day operations. However, under Michigan's Headlee Amendment, millage rates are automatically rolled back when taxable property values rise faster than inflation. Because of this, Paw Paw's rate is projected to fall below 18 mills starting in 2027.

A Protective Buffer, Not an Immediate 1.0 Mill Tax Increase: The ballot proposal asks voters to authorize a 1.0-mill increase to serve as a protective insurance policy against future Headlee rollbacks through 2031. The district will not levy

the full 1.0 mill immediately; it will only draw the small fraction needed to keep our operating rate at the full 18-mill cap.

Minimal Adjustment, Maximum Protection: In 2027, the district expects to levy only about 0.1188 mill to offset the Headlee rollback, generating an estimated \$24,190 to support daily operations. Without this authorization, Paw Paw Public Schools faces

a projected revenue loss of approximately \$450,000 over five years.

Strictly for Operations: By law, these funds can only be used for daily school operating expenses - including teacher salaries, classroom materials, transportation, utilities, and student programs. They cannot be spent on major capital construction projects.

Supporting our Red Wolves families means

ensuring our classrooms remain fully funded and operational without creating an unneeded burden on primary home residents. I encourage everyone to learn more by visiting ppps.org to view the official ballot language before Election Day.

Jeremy Davison
Superintendent
Paw Paw Public Schools

THE COURIER LEADER PAW PAW FLASHES SOUTH HAVEN BEACON

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FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Maritime Museum’s exhibit wins state history award

By James Windell

When “Working the Water: Commercial Fishing on Lake Michigan” opened earlier this year at the Michigan Maritime Museum, Bailey Sisoy-Moore was proud of the exhibit.

“The exhibit goes

over the fish that built our fishery and it shows examples of the two most commonly used nets, pound nets and gill nets,” Sisoy-Moore, Executive Director of the Museum, told the Beacon at the time.

She pointed out that the exhibit utilized the

whole recently-completed Harris Commercial Fishing Building, a building that was once home to Jensen’s Fishery. And she noted that past exhibits had been installed by businesses that specialize in museum exhibits, but “Working the Water” was done

in-house.

“We worked with the DNR to try to really build in some samples of how the lake is now,” she explained. “We took the 10 species of fish currently in the lake that drive recreational and commercial fishing and show how their numbers map out across 100 fish.”

As it turns out, Sisoy-Moore had every reason to be proud of the exhibit. “Working the Water: Commercial Fishing on Lake Michigan” has just received the Michigan Historical Society’s Exhibit or Program of the Year Award – a statewide honor recognizing excellence in the interpretation and presentation of Michigan history. The award recognizes exhibits and programs that demonstrate exceptional quality in education, research, design, and community engagement while creating meaningful opportunities for the public to connect with Michigan’s past.

The exhibit that

remains open explores the people, vessels, tools, traditions, and industries that shaped commercial fishing on Lake Michigan. Through historic artifacts, photographs, oral histories, immersive interpretation, and firsthand accounts, the exhibit brings generations of Great Lakes working-waterfront history to life.

“This award is an incredible recognition of the work that went into preserving and sharing this important chapter of Michigan’s maritime history,” says Sisoy-Moore. “Commercial fishing helped shape communities throughout the Great Lakes, and Working the Water gives visitors a chance to connect with the people and stories behind that legacy.”

The award was presented September 26 at the Grand Rapids Public Museum during the Michigan Historical Society’s annual awards ceremony. Michigan Maritime Museum Curator, Chelsea Bai-

ley, accepted the honor on behalf of the Museum.

The Museum extends special thanks to the Harris Family for their sponsorship of the Harris Commercial Fishing Building, Cottage Home for construction support, Do It Corporation for production support, and the Michigan Maritime Museum staff whose research, interpretation, design, and collaboration brought the exhibit to life.

“Working the Water: Commercial Fishing on Lake Michigan” can be seen at the Michigan Maritime Museum, 260 Dyckman Ave., South Haven. The exhibit is available as part of general admission to the Michigan Maritime Museum which is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$8 for children.

For more information, visit michiganmaritimemuseum.org



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“The Promises and Perils of AI” talk set

“The Promises and Perils of AI”

When we struggle to program our robotic vacuum system, how can we expect to understand artificial intelligence?

That’s why the South Haven Speakers Series is fortunate to welcome Dr. Tom Ludwig of Hope College, who will present “The Promises and Perils of AI” on Thursday, October 22, at 7 p.m. at the Lake Michigan College South Haven Campus.

Dr. Ludwig has been studying artificial intelligence since 1973. In the 1980s, he built his own early AI systems for research and instructional purposes.

According to South Haven Speakers Series Board Member and Treasurer Dave Murphey, “Ludwig is recognized around the world as a pioneer of interactive instructional software.”

“His years of teaching, studying, and building instructional and intelli-



gent systems makes him an ideal interpreter of the fast-changing AI landscape.” Murphey said.

Ludwig will explore both the promises and the perils of artificial intelligence, helping the audience better understand how AI is developing, how it may affect everyday life, and what questions we should be asking as this rapidly changing technology becomes increasingly common.

The evening begins with a reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by the presentation at 7

le programs are recorded for later viewing on the Speakers Series website and YouTube channel.

The South Haven Speakers Series is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations. Contributions can be mailed to: South Haven Speakers Series, Post Office Box 572, South Hven MI 49090.

For more information, visit: southhavenspeakersseries.org

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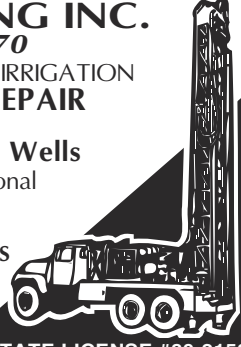
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Pullman Elementary: Spirit Week



Spirit Week ended on a high note as the Bloomingdale Cardinals Marching Band paraded through our halls, filling the school with the sound of our fight song! Students and staff cheered as the band brought an exciting week to a close. It was a fantastic week to be a Cardinal!

Pullman Elementary: Marching Band Brings Cardinal Spirit to Pullman Elementary

On the morning of Friday, October 02, 2026, Bloomingdale High School Band Director Mr. Wesley Ricketts and members of the Cardinal Marching Band brought music and school spirit to Pullman Elementary with a special mini parade!

Band members marched through the elementary school, giving students and staff an opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of the marching band up close. The visit was a great way to build excitement and share Cardinal Pride with some of our district's youngest students.

Beyond providing a fun start to the school day, the mini parade gave elementary students a glimpse of the opportunities that await them as future Bloomingdale Cardinals. Events like this help strengthen connections between our schools and allow our older students to serve as positive role models for younger students.



A special thank you to Mr. Ricketts and our marching band members for taking the time to visit Pullman Elementary and share their talents with our younger students.

2026 Homecoming King and Queen Crowned



On Friday, October 2, 2026, the 2026 Homecoming Court was recognized during halftime of the Homecoming soccer game.

Members of the Homecoming Court were announced and recognized in front of students, families, staff, alumni, and community members gathered to celebrate Homecoming.

The evening's celebration was highlighted by the announcement of the 2026 Homecoming King and Queen. Congratulations to Alejandro Marquez-Gonzalez, who was crowned Homecoming King, and Marlene Carrasco Salazar, who was crowned Homecoming Queen!

We congratulate Alejandro and Marlene, along with all the students selected to represent their classes as members of this year's Homecoming Court.

Bloomingdale Elementary: High School Marching Band Brings Homecoming Energy to Bloomingdale Elementary

Bloomingdale Elementary got a spirited preview of homecoming week when the high school marching band paid a special visit to the elementary school.

Led by Director Wesley Ricketts, the band filled the hallway with music, performing the school fight song as they proudly paraded down the main hallway. Excited elementary students lined the



halls to cheer on the musicians and show off their school district pride.

The festive performance set an exciting atmosphere for the rest of the district's homecoming festivities, creating a memorable tradition that connected students across grade levels

Pullman Elementary: Wildlife Conservation

Our fourth-grade students recently had an exciting opportunity to learn about wildlife and conservation from a local Conservation Officer, Carter Woodwyk. Through this engaging, hands-on experience, students learned about the importance of proper animal handling and care, as well as the role conservation officers play in protecting and caring for wildlife.

Students were fasci-

nated as they examined a variety of animal pelts and deer racks while learning more about local wildlife. This experience

provided students with a unique opportunity to connect classroom learning to the world around them.



Bloomingdale: Cross Country Team to Carry Homecoming Game Ball 17 Miles



Back Row: Jackson Scherer, Alejandro Marquez-Gonzalez, Nick Menzel, Coach Alan Bobalik, Nikolai Castillo, Gage Carlson, Zander Ashbrook, Liam Morreno, James Odell
Front Row: Brianna Marin, Halle Munn, Allison Munoz, Natalia Garcia-Frausto, Janet Andrade Yahairi Perales, Luseidy Salamanca-Salazar, Dayanna Grimaldo, Rebekah Youngblood

On Friday, October 02, 2026, the Bloomingdale Varsity Cross Country Team took Cardinal Pride on the road as part of a special Homecoming tradition!

Members of the cross-country team embarked on a 17-mile journey from Lawrence to Bloomingdale, carrying the official game ball for the Homecoming soccer game.

The runners worked

together to complete the 17-mile trek and arrived back at Bloomingdale High School at the start of the Homecoming Pep Assembly. Their arrival provided an exciting kickoff to the afternoon's Homecoming festivities and gave students and staff an opportunity to recognize the team's hard work, endurance, and school spirit.

Coach Alan Bobalik expressed, "This special

run is about more than delivering a game ball—it represents teamwork, determination, and Cardinal Pride as our runners connect the communities of Bloomingdale, Grand Junction, and Pullman before tonight's matchup."

We encourage our students, staff, families, and community members to celebrate our cross-country runners on their awesome display of Cardinal Pride.

Bloomingdale Elementary: Pastries with Parents

Bloomingdale Elementary recently welcomed families into the school to celebrate our parents/guardians/ grandparents commitment to their child's education with a morning of pastries, drinks, and community connection. The spe-

cial gathering hosted 221 students and family members, who were able to see updates to the gymnasium and enjoyed conversing with fellow neighbors. In addition to the pastries, the school's Title I program provided informational brochures

highlighting valuable support services available for students who need extra assistance with reading. The morning was a fantastic success, filled with great conversation, warm hospitality, and a shared enthusiasm for the school year ahead.



Pullman Elementary: Title I Reading Night

Pullman Elementary recently set sail on a reading adventure with a fun-filled, pirate-themed Reading Night! This

exciting event was the first of many planned parent engagement nights designed to bring families and our school community together.

Families enjoyed a variety of pirate-themed reading activities, explored books together, and shared delicious snacks along the way. The evening was filled with laughter, learning, and opportunities for families to connect while celebrating the joy of reading.



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SPORTS

Rams take down Schoolcraft in final home game for seniors

The outcome of a return football engagement between South Haven and Schoolcraft didn't change, but the contest allowed the South Haven senior players a final home game. South Haven was originally scheduled to host rival Allegan, which suddenly canceled its season due to a lack of varsity players. Schoolcraft, which had already defeated the Rams, offered a rematch. This time the Eagles prevailed 34-21 in a game highlighted by several long offensive plays. Photos by Tom Renner



Wide receiver Griffin Moore turns up-field after catching a pass enroute to a touchdown.



Keith Robinson appeared to be on his way for an 80-yard kickoff return touchdown, but a penalty against the Rams nullified it. An early celebrator was teammate Ciro Haqq.



The Purple Pride Marching Band celebrates a Rams touchdown.

Bloomingtondale soccer ties Black River

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BLOOMINGDALE — Coach John Fisher's Bloomingtondale varsity boys soccer team had a 3-3 tie on Monday while holding senior night against Holland Black River.

"The boys played very well," Fisher said. "Adrian Pop broke his own single season scoring record with

all 3 goals. Emiliano Ceron and Joe Rodriguez each had an assist.

"Defensively, Ryan Pop had 10 saves in net. Joe also had some defensive saves and Aiden Byers had three saves when he was put into the net for injured Ryan Pop."

On Oct. 9, it was Bloomingtondale 4 Kalamazoo homeschool 2

Adrian Pop had three

goals, Moises Perales one goal two assists, Joe Rodriguez one assist and 1 defensive save Aiden Byers and one defensive save.

Ryan Pop had 11 saves., Bloomingtondale's girls volleyball team won its second game of the season on Oct. 6 with a 25-14, 25-10, 25-21 verdict over Lawrence.

Three days earlier, Bloomingtondale beat Lawton 25-14, 25-10, 25-21

South Haven soccer blanks Lawton

By John Raffel
Correspondent

This past Wednesday (Oct. 7), South Haven we celebrated its seniors at its final game of the regular season.

"We beat Lawton 8-0 with goals from Leif Arbo-real (3), Anival Belmares (2), Luke Swearingen (senior) and Eli Kuenz-li (senior) each acoring their first career goal, and Angel Barajas with a goal to

complete the mercy," coach Randy Bautista said. "Goals aside, it was a great performance from the team, great night for the seniors (Luke Swearingen, Jaden Bolhuis, Angel Barajas, Bea Ryan, Eli Kuenzli, and Anival

Gobles girl runners are third at Portage



Gobles girls cross county team: L to R: Libby Smith, Aria Diaz, Ava DeYoung, Lauren Shaffer, Taylor Cooley, Ella Collins, Alyssa Sparks, Addison Tomsic, Shang Shi.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — The Gobles Tigers girls cross country team delivered an impressive performance at the Portage Invitational on Saturday, earning third place overall in the Division 4 team standings with 102 points.

Senior Libby Smith led the entire Division 4 field, running a championship-caliber race and finishing 1st with a time of 18:00.1. Smith established control early, splitting 11:26.1 at the two-mile mark before pulling away to seal the victory. Joining Smith as varsity medalists were seniors Ava DeYoung and Lauren Shaffer, putting three Tigers inside the top ten.

DeYoung captured seventh place with a time of 19:46.8, while Shaffer crossed right behind in ninth place at 19:58.4.

Senior Shang Shi (55th) ran a strong race to complete the course in 22:46.3, and junior Addison Tomsic (61st) rounded out the team's scoring five with a time of 23:05.0.

Every Tiger runner con-

tributed across the board. Freshman Ella Collins ran a solid 24:03.8, followed closely by junior Alyssa Sparks in 24:12.4.

In the JV race, freshman Aria Diaz (24:30.6) and sophomore Taylor Cooley (25:56.3) capped off a great day by earning individual medals.

"The strong showing across both divisions reflects the depth, hard work, and momentum building for the Gobles girls as they enter the final stretch of the season," Gobles coach Marc Kline said.

The Gobles Tigers boys cross country team showcased their grit and progress against a competitive field at the Portage Invitational. Competing in the Division 4 race, the Tigers claimed 12th place overall in the team standings, scoring 292 points.

Leading the charge for Gobles was sophomore Fletcher Amos, who crossed the finish line in 17:16.7 (24th). Amos paced the pack with strong split times—hitting 5:17.8 at the first mile and 10:59.1 at two miles—earning a well-deserved

medal on the big stage.

Every Tiger athlete put forth a determined effort across the 5K course. Junior Cole Ringel was the second Gobles runner across the line, recording a solid time of 18:22.5. Right behind him was fellow junior Levi Collins, who clocked in at 18:36.4. Senior Jaxon Bunce finished with a time of 19:13.5, closely pursued by freshman Austin Ringel, who posted a strong 19:17.1.

Rounding out the team's top performances, sophomore Titus Sager ran a tough race to finish in 19:53.9. Sophomore Lincoln Cook achieved a standout personal milestone, setting a new season record of 19:54.5 and breaking the 20-minute barrier for the first time this year.

"With all seven runners battling hard and supporting each other down the stretch, the Gobles Tigers demonstrated that their hard work is paying off as they head into the late-season championship meets," coach Marc Kline said.

Paw Paw improves to 6-1



By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — The Red Wolves traveled north to Friday night and came out with the victory 42-13.

It was a big day on the ground as Kalien Tate and Carter Buhl each had 3 rushing touchdowns.

On the defensive side, Ben Newell had four sacks setting a single game school record while Bradley Skies

and Zachary Klimp each recorded their own sacks.

"We started fast and improved during the night in all three phases of the game," coach Dennis Strey said. "The offense and defensive line took control of the game early."

"Ben broke the singe season record with four sacks and the first team defense gave up only 37 yards."

Final stats:
Kalcin Tate: 14 rushes

179 yards 3 TDs 2 Rec for 36 yards: 2 solos 5 assist.

Carter Buhl: 14 rushes 190 yards 3 TDs 1 rec for 15 yards: 5 solo 7 assists 1 TFL.

Ben Newell: 7 solo 5 assists 3 sacks 1 TFL

Braddley Sikkema: 2 solo 4 assists 1 sack 2 TFL.

Zachary Klimp: 4 solo 3 assists 1 sack 1 TFL.

Paw Paw will host Three Rivers on Oct. 16.

Belmares).

"We look forward to starting Districts this Wednesday against Dowagiac."

South Haven's overall record is 11-8-1. The Rams were state finalists last

season.

South Haven golf

South Haven's girls golf team played at the Division 3 regionals on Oct. 6 at Wheatland Valley Golf Course.

Three Rams played 18 holes.

Lyne Badenhorst shot an 84 for take sixth place. Aubrey Hodgman and Addison Zimmer were both 38th with a 114.

SPORTS

Paw Paw soccer wins 6-0

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — The Paw Paw Red Wolves soccer team hosted Buchanan on senior night and won 6-0. “The boys came out on the attack lead by seniors

Chase Boff, Aaron Garcia, Avery Williford, Obie Garcia, Ricardo Nava Cruz and Hannes Otto,” coach Mike Lounsbury said. “The scoring started quickly as Hannes Otto played a corner kick into Avery Williford. Avery passed it back to

Connor Graves who placed a shot lower left corner. The second goal came as Eli Martin drew a penalty kick that Obie Garcia stepped up to the spot and ripped a shot top left corner. The boys went into half time up 2-0. “The scoring continued

in the second half as Avery played a corner kick to Hannes who chipped a 30 yard shot back post over the goalies out stretched hands. The next goal came as Santiago Nava Aviles played a ball out wide to Connor who beat the outside back

and ripped a shot back post. Connor finished out his hat trick as Ethan Leaser passed him the ball inside the box where he beat the goalie low short side.”

Lounsbury said the last goal of the game came as Connor played a ball into

the middle of the box to Hannes who placed it back post for the 6-0 win.

“The boys look forward to their first district game Thursday in a rematch at Buchanan,” he said.

Cassopolis too much for Gobles

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — A talented Cassopolis squad scored on its first three possessions and led big at halftime on Friday night, handing Gobles a 50-12 loss that dropped the Tigers to 1-6.

Gobles showed real fight after the break, scoring both of its touchdowns in the second half, but the early deficit was too much to overcome, coach Greg Eichler said.

Cassopolis opened with a 48-yard touchdown pass

and added a 33-yard scoring pass and a 1-yard run before the first quarter ended. Gobles had its chances in the first half. The Tigers pushed to the Cassopolis 4-yard line in the second quarter after Avery Greffe ripped off a 24-yard run, but came up empty on four tries from inside the 6 and turned the ball over on downs.

Cassopolis answered with touchdown strikes of 22 and 22 yards in the second quarter to build its 35-0 halftime lead.

“The Tigers came out of the locker room with

purpose. Noah Phillely broke loose for an 84-yard touchdown run in the third quarter, a play the offensive line made possible with a clean lane up the middle of the field,” Eichler said. “The two-point try fell short. Cassopolis added a 29-yard score in the third, but Gobles kept grinding in the fourth. Max Sager, Greffe, and Hunter Piper all took turns moving the chains.

“A 31-yard completion from Greffe to Coal Otis, with 19 of those yards after the catch, put Gobles in scoring position. Phillely

then ran for 7 yards, Piper picked up 4, and Brody Marshall powered in from 6 yards out for the Tigers' second touchdown. The two-point try again came up short, and Cassopolis closed the scoring with a 2-yard run and a two-point conversion.”

The Tigers finished with 197 yards on 50 plays, 3.9 yards per play, and 136 of those yards came on the ground on 39 carries. Phillely led the way with 99 yards on 5 carries, while Greffe (22 yards on 7 carries), Piper (22 yards on 13

carries), Jet Ray (12 yards on 6 carries), and Marshall (8 yards and a touchdown on 2 carries) all contributed.

“The passing game was a team effort as well, with David Johns catching a 33-yard throw from Sager, Otis hauling in the 31-yarder from Greffe, and Piper adding a catch, for 3 completions on 10 attempts and 61 yards,” Eichler said. “Turnovers and penalties stalled several drives, and Gobles went 0 of 2 on two-point tries. The Tigers have plenty to clean up, and the 84-yard run and the late touchdown drive show what the group can do when the blocking and the ball carriers are in sync as they prepare for Week 8.

“Carter Anderson also gave Gobles a lift in the kicking game by recovering an onside kick. Defensively, Otis and Sager set the tone with six tackles each, with Otis also breaking up a pass and Sager adding three solo stops.

“Otis continues to build on a solid senior season and Sager is a rising junior who is experiencing a breakout year. Piper finished with four tackles, a tackle for loss, and a quarterback pressure, and Dominic Redaway added three tackles. Marshall disrupted the pocket with two quarterback pressures, and Johns also got to the quarterback with a pressure.”

Gobles volleyball continues to build

By John Raffel
Correspondent

The Gobles Tigers volleyball team continued to work hard against Constantine in recent action, showing determination and looking for opportunities to make plays.

The Tigers fell in three sets, 6-25, 20-25, and 6-25, but several players contributed throughout the match.

Addison Jacobs earned honorable mention for her strong performance, recording four saves at the net, four kills, two aces, and two digs. Faith Biron helped the defense with five digs, while Hayden Keely added one kill and three digs.

Gabby DeWater added two aces, three assists, and three digs, helping create opportunities for her

teammates. Addy Pangle contributed one kill and one block, while Ashlyn Myers added a couple of assists. Ellie Hinson and Carly Ackers each added a couple of digs to support the team defensively.

“The Tigers continue to gain experience, learn their roles, and work toward becoming a stronger, more connected team,” coach

Renee Rambadt said. “Each match gives them a chance to grow, build confidence, and keep improving together.

“The team will continue focusing on communication, teamwork, and putting in the work to carry that growth into upcoming matches.”

Lawton falls to Constantine

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Lawton fell to 4-3 overall with a 39-6 loss to Constantine on Friday.

Constantine is 8-0.

Constantine had quarter leads of 6-0, 18-6 and 32-6.

Lawton's only scored was a 26-yard run for Hudson Merriman. The try for points failed.

Brock Williamson was 5 of 9 in passing for 64 yards with his longest completion being 37 yards.

Dillon Carson gained 23 yards on seven attempts.

Merriman caught three passes for 52 yards. Tyler Hotchkiss caught two for 12 yards.

Cody Pollock had 12 tackles.

Lawton is at Parchment on Friday.

Mattawan football wins second game

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan's football team improved to 2-5 on Friday with a 49-13 win over Battle Creek Lakeview.

Mattawan will be at Portage Central this Friday.

Against BC Lakeview, Brady Mickelson had 134 yards on seven carries and two touchdowns.

Travis Deloof had 38 yards on three rushes. Bake Mahoney had 36 yards on three attempts and one touchdown.

Calvin Wakeland had 20

yards on three rushes.

Sanders attempted three passes and completed two for 73 yards and one touchdown.

Mattawan will end its season at Michigan Center on Oct. 23.

Mattawan golf
Mattawan's golf team

played at Bedford Valley Golf Course on Oct. 5 in the Division 2 regionals.

Mattawan took seventh with a 409.

Lia Rohrschneider had a 91 for Mattawan and placed seventh.

Kids enjoy SH Touch a Truck event

Trucks and heavy equipment of all shapes and sizes attracted hundreds of kids and adults to the annual Touch a Truck event sponsored by the City of South Haven on Wednesday, Oct. 7. In addition to being able to get up close to the equipment, the event featured educational games for the kids and free hot dogs for all. Photos by Tom Renner





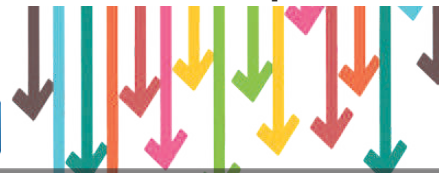
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=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

State of Michigan Probate Court Van Buren County NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
CASE NO. 2026-1178-DE
JUDGE HON. SUSAN METZGER
Estate of Bernice Dennis. Deceased
TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Bernice Dennis. Deceased, died July 11, 2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Paul M. Dennis, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Ste. 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative withing 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

October 8, 2026

Attorney:
Schuitmaker Moraitis Law Office, P.C.
Christopher N. Moraitis
P87052
181 West Michigan Ave.,
Ste. 1, P.O.Box 520
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-3177
Personal Representative:
Paul M. Dennis
49541 38th Avenue
Bangor, MI 49013
872-400-0990

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Gloria Ann Reyna; Atty: Orland; 1st Pub: 10/15/2026; Atty File #: 26-008764; Insurer: GNMA 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.

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 NOVEMBER 12, 2026. 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. Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Gloria Ann Reyna fka Gloria Ann R. Hernandez, single woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Equity Prime Mortgage LLC, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated November 5, 2025 and recorded November 12, 2025 in Liber 1786, Page 43 Van Buren County Records, Michigan, and Affidavit Affecting Realty recorded October 9, 2026 in Liber 1799, Page 473 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Equity Prime Mortgage LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Five and 55/100 Dollars (\$79,705.55).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on NOVEMBER 12, 2026. Said premises are located in the Township of South Haven, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section 27, Township 1 South, Range 17 West, according to the Government Survey thereof; thence East 396 feet; thence North 330 feet; thence West 396 feet to the West line of said Section 27; thence South on same 330 feet to the point of beginning. 19801 76th Street, South Haven, Michigan 49090 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, 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 damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption. Dated: October 15, 2026
File No. 26-008764
Firm Name: Orland Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(10-15)(11-05)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Adam L Pyle; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 10/15/2026; Atty File #: 24-000444-3; Insurer: FNMA SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on November 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Adam L. Pyle a/k/a Adam Pyle, a married man and Cathy Pyle a/k/a Cathy Kinney, his wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns Date of mortgage: May 29, 2014 Recorded on June 9, 2014, Liber 1603, on Page 821, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof:

Sixty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Five and 79/100 Dollars (\$69,705.79) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 3, Block 5, Hale, Conger & Company's Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven, according to the recorded plat thereof. Commonly known as 740 Wilson St, South Haven, MI 49090 The redemption period will be 12 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1608938 (10-15)(11-05)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Janice E. Warren; Atty: Orland; 1st Pub: 10/15/2026; Atty File #: 26-009729; Insurer: (unknown) 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.

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 DECEMBER 17, 2026. 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. Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Janice E. Warren, a single woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Live Well Financial, Inc., its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated February 8, 2018 and recorded February 23, 2018 in Liber 1664, Page 13 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Carrington Mortgage Services

LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Seven and 93/100 Dollars (\$84,747.93). Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on DECEMBER 17, 2026. Said premises are located in the Township of Arlington, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as: Lots 31 and 32, Block 13, Scott Shores Subdivision No. 1, Arlington Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 33, Van Buren County Records. 46566 Vine Avenue, Bloomington, Michigan 49026 The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, 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 damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption. Dated: October 15, 2026
File No. 26-009729
Firm Name: Orland Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(10-15)(11-05)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: KEVIN R. BROWN; ATTY: ORLAND; 1ST PUB: 10/8/2026; ATTY FILE #: 26-009428; INSURER: GNMA 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.

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 NOVEMBER 5, 2026. 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. Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Kevin R. Brown, a married man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage 1 Incorporated, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated May 25, 2022 and recorded May 27, 2022 in Liber 1738,

Page 661 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by SIWELL INC. DBA CAPITAL MORTGAGE SERVICES OF TEXAS, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Six and 83/100 Dollars (\$197,626.83). Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on NOVEMBER 5, 2026. Said premises are located in the Township of Almena, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as: Lot 9, FILIPUNAS PLAT, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 5 of Plats, Page 100, Van Buren County Records. 47041 County Road 653, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, 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 damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption. Dated: October 8, 2026
File No. 26-009428
Firm Name: Orland Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(10-08)(10-29)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Steve Allen Clemons; Atty: MICHAEL WOODS - MICHAEL WOODS; 1st Pub: 10/1/2026; Atty File #: 26-1085; Insurer: FHA

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 November 5, 2026. 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. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Steve Allen Clemons and Karen Clemons, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Towne Mortgage Company, its successors and assigns. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Towne Mortgage Company Date of Mortgage: November 19, 2025 Date of Mortgage Recording: November 26, 2025 Amount claimed due on the date of notice: \$275,318.51 Description of the mortgaged premises: The land referred to in this instrument, situated in

the Township of South Haven, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, is described as follows: Part of the Southeast one-quarter of Section 27, Town 1 South, Range 17 West, South Haven Township, Van Buren County, Michigan described as: Commencing at the Southeast corner of said section; thence South 89 degrees 36 minutes 01 seconds West 1317.45 feet along the South line of said section and the centerline of County Road 380; thence North 01 degrees 22 minutes 10 seconds West 819.99 feet along the East line of the Southwest one-quarter of the Southeast one-quarter of said section and the centerline of M-140 Highway to the point of beginning; thence South 89 degrees 38 minutes 23 seconds West 720.00 feet; thence North 01 degrees 22 minutes 10 seconds West 165.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 38 minutes 23 seconds East 720.00 feet along the North line of the South three-quarters of the Southwest one-quarter of the Southeast one-quarter of said Section; thence South 01 degrees 22 minutes 10 seconds East 165.00 feet along said East line to the point of beginning. Subject to Highway right of way over the most easterly 60.00 feet thereof. AND Part of the Southeast one-quarter of Section 27, Town 1 South, Range 17 West, South Haven Township, Van Buren County, Michigan described as: Commencing at the Southeast corner of said section; thence South 89 degrees 36 minutes 01 seconds West 1317.45 feet along the South line of said section and the centerline of County Road 380; thence North 01 degrees 22 minutes 10 seconds West 613.09 feet along the East line of the Southwest one-quarter of the Southeast one-quarter of said section and the centerline of M-140 Highway to the point of beginning; thence South 89 degrees 36 minutes 03 seconds West 993.15 feet along the North line of the South 613 feet of the Southwest one-quarter of the Southeast one-quarter of said section; thence North 01 degrees 22 minutes 01 seconds West 372.57 feet along the West line of the East 993 feet of the Southwest one-quarter of the Southeast one-quarter of said section; thence North 89 degrees 38 minutes 23 seconds East 720.00 feet; thence South 01 degrees 22 minutes 10 seconds East 206.90 feet along the East line to the point of beginning. Subject to Highway right of way over the most easterly 60.00 feet thereof. Common street address: 19400 M 140, South Haven, MI 49090 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. 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

Continues on page B4

TOWNSHIP OF WAVERLY
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2023-1 adopted 1/5/2023 revised 4/4/2024
ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICAL MARIHUANA FACILITIES as to SECTION 7 GENERAL PROVISIONS

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2023-1, Establishment of Medical Marihuana Facilities, was adopted at a Regular Meeting on January 5, 2023, revised on April 4, 2024,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission and Township Board have discussed eliminating paragraph B, found in Section 7, requiring a one thousand two hundred (1200) foot set back from real property comprising of a public or private elementary, vocational, secondary school, libraries, churches, houses of worship, public parks and state-licensed child care facilities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Section 7 - General Provisions, sub-paragraph B, shall be deleted in its entirety. The remaining paragraphs in Section 7 shall keep their current numbered designation and will not be re-numbered.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Wilcox.

Roll call vote:
Ayes: Johnson, Millek, Wilcox, Houston
Nays:
Absent: Fleetwood
Abstain:

Resolution declared adopted.

Date: September 3, 2026
Starr Houston, Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF WAVERLY
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2023-2 adopted 1/5/2023 revised 4/4/2024
ESTABLISHMENT OF ADULT USE MARIHUANA FACILITIES as to SECTION 7 GENERAL PROVISIONS

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2023-2, Establishment of Adult Use Marihuana Facilities, was adopted at a Regular Meeting on January 5, 2023, revised on April 4, 2024,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission and Township Board have discussed eliminating paragraph B, found in Section 7, requiring a one thousand two hundred (1200) foot set back from real property comprising of a public or private elementary, vocational, secondary school, libraries, churches, houses of worship, public parks and state-licensed child care facilities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Section 7 - General Provisions, sub- paragraph B, shall be deleted in its entirety. The remaining paragraphs in Section 7 shall keep their current numbered designation and will not be re-numbered.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Wilcox.

Roll call vote:
Ayes: Johnson, Millek, Wilcox, Houston
Nays:
Absent: Fleetwood
Abstain:

Resolution declared adopted.

Date: September 3, 2026
Starr Houston, Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Antwerp Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to clarify the current prohibition of short-term rental of dwellings and dwelling units in Antwerp Township and to revise related definitions. Public comments on the matter are welcome.

- Section 1: Revises the definition of motel.
- Section 2: Includes the definition of short-term rental.
- Section 3: Includes a new Section 3.28 titled “Short-Term Rentals Prohibited,” which prohibits the short-term rental of dwellings and dwelling units.
- Section 4: Includes a severability statement.
- Section 5: Includes an effective date and repeal statement.

Meeting and Hearing Information

- Location: Antwerp Township offices located at 24821 Front Street, Mattawan, MI 49071
- Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2026
- Time: 6:30 PM
- Project Details: Call (269) 668-2615

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Planning Commission Chair at the Township Hall address listed above by 4:00 PM on the meeting date. If any individual has a physical disability that may limit their participation in the hearing, please notify the Township at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

• PUBLIC NOTICE •

CLASSIFIEDS

Continues from page B3

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. Date of notice: 10/01/2026 Michael Woods Law, PLLC 55260 Mound Rd., Ste. B Shelby Twp., MI 48316 (248) 648-3101 26-1085 (10-01)(10-22)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: CHARITY MURRAY; ATTY: TEAM H; 1ST PUB: 10/1/2026; ATTY FILE #: 531881F01; INSURER: (UNKNOWN) 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 October 29, 2026. 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): Charity Murray Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services LLC Date of Mortgage: July 23, 2020 Date of Mortgage Recording: July 28, 2020 Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$84,473.74 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Bangor, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at a point on the East line of Randolph Street 132 feet North of the North line of Alington Street; thence North on said East line of Randolph Street 66 feet; thence East 132 feet; thence South 66 feet; thence West 132 feet to the Point of Beginning. Being a part of the Northwest fractional 1/4 of Section 7, Town 2 South, Range 15 West, according to the Government Survey thereof. Common street address (if any): 5 Randolph St, Bangor, MI 49013-1436 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: October 1, 2026 Trott Law, P.C. 31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 642-2515 1607483 (10-01)(10-22)

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Default having been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage made by MARY E. WATSON, as survivor of Freeman Watson whose Death Certificate is recorded in Liber 918, Page 317, 55139 CR 388, Grand Junction, MI 49056 to STURGIS BANK & TRUST COMPANY (f/k/a THE WEST MICHIGAN SAVINGS BANK), 125 E. Chicago Road, Sturgis, MI 49091 dated June 4, 2012, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan, on June 14, 2012 in Liber 1568 of Mortgages, on page 827, Van Buren County Records and on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due on the date of this notice, for principal and interest the sum of Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Five and 26/100 (\$13,475.26) Dollars on the mortgage and no proceedings having been instituted to recover the debt now remaining secured by said Mortgage, or any part thereof, where by the power of sale contained in said Mortgage has become operative; Now Therefore, Notice is Given that by virtue of the power of sale contained in said Mortgages and under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, the said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises therein described or so much thereof as may be necessary, at a public auction sale, to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, at Annex of the Van Buren County Court House in the City of Paw Paw and County of Van Buren, Michigan, on October 22, 2026, at promptly 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon of said day; which said mortgage premises are described as follows, to-wit: Township of Columbia, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, is described as follows: The land referred to in this policy, situated in the Township of Columbia, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, is described as follows: That part of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 5, Town 1 South, Range 15 West, according to the Government Survey thereof, lying Southerly of the right of way of the Kalamazoo and South Haven Railroad, also known as the Michigan Central Railroad, now known as the Kal-Haven Trail. Also, the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 8, Township 1 South, Range 15 West, according to the Government Survey thereof. Address: 355139 CR 388, Grand Junction, MI 49056 Tax ID: 80-06-005-016-10 80-06-008-005-10 80-06-005-016-15 80-06-008-005-15 Said premises will be sold to pay the amount as aforesaid then due on said Mortgage together with 5.25% percent interest on the Mortgage, legal costs, attorneys' fees and also any taxes and insurance that said Mortgagee does pay on or prior to the date of said sale. The amount due on said 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. Pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the last day to redeem the Sheriff's Deed will be April 22, 2027, however, if an Affidavit of

Abandonment is filed with the Register of Deeds, the last day to redeem will be November 22, 2026, or until the time to provide the notice was required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later. If said property is in fact sold at the above-described foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the above listed Mortgagor will be responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to Sturgis Bank & Trust Company for damaging the property during the redemption period. ATTENTION PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: September 24, 2026 HaasCaywood PC By: P. Joseph Haas, Jr. STURGIS BANK & TRUST COMPANY Mortgagee. Attorney for STURGIS BANK & TRUST COMPANY Business Address: 112 South Monroe Street Sturgis, MI 4909 (269) 651-3281 (9-24)(10-20)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Char Rawson; Atty: Team H; 1st Pub: 9/24/2026; Atty File #: 529240F01; Insurer: FNMA 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 October 22, 2026. 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): Char Marie Rawson, 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): MSR Asset Vehicle LLC Date of Mortgage: September 11, 2020 Date of Mortgage Recording: October 26, 2020 Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$77,752.49 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Geneva, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning on Section line, 40 rods North of Southwest corner of Section 1, Town 1 South, Range 16 West, Geneva Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, thence East 16 rods; thence North 10 rods; thence West 16 rods to Section line; thence South on Section line 10 rods to beginning. Except easement for highway purposes over and upon the following described parcel of land, to-wit beginning at a point 660.00 feet North and 264.00 feet East of the Southwest corner of Section 1, Town 1 South, Range 16 West; thence North 31.00 feet; thence South 55 degrees 06 minutes West 56.00 feet; thence East 46.50 feet to the Point of Beginning. Common street address (if any): 03459 County Road 681, Grand Junction, MI 49056-9582 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: September 24, 2026 Trott Law, P.C. 31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 642-2515 1606500 (09-24)(10-15)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: BD born on 9-24-2026; Atty: BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERV. GRAND RAPIDS - BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERV-GRAND RAPIDS; 1st Pub: 10/15/2026; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)

STATE OF MICHIGAN 36th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, FAMILY DIVISION 212 EAST PAW PAW STREET, PAW PAW, MI 49079. SAFE DELIVERY OF NEWBORN TO: Birth parents of BD born on 9/24/2026 at Insight Hospital and Medical Center Coldwater, Coldwater, Branch County, Michigan and surrendered on 9/24/2026. TAKE NOTICE: By surrendering your newborn, you are releasing him/her to a child placing agency to be placed for adoption. You, surrendering parent, have until 10/22/2026 (28 days from the surrender) to petition the court to regain custody of your child. You, nonsurrendering parent, have until 11/12/2026, (28 days from publication) to petition the court to obtain custody of your child. After the respective 28-day timeframe elapses, there will be a court hearing to terminate the surrendering and nonsurrendering parents' parental rights. There will be a public notice of this hearing, but the notice will not contain your names. You will not receive personal services of the notice of hearing. You may call the Adoptions Unit at the 36th Judicial Circuit Court, Family Division at (269) 657-8200 or Bethany Christian Services at (269) 270-7671 for further information. (10-15)

CRAFT AND BAKE SALE AT MILLER COURT SENIOR HOUSING
205 Miller Court Paw Paw MI 49079
Saturday October 17th, 2026
9 am. - 3 pm.



• WANTED •

WE BUY OLD BASEBALL CARDS, OTHER SPORTS MEMORABILIA AND OLD VINTAGE COINS. CAN BE REACHED AT 517-416-1629. WE PAY CASH.

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER. Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

TIM'S STUMP GRINDING SERVICE- I believe in respectable service. 269-299-5052, 269-624-6884.

HAULING, CLEANING RECYCLING. Moving service. Right Quick Hauling. Dan Wydick, Dustin Wydick, Daniel Wydick, 423-8545. Serving since 1994.

FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC. Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

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

CALL A PRO HANDYMAN SERVING LAWRENCE AND SURROUNDING AREAS 269-903-6397.

PERRY'S PERFECT PITCH PIANO TUNING

Homes-Churches-Schools, Call 269-999-4440.

• FOR LEASE •

PAW PAW- CLEAN, LARGE 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT WITHIN DUPLEX. 1/2 acre fenced lot, 3 blocks from downtown. Secure, quiet neighborhood. Air conditioned, natural gas/ electric heat. Utilities not included. Garbage/snow removal/mowing included. \$1040 per month. \$1040 deposit. Certain pets allowed. Background/credit check required. **SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY.** Contact Ed at 269-615-2465.

• FOR SALE •

HONEY EXTRACTOR-DADAND FOUR FRAME, MOTORIZED, \$800, 269-521-7862.

• AUCTION •

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: 10/27/2026 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw paw: Patrick Adamson, 30; Jack Thompson, 220.

MEDICARE INSURANCE RATES GOING UP

Call for a quote today Janet Bontrager Insurance Advisor (269) 998-6977

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

BID PROPOSAL

Sealed bids, in triplicate, for Paw Paw Public Schools – BP9 Phase 2, will be received until 11:00 AM local time, Tuesday October 27th, at the Paw Paw PS Administration Building, 119 Johnson Rd, Paw Paw, MI 49079. Bids received after this time will neither be considered nor accepted.

All proposals received by the time and date stated above will be opened and read publicly at 11:00 AM local time, Tuesday October 27th at the Paw Paw PS Administration Building.

Bids may be mailed to O-A-K's Kalamazoo Office, 2700 Stadium Dr, Suite 2 Kalamazoo, MI 49008. Mailed bids must be received by 9:00 AM October 27th. FAXED, EMAILED OR UPLOADED TO BUILDING CONNECTED BIDS WILL **NOT** BE ACCEPTED.

In accordance with Section 1267 of the Revised School Code each bid must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Familial Disclosure Statement completed by the bidder disclosing any familial relationship between the Owner or any employee of the Bidder and any member of the District's Board of Education or the Superintendent of the District.

SITE INSPECTION

A construction pre-bid meeting will be held at 119 Johnson Rd, Paw Paw, MI 49079, Wednesday October 14th, 2026 at 2:00 PM local time. All bidders are encouraged to attend.

BID DOCUMENTS

The Bidding Documents may be examined at the following locations:
• Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. Website: <http://www.owen-ames-kimball.com/> subcontractors/
• Builders Exchange plan rooms in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing and Traverse City.

BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS

Bidders submitting a Bid for this Project shall have qualifications as follows:
a. Shall be a reputable, recognized organization, with at least five (5) years successful experience on work of this type and scope of this project.
b. Shall have a license where required by public authorities having jurisdiction.
c. Shall have ample financial resources for work of this magnitude.

BID SECURITY - PERFORMANCE BONDS

Each bid shall be accompanied by good and sufficient bid security or bid bond in an amount not less than 5% of the Bid amount and shall secure the Owner from loss or damage by reason of the withdrawal of the Bid by a Bidder or by failure of the successful Bidder to enter into a Contract with the Owner if his Bid is accepted by the Owner.

Bid securities will not be released or returned until the bid "hold-firm" date or a subcontract has been successfully executed for the specific bid category of work, whichever occurs first.

Bid security may be provided by furnishing a bond from a surety company having a rating of A- or better or certified check. Owen-Ames-Kimball is not responsible for the loss of bid security if provided by certified check.

The successful Bidder will be required to secure Performance, Labor and Material bonds for all contracts exceeding \$50,000, from a surety company having a rating of A- or better, for the full amount of the Contract.

www.owen-ames-kimball.com



NOTICE TO ALMENA TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Almena Township will sponsor a ONE DAY Fall clean-up for the Township on Saturday, October 17, 2026

Hours are 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Historic Township Hall Parking Lot, located on CR 375, directly behind the Township Hall.

Attendants will be on duty to help receive materials for disposal. You must have identification to prove you are an Almena Township resident.

We will **NOT** accept the following:
Tires – Appliances, Cement, Chemicals, Paint
Hazardous Materials – Leaves – Batteries - Loose Trash.
Dead Animals - Rocks – Sand – Dirt – Concrete – Rubble –
Building or Demolition Materials.

Almena Township
Joe Leduc, Supervisor

Museum to host fall conference

By James Windell

Danae Wolfe grew up deathly afraid of spiders, but not anymore.

In fact, as the keynote speaker for the Liberty Hyde

Bailey Fall Conference entitled “Of Gardens and People” on Saturday, October 17, 2026, she will be helping people breakdown their own fears of insects and spiders.

“A lot of people have a

healthy fear of insects and spiders,” she said in a recent interview, “so, this keynote presentation is really about helping break down that fear and helping people understand the many benefits of insects and spiders in the landscape. I will be inviting people to take a closer look to overcome some of their initial gut reactions. I want people to take a closer look and see the world around them and the beauty in it in hopes that that will give them that nudge that they need to actually take actions in their yard.”

Wolfe, a conservation educator, award-winning macro insect photographer, writer, and public speaker best known for her Chasing Bugs project, said that she has spent much of her career helping people understand the importance of

taking small actions in their own backyard in order to support wildlife.

Her interest in protecting the wildlife in our backyards stems from her career as a macro insect photographer – which really started when she was 12.

“It might come as a surprise to hear that I spent my entire life with severe arachnophobia,” she said. “I hated spiders in particular so much so that I couldn’t even look at photos of them or see them on a big screen displayed anywhere because I would have this visceral reaction to them.”

It wasn’t until she got a camera and started to observe insects and spiders up close that she really began to observe their behaviors.

“I began seeing the way, for example, a spider will groom

itself and the way that it takes each leg one by one into its little fangs and just cleans itself,” she said, “or watching a jumping spider, which arguably is the cutest spider of the world. They’re like the puppies of the spider world. I saw that they almost use their little pedipalps like windshield wipers to wipe off debris from their eyes. Observing them in that way is, I think, one of the best ways to overcome that fear. You start to understand their behavior and why they act the way that they act. When you see a wolf spider carrying all of its little babies on its back, you just start to understand these creatures in a whole new way, and that’s what my work through macro photography is really all about.”

In her book, “Grass Isn’t Greener,” she gave examples of different steps that people can take.

“But what I’ve often found is that sometimes we need to give people a nudge to even get to that point where they’re comfortable taking action,” Wolfe said. “In other words, sometimes people don’t even know what they’re protecting or why they should be protecting it.”

In the day-long conference there will be five other speakers and presentations. Jean Persely, who is an Advanced Master Gardener, Master Composter, Conservation Steward, Master Naturalist, and Master Rain Gardener, will talk on the subject “Designing with Natives.”

Maureen Lewandowski,

who says she likes the stars and is concerned with the rapidly expanding light pollution since the invention of electricity, will discuss the five factors to consider with the use of lights at night during her talk entitled “Gardens like the Night.”

Jodi Henley, a Certified Forest Bathing Guide, leads people on guided meditative walks in nature to help them connect to themselves and to nature. She will offer a variety of paths to help anyone find something of interest to them in her presentation “Forest Bathing and Wellness Walks with Find Your Path, LLC.”

Josh Musinski, a wild forager and former vegan chef, along with Kery Hagy, naturalist and arts administrator, will present a talk called “Ten Years of Slow Progress: An Overview of Our Southwest Michigan Permaculture Project.”

Finally, John Stempien, co-editor of The Liberty Hyde Bailey Gardener’s Companion and collections manager for the Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum, talk about “Marvels at Our Feet: The Perennial Gardening Philosophy of Liberty Hyde Bailey.”

“Of Gardens and People” will take place on October 17, 2026, at Lake Michigan College, 125 Veterans Blvd., South Haven. The conference starts at 9:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm. For more information, visit the Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum website at www.libertyhydebailey.org.

U. S. Postal Service
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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2. Publication No. 564-620

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10. Owner: Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses: Wilcox Newspapers, LLC, PO Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010. R. Michael Wilcox, PO Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None.

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14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 10/08/2026.

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2000

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52

2. Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541

247

245

3. Paid Distribution Outside the Mails

1673

1679

4. Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS

0

0

c. Total Paid Distribution

1972

1976

d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution

1. Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541

3

3

2. In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541

4

4

3. Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS

0

0

4. Distribution Outside the Mail

0

0

e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution

7

7

f. Total Distribution

1979

1983

g. Copies Not Distributed

21

17

h. Total

2000

2000

i. Percent Paid

99.65%

99.65%

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

a. Paid Electronic Copies

667

681

b. Total Paid Print Copies + Paid Electronic Copies

2639

2657

c. Total Print Distribution + Paid Electronic Copies

2646

2664

d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies)

99.74%

99.74%

I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership. Will be printed in the 10/15/2026 issue of this publication.

18. R. Michael Wilcox, Publisher

Date: 10/13/2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
VAN BUREN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF A BROWNFIELD PLAN BELLA POINT DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF BANGOR, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN VAN BUREN COUNTY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on a Brownfield Plan for Bella Point Development on the 27th day of October 2026, at approximately 12:50 p.m., to be held in the Don Hanson Board of Commissioners Chambers, 219 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079 to receive public comment on a Brownfield Redevelopment Plan to include therein the property located at Cemetery Road, City of Bangor, Van Buren County, Michigan. The designated eligible property is Parcel ID # 80-54-407-037-25

The project will involve the redevelopment of a 38.91-acre parcel into approximately 82 new housing units. Primary eligible activities include infrastructure and safety improvements to support housing activities.

The property qualifies as eligible property under the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, 1996 PA 381, as amended (“Act 381”), on the basis of meeting the definition of a Housing Property in Section 2(p)(ii).

The Brownfield Plan, which includes a site map and legal description of the parcel, is available for public inspection at the Van Buren County Administration Building, 219 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079

FURTHER INFORMATION may be obtained from Lisa Ransler, Community Services Director at 269-657- 8221 or ranslerl@vanburencountymi.gov.

THIS NOTICE is given by order of the County of Van Buren, Michigan.

Suzie Roehm
Van Buren County Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE
Porter Township

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the November 3, 2026 General Election has been scheduled for
Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the
Porter Township Hall
88040 M-40 Hwy
Lawton, Michigan 49065

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and computer that will used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon adequate notice to Heather Smith, Porter Township Clerk, in writing, or by calling the Township at (269) 624-4022 x-4.

Heather Smith, Porter Township Clerk

SERVICE DIRECTORY

**HAYDEN'S**
Handyman Services
Handyman, Flooring, Small Roof Jobs & More!
South Haven, MI • 5 Years in Business
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**MARK CALLAHAN**
(269) 207-1342
Email: CTWLLC@yahoo.com
Tilling
Brush Hogging
Brush Cutting
Driveway Grading
Grapple work
DIY Help
Veteran owned and operated

ANTHONY'S LAWN CARE
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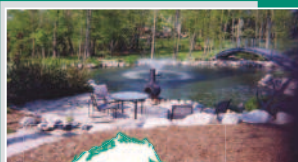
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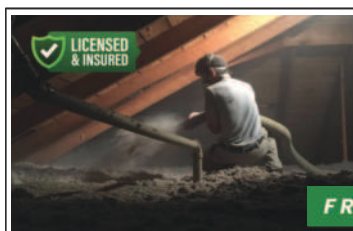
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