

Fowlerville NEWS & VIEWS

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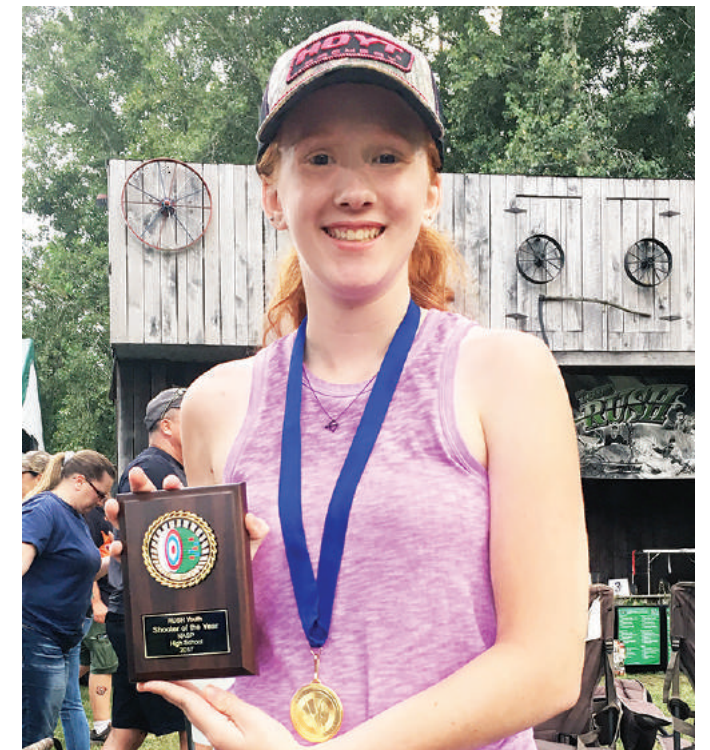
Fowlerville youth receives his Eagle Scout Merit at Court of Honor

Jonathan Asel, a member of Boy Scout Troop 336 of Fowlerville, received his Eagle Scout Merit at his Court of Honor on August 12th. Jonathan is the son of two very proud parents, Jeffrey and Darlene Asel. Jonathan's Eagle Scout project was an American Flag Retirement Ceremony held at the Fowlerville Fairgrounds on Memorial Day 2016. Jonathan is a 2017 graduate of Fowlerville High School and now attends the University of Michigan.

Grief Share Seminar/Support Group reconvenes on Sept. 17

Grief Share, which is sponsored by Family Impact Center and held at the Family Impact Center Wellness Center on 9430 W. Grand River just west of Fowlerville, will be starting back up on Sunday, September 17, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. This 13-week faith-based seminar/support group is for anyone who is grieving the loss of someone close.

For more information or to register, please call Kathy at 517-223-3239 or contact the Family Impact Center at 517-223-4428.



Fowlerville Online Learning Academy student wins archery championship

Autumn Bullis, a Fowlerville Online Learning Academy junior, recently participated in the Archery RUSH youth championship. She placed first for NASP (National Archery School Programs) and received "Shooter of the Year" for her winter/spring/summer combined scores! Congratulations, Autumn on a job well done!

'Living Proof' Simulcast with Beth Moore to be aired on Sept. 16

Join Beth and thousands of women worldwide on Saturday, September 16, as she shares truth to guide your own journey of faith. This one-day streaming event, which will encourage you to dive deeper into the Word of God, is being held at the Family Impact Wellness Center at 9430 W. Grand River, just west of Fowlerville. Also included are three worship segments led by Travis Cottrell and the praise team. This special opportunity is one you won't want to miss!

The event begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 4:15 p.m. Cost, which includes lunch, is \$20 per person. Seating is limited to 30, so please call Barb at 517-223-4428 as soon as possible to register.

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2 lbs. Pork Steak • 2 lbs. Hot Dogs

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3 lbs. Hot Dogs • 3 lbs. Pork Roast • 3 lbs. Pork Steak

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WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMITED QUANTITIES AND CORRECT PRINTING ERRORS. SOME ITEMS NOT ALWAYS AS PICTURED.

Caleb Jenkins Column



The Pledge: Origins and Purpose

A while ago, I used a couple of articles to describe and discuss the entirety of “The Star-Spangled Banner.” I brought up some elements of our national anthem that are often overlooked, and I talked about ways that this powerful song is still relevant to us today. In light of that, I thought it would be appropriate to give a similar review of the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States.

In terms of how long our country has been around, the Pledge is a relatively new addition to our patriotic repertoire. It first entered the stage in the late Nineteenth Century in a very dissimilar rendition introduced by Civil War veteran and Rear Admiral George Balch, and it did not become its official, current version until June 14, 1954 when Congress, under cooperation and support from President Eisenhower, passed a Joint Resolution to add “under God.”

Thus, over approximately just sixty-seven years, the Pledge went from “We give our heads and hearts to God and our country; one country, one language, one flag!” to “I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Our Pledge was very carefully constructed, and I believe that virtually every word has a specific purpose. It was designed for a reason. Overall, it was designed to breed patriotism and to remind us of the allegiance due to America by us, and it should inspire awe in us when we recite it. In the military, traditions and symbolism are used heavily because they elicit pride (good, unselfish pride) in those who participate in the custom, and they encourage commitment and dedication.

The same is true for traditions such as the Pledge of Allegiance or the national anthem. For those who even have the slightest hint of patriotism in their blood, rehearsing these customs often can bring encouragement and a sense of virtuous pride in the good that America represents and the devotion which we owe to our land. That is one of the primary reasons why it is so important for the Pledge to be recited on a regular basis in schools, legislatures, and public places across the nation.

And that is not an overbearing request. I have heard some say that reciting the Pledge of Allegiance is no different than the Nazis of World War II collectively saluting Hitler

or the communists of Soviet Russia joining together in their Workers’ Oath of Allegiance, but that is simply not true in the slightest. Those signs of devotion were given to people and ideas that are foreign to any semblance of decent humanity. The followers of fascism, communism, and any other such contemptible set of ideals were required to give themselves completely over to the dictates of whomever was in charge. Meaning, there was no free will. They were not pledging themselves to an overarching belief; they were vowing to be malleable tools under the control of the higher powers.

As we will begin to see in the next article in this “Pledge” miniseries, the United States Pledge of Allegiance does not demand any of that. Rather, it requires the reciter to protect and defend the principles for which America stands. And that is an important difference. Sometimes, our country is led in directions with which we may not agree, and pledging allegiance to our nation does not mean that we automatically have to approve of everything that we do as a country. However, we must always adhere to the standards for which we stand as a people, and we must always work to be a more perfect union.

Cub Scout Pack 330 holding Fall Roundup on Monday, Sept. 18

Scouting is fun with a purpose, and the purpose is to raise boys who respect themselves and others, and who have strong character. One of scouting’s biggest benefits is the structured exposure to skills and practical knowledge needed in family, career, and community. Scouting builds children’s self-esteem; kids have fun learning and earning achievements and recognition. We welcome boys and families of all backgrounds.

Fowlerville Cub Scout Pack 330 is having a new scout roundup and sign-up night Monday September 18th at 6:00 p.m. at St. Agnes Church, 855 E. Grand River Ave.

Our pack is organized by dens of 4-10 boys by grade level. Dens are a great way to make friends. Boys may join at any grade K-5th. Our meetings are typically held on Monday evenings at St. Agnes, apart from special events/field trips which may occur on other days of the week. Please join us to learn more about how you and your son can be part of a 100 year tradition of scouting. A treat will be served. For questions please contact Andrea at andylynn278@gmail.com

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Fowlerville Junior High School News

IMPORTANT DATES:
Fundraiser ends--Tues. Sept. 19th
Picture Day-- Tues. Sept. 26th
Homecoming-- Fri. Sept. 29th
Picture Retakes-- Fri. Nov. 10th
* * *

FJH SPORTS
SPORTS FOR WEEK OF SEPT. 11:
Monday - Friday: PRACTICES continue for both the 7th & 8th VB teams. 7th-2:30-4:30 w/ Coach Jill Curd;; 8th-Mon & Wed-4-6 & Tues.& Thurs.-6-8 w/ Coach Jill Thomas
WED., 9/13: XC - HOME - w/ E. Lansing, Williamston, Haslett, DeWitt, Okemos, Holt, Mason, & Lansing Catholic - 5pm
Please do NOT park in the school bus lot. 2 mile course is located off Sharpe Rd. on east side of bus lot & maintenance building. No admission charge; small concession.
XC practice on M, Tu, Th, & F - school campus; 2:30-4:15; come dressed for the crazy fall weather in Michigan!

Parents of FJH athletes should be aware that “game day-after school lunches” are available for purchases. Athlete has a choice of 2 entrees. Order must be placed by end of 1st hour in the FJH office. Lunch charge is paid through athlete’s hot lunch account. Great opportunity to make certain your child eats before his athletic contest.
FHS has sports’ season passes. They are punch cards. Fans may purchase these cards at the FHS Athletic Office
* * *

CHILD STUDY TEAM
Each school building in the Fowlerville Community School District has a Child Study Team / Response to Intervention process in place, which is a vehicle for staff members to review student performance, concerns, and collaboratively develop interventions. If you have concerns about your child’s development and are interested in more information on special services, contact his/her building Principal.
* * *

LATEX AND BALLOON FREE BUILDING
The Junior High is a latex and balloon free building. We absolutely cannot have any product containing latex in our building. Signs have been posted at each entrance as a reminder. Please be aware of this when you are planning birthday or party surprises. Mylar balloons are permitted.
* * *

Upcoming Fowlerville Academic Creative Talented Organization (FACTO) meeting
When: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 6:30-8:00pm
Where: Kreeger Elementary Media Center
Why: Easing children into the new school year, Updates on: open house, web page, club survey, distributing information to teachers, nominating committee
Who: Parents and Teachers interested in supporting creative and talented students in FCS
* * *

BOX TOPS
Please clip and send in Box Tops to Mrs. Laesch (Room D1) or the main office. Money earned from box tops collected will be used for Math and Science supplies. Thank you!

Fowlerville High School News

OFFICE HOURS
Administration Office 7:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Counseling Office 6:30 – 2:30 p.m.
* * *

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES TO NOTE:
- FACTO meeting Sept 13 ~ 6:30
- Homecoming vs. Lansing Catholic September 29
* * *

HS drivers – Monday Sept 11 students should park in their assigned spots, if not they may be ticketed. You can purchase a parking pass, please do so during lunches or after school in the main office with Mrs. Nowka. You will need your registration and \$60.00 and you must pay all fines before you can get a pass.
* * *

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* * *

Ordering Transcripts (Michigan eTranscripts) please visit the Fowlerville High School website for more information.
* * *

Parents having trouble using Zangle to view grades, e-mail questions to connect@fowlervilleschools.org
* * *

School Mission: Focus on every student, every day. School Vision: Empower students to be productive citizens in a global society
* * *

FHS announcements: <https://goo.gl/VxuWJC>
FHS Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FHSGlads>
FHS YouTube channel: <https://goo.gl/iaJC3H>

Dansville Community Center holding Euchre Night on Sept. 16

Do you like to play Euchre or Bunco? The Dansville Community Center at 1317 Mason Street in Dansville will be having Euchre Night on Saturday, September 16 starting at 7pm and Bunco on Saturday, September 9 at 6:30pm. A donation of \$5 per person is asked to help pay for expenses for the night. Prizes will be awarded. Beginners are welcome. For more information contact 517-521-4547.

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Smith Elementary School News

IMPORTANT DATES:

September 13 - PTC meeting in cafeteria 6:00pm
September 14 - Spiritwear orders (and payments) due
September 15 - PTC Fundraiser Kickoff
September 27 – Student Picture Day 9:15 until finished: Order forms sent home 9/15/17
September 29 - Fundraiser orders and payments due - FCS Homecoming
October 4 – Student Count Day
October 6: PTC Popcorn .50/bag, 1 bag per student
October 27-PTC Halloween Dance 6:00-8:00pm; Book fair open
October 30-November 3- Book Fair (more information to come)
November 3 - PTC popcorn 50 cents/bag 1 bag per student
November 10 – Student Picture Re-Take Day 9:15 until done
November 15 – P/T Conferences 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm
November 16 – P/T Conferences 9:00 am – Noon & 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Smith Office Still Taking Student Registrations – The Smith Office is open M-F from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, for registering students K-2nd Grade. Please bring necessary documentation: current immunization records, vision screening (Kindergarten Only), state issued birth certificate and proof of residency (2 pieces of proof required along w/ Driver’s License).

Volunteers needed – We need parent/ guardian volunteers the first two weeks of school. We need helpers to assist students off the bus and down the halls before and after school. If you can help please call the office at (517)-223-6430.

Please do not park in the drop-off (Kiss & Go) lane in front of the school. This lane is to be used for parents to drop off their children and move ahead so the next car can do a drop-off.

Picture Day – Picture Day is scheduled for September 27th. **Just a reminder that ALL students get their picture taken on Picture Day!** The flyer/order form that will be coming home with your student has a detachable envelope portion that must be brought back to school for picture day even if you are not placing an order.

Medication –Just a reminder that ALL medications must be delivered to the office by an adult/parent/guardian. The prescription medications must have a current prescription sticker with instructions for dispensing the medication, doctor’s name, and child’s name. *Parents will have to complete a form in the office for both prescription and non-prescription medications.

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Kreeger Elementary School News

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When: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 6:30-8:00pm
Where: Kreeger Elementary Media Center
Why: Easing children into the new school year, Updates on: open house, web page, club survey, distributing information to teachers, nominating committee
Who: Parents and Teachers interested in supporting creative and talented students in FCS

9-29-17: HOMECOMING!
10-17-17: PICTURE DAY- Picture packets will be sent home Friday, October 13, 2017.
11-15-17: CONFERENCES-FULL DAY FOR K-5 - 5:00-7:30 P.M.
11-22-11-26: PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES- NO SCHOOL FOR K - 9:00-NOON & 1:00-3:30 P.M.

Fowlerville Varsity Football Team earns 28-7 win over Charlotte on August 31

The Fowlerville Varsity Football Team earned a 28-7 win over Charlotte in a non-league game on Thursday, August 31. The game was played at Charlotte and the victory evens the Gladiators season record at 1-1.
A balanced offensive attack of running and passing combined with a stingy defense were the keys to the win. Fowlerville quarterback Geoffrey Knaggs led the offense, running for 146 yards on 20 carries and scoring three touchdowns.
Alex Brownlee aided the cause with 99 yards on 15 runs while Tom Salois had 34 yards on the ground and scored the other Fowlerville touchdown. Alex Bowers converted all four PAT kicks.

Knaggs kept the Oriole defense honest with a productive passing game. He completed 12 of 21 attempts for 118 yards. Andrew McFadden caught four of those passes for 53 yards, while JT Maybee had four receptions for 44 yards.
On defense, Alex Johnson had 13 tackles including four solo hits and nine assists, while Trevor Brock was in on 10 tackles, including two solo hits and eight assists.
Fowlerville traveled to Ionia for a CAAC White Division game this past Friday (past the newspaper deadline.) They host Portland this Friday, Sept. 15, in another conference contest.

St. Mary’s Annual Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 2; crafters & vendors needed

Crafters and Vendors are needed for the St. Mary’s Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The church is located at 10601 Dexter-Pinckney Rd, Pinckney. The Bazaar is sponsored by Rosary Altar Society. Call Mary Press for information 734-878-6563.

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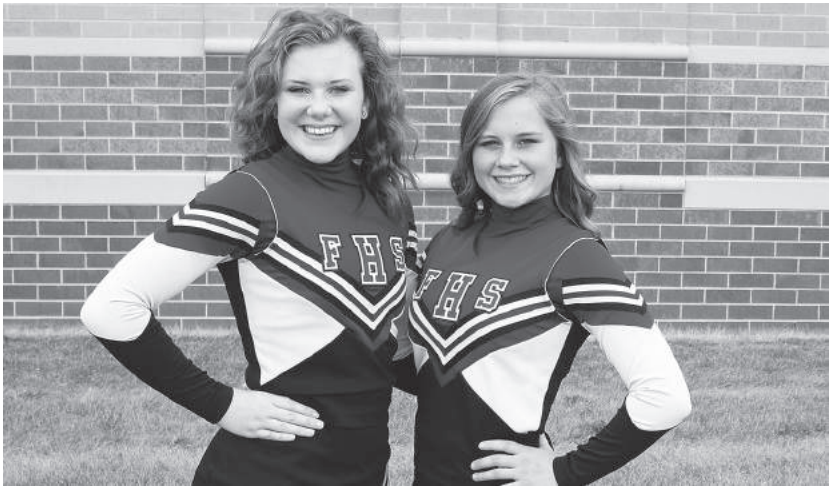
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Thurs. 10am - 8pm, Fri. 10am - 4pm, Sat. 9am - 2pm**



Dick Scott

MOTOR MALL


Fowlerville High School's "ATHLETES" OF THE WEEK



Varsity Cheer Captains

Rebecca Hart: Rebecca Hart is a junior on the varsity cheer team. This is her fourth season cheering on varsity, and her second as captain of the team. Rebecca is an extremely strong cheerleader and a leader by example for all. She always tries to improve her skills and helps wherever needed. Rebecca is someone who her teammates and coaches can depend on, and her hardworking attitude has helped her team in many ways. We are so lucky to have Rebecca in our program. Great job, Rebecca!

Emma Hancock: Emma Hancock is a junior on the varsity cheer team. This is her fourth season cheering on varsity, and her first season in the role of captain. Emma's versatility and hardworking attitude make her a valuable asset to the varsity cheer team. Emma has the ability to be a strong base in stunting, as well as a fearless flyer in the air. Emma is an excellent model of the values of the Fowlerville cheer program. We are so lucky to have Emma in our program. Great Job, Emma!



Jud Scott

JUD'S FOOTBALL FORECAST

THURSDAY, SEPT. 14 Houston <u>20</u> at Cincinnati <u>23</u>	Philadelphia <u>23</u> at Kansas City <u>24</u>
SATURDAY, SEPT. 16 Air Force <u>10</u> at Univ. of Mich. <u>41</u>	Tennessee <u>23</u> at Jacksonville <u>20</u>
SUNDAY, SEPT. 17 Buffalo <u>16</u> at Carolina <u>21</u>	NY Jets <u>9</u> at Oakland <u>31</u>
Chicago <u>19</u> at Tampa Bay <u>27</u>	Miami <u>27</u> at LA Chargers <u>30</u>
Minnesota <u>16</u> at Pittsburgh <u>24</u>	Dallas <u>23</u> at Denver <u>26</u>
Arizona <u>27</u> at Indianapolis <u>16</u>	San Francisco <u>13</u> at Seattle <u>26</u>
New England <u>34</u> at New Orleans <u>26</u>	Green Bay <u>23</u> at Atlanta <u>31</u>
Cleveland <u>13</u> at Baltimore <u>24</u>	
MONDAY, SEPT. 18 Detroit <u>20</u> at NY Giants <u>24</u>	
LAST WEEK: W - 2 L - 0	

Every week through the season two Fowlerville H.S. athletes will be saluted for their efforts. Athletes will be selected by the coaching staff and Athletic Dept. For that "Winning Deal" on a new or used car or truck, see Dick Scott Motor Mall.

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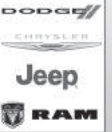
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Michigan Senate Report

By Joe Hune,
22nd District

Sixteen years later

It's hard to believe, but it's been 16 years since the terrorist attacks that threatened to rip apart our nation. On Sept. 11, 2001, we witnessed the most horrific terror attack in our nation's history. We saw pure evil result in the murder of thousands of innocent Americans who were going about their daily lives. The tremendous loss of life is difficult to comprehend — even today. What we saw that day, we will never forget.

The images of heroic first responders on the scenes of the 9/11 attacks are still ingrained in my memory. My thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the families of the brave men and women who became modern-day heroes due to their extraordinary courage.

We will always remember the courage of the brave patriots on flight United 93 who sacrificed their lives to prevent further tragedy. The bravery shown by our fellow Americans on that flight should inspire us all.

Their actions remind us that in the face of evil, good prevails.

This will forever be a day that unites us. And we should never forget the devastation that we suffered as a nation on that day. In the aftermath of that awful tragedy, we came together to meet the challenge that was before us. At that important moment, we didn't back down. We put our differences aside and came together. We showed the world that we would not allow terrorists to intimidate us or destroy our lives.

On the 16th anniversary of this great tragedy, we are reminded of the blessings that God has bestowed on our nation. The constitutional freedoms we cherish are worth defending. We are reminded that the cost of defending our great nation can be high. But we know that this great country is worth defending, no matter the cost. To all the brave firefighters, police officers, first responders and members of the armed forces, I am grateful for your service every day.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to receive a copy of the Michigan and U.S. constitutions, please contact my office toll-free at 855-JOE- HUNE or email my office at SenJHune@senate.michigan.gov and my staff will be happy to assist you. My website, www.SenatorJoeHune.com, is also a good resource for information.

Livingston Fine Art Association to present 'Colors of Life' show

The Livingston Fine Art Association presents 'Colors of Life' art show at the Historic Howell Opera House, 123 Grand River, Howell. This is a members' only judged competition. There will be ten categories: Landscape/ Seascape, Still Life, Floral, Animal, Portraits/Figures, 3-D, Abstract, Calligraphy, Jewelry and Other. Members can enter as many as four pieces with only two in any category. There will also be a People's Choice award; everyone can vote for their favorite piece of art.

Additionally, there is a special competition to take the artists out of their comfort zone. This year's challenge is "Monochromatic." The piece can only use one color in various values. Each member can enter two pieces in this special category. All judging is done by an independent art expert with no members being present.

The public is invited to come and enjoy this show, beginning with a Reception Friday, September 22, 6:00-9:00 pm. Enjoy an evening of Art, Wine, Brew and hors d'oeuvres. The show continues Saturday, September 23, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm.

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Pastor Tom Tarpley

Unnecessary Baggage

Whenever I travel, especially if I am traveling by plane, I don't like to carry a lot of baggage. I want to be able to move around and not have to worry about hauling luggage or packages. I try to pack only what I will need in one suitcase and then drop it at the first check-in point I come to when I arrive at the airport. The last time I made a trip to Florida, I saw people struggling with several suitcases, all kinds of packages and trying to manage two or three children at the same time. I thought to myself, "I wonder just how much of that stuff could they have left at home."

As we move through this life, we begin to accumulate all kind of baggage. I'm not referring to physical baggage like suitcases and other pieces of luggage, but what I'm speaking of here is the mental baggage we accumulate over a period of time.

In the same way that physical baggage can be a burden, emotional and mental baggage can also bog down and hinder our ability to move through life unhampered by hurts, habits and hang-ups.

For many years, I carried a lot of unnecessary baggage. Baggage that would have destroyed me if I had not found a way to get rid of it. The baggage I'm referring to is the mental anguish I suffered through for many years. The baggage of fear, insecurity, resentments, and co-dependency made my life miserable. The problem with emotional and mental baggage is that most of the time you don't realize you're carrying it. It slowly works its way into your life and gradually begins to take control.

When fear prevented me from doing things I really wanted to do, I was allowing the power of my fear to control me. Fear was just one of the pieces of unnecessary baggage that I used to carry around. Being judgmental of other people, desiring to be in control, holding onto resentments, caring too much about what other people think of me, all these things are unnecessary baggage.

Up until a little over a year ago, I was unaware that many of these issues existed. I was in long term recovery from alcohol and drug addiction and was faithfully working the program of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). But in January of 2016, I was introduced to the program of Celebrate Recovery. This new Christ-centered program was different from AA. Unlike AA, where we put our trust in a "god of our own understanding," Celebrate Recovery teaches that we put our trust in our one and only higher power, which is Jesus Christ.

It also addresses many areas that AA does not. Areas such as anger, fear, eating disorders, jealousy, pride, sadness, loneliness, co-dependency, sexual behavior, and the list goes on and on.

For the first time since I have been in long term recovery,

I have discovered by attending Celebrate Recovery that my addiction to alcohol and drugs was not my real problem. They were only the chemicals I used to overcome my real issues. I drank and used drugs because of other deep-seeded character defects that I have had most of my life. In Celebrate Recovery, I have been addressing the many hurts, habits and hang-ups that I have refused to acknowledge in the past. By openly sharing them in a small group and facing my fears have I been able to get rid of a lot of a great deal of unnecessary baggage.

The structure of the Celebrate Recovery Lessons (25), the eight principles found in the Beatitudes (Matthew chapter five), plus the twelve steps of recovery, work together to show me that I can always trust in Jesus to be my guide and comforter. He will carry me (and you) through any obstacle or tribulation period I may be going through. The program also helps me with my personal relationship with Jesus.

Celebrate Recovery is not the only program for people dealing with hurts, habits and hang-ups but it is the one I recommend to anyone who may be struggling with unnecessary baggage as well as in their relationship with God. It is a safe place to meet with others who are working through various issues, and striving to have a better life.

I have listed Celebrate Recovery's eight principles below.

The Road to Recovery, Based on the Beatitudes

1. Realize I'm not God; I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable. (Step 1) "Happy are those who know that they are spiritually poor."
2. Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him and that He has the power to help me recover. (Step 2) "Happy are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."
3. Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control. (Step 3) "Happy are the meek."
4. Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust. (Steps 4 and 5) "Happy are the pure in heart."
5. Voluntarily submit to any and all changes God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects. (Steps 6 and 7) "Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires"
6. Evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others when possible, except when to do so would harm them or others. (Steps 8 and 9) "Happy are the merciful." "Happy are the peacemakers."
7. Reserve a time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will. (Steps 10 and 11)
8. Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News

to others, both by my example and my words. (Step 12) "Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires."

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Nice spacious 3 bedroom, 1 bath home in the Village of Fowlerville with over 1700 sq.ft. of living space. Many updates including fresh paint, floor coverings, some windows, bath vanity and counter. Enclose porch and 1st floor laundry. \$139,900.

Beautiful country setting on 10 acres for this unique contemporary post & beam home with over 3,000+ sq.ft. of living space. Features 4 bedrooms and 2 full baths spacious great room with wood stove, 1st floor laundry and nice bright sunroom. Updated carpets in most of the home and newer metal roof on the garage and horse barn. Extra storage with the upstairs loft in the garage. Shows great! \$279,900.

Spacious 5 bedroom, 3 bath home on 5.4 beautiful acres. This home is turn-key ready just waiting for your family. This home has been completely updated throughout with over 2900 sq.ft. of living space. Enjoy the views from the rear deck or patio with plenty of room for a pole barn and garage. \$254,900

Great location just minutes from town in Pineview subdivision for this nice 4 bedroom, 2 bath ranch home on 10 beautiful acres. This spacious split floor plan home offers great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, 1st floor laundry, 2 large ceramic baths, master with walk-in closet and bright daylight basement ready for your finishing touch. Large rear deck to entertain, refinished hardwood in the dining room and new carpet throughout the entire entry level. Move in ready! \$264,900

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The Facts Are Black and White



Jim Tarrant,
Executive Director
Michigan Press Association
Traditional media has been getting a bad rap lately. Icons in the newspaper industry like the New York Times and Washington Post are accused of providing “fake news” to their readers all too often. Sadly, this moniker is perpetuated most often by those who are unwilling to acknowledge the truth in the stories being printed.

As the Michigan Press Association prepares to celebrate its 150th Anniversary in 2018 we want to urge Michigan citizens to celebrate traditional media in our state. Newspapers have been providing important information about your communities since 1825. A survey released by the National Newspaper Association this month shows that people still prefer newspapers for their local news over TV and the internet.

In the same survey, for community news, local newspapers beat the internet by 3-1, which only received 11 percent of the audience share. Social media came in at just 5 percent, as did radio.

Journalists at local newspapers know their communities, they know the elected officials, the school employees, the student athletes and the local business people. Being part of the communities they report on helps them understand what the readers are looking for in their product.

The trust of those readers is crucial to the success of the newspaper. There are times when newspapers get something wrong. In most cases, they are willing to make corrections. Unfortunately, this is often not the case with alternative media websites that tend to favor one ideology over others and are unwilling to make any corrections when their “facts” are refuted.

Whether it be in print or online, local newspapers can be counted on to keep citizens informed. They can also be counted on to hold elected officials accountable and let you know if your tax dollars are being used appropriately. Michigan newspapers lead the fight to protect the First Amendment in our state. By advocating for open government, transparency and accountability they help ensure that people from Detroit to Iron Mountain and Muskegon to Tawas can access information regarding their local and state officials and what they are doing with public funds.

We hope you will continue to read and support your local newspaper and utilize it as a resource for updates on the happenings in your community and in Lansing. Join MPA and Michigan newspapers in celebrating 150 years of facts in black and white.

Area Church Listings

Fowlerville Church of the Nazarene

8040 Country Corner Drive,
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9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service

Rev. Gary Griffin
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www.fowlervillenazarene.org

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Pastor Scott Herald

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Sunday School
September - May
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Trinity United Methodist Church

8201 Iosco Rd, Fowlerville
(Corner of Bull Run & Iosco Rd)
517-223-3803

Pastor Mark Huff

Sunday Worship Service
9:30am

Sunday School 9:30am
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Visit us on Facebook
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Psalm 46:1
“God is our refuge and strength.”
www.psalms461.com

Fowlerville Garden Club holding first meeting of the 2017- 2018 season

The Fowlerville Garden Club will be holding their first meeting to kick off the 2017-2018 season on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 7 pm. at VFW Post 6464 located at 215 Veterans Drive in Fowlerville.

Anyone who has an interest in gardening, would like to learn more about gardening and see what the club is about is encouraged to attend! Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month September through May. You don’t have to be a resident of Fowlerville to join the club. Club activities consist of educational guest speakers, an occasional garden craft project, field trips, and community based projects.

Three highly anticipated events of the club are the Annual Club Christmas Party, making Friendship Planters and the End of the Season Garden Party.

For more information or if you have any questions please call Denise Brown at 517-223-1927 or 734-891-7606 or Terri Ridenour at 517-376-2190.

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Sunday Morning Service 11am
Sunday Evening Service 6pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7pm

Antrim Baptist Church

4509 E. Lovejoy Rd., Byron

Youth Pastor
Josh Middaugh
517-223-3126
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Sunday Morning Service 11am
Sunday Evening Service 6pm
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* * *

Build a Robot Workshop - Wednesday, September 13th at 6:30-7:30pm - Kindergarten-8th grades.

Come to the library for a robot exploration led by robot experts from *The Mentors Robot Shop*. Participate in hands on activities with a variety of robots and learn how robots are used in our everyday lives! **Participation is limited. Register in person to attend. Registration begins August 30th.*

* * *

Beyond the Book: *One Thousand White Women* Thursday, September 14th at 7pm

Adults. Join us at the library for a book discussion. Books will be given at sign-up while supplies last. Refreshments will be served. **Register in person to attend. Registration begins August 24th. Books will be given while supplies last.*

* * *

Mario Kart Tournament - Friday, September 22nd at 5-8pm *Note: original date has changed*

Teens 6th-12th grades. Come to the library to play Mario Kart on the new Nintendo Switch! You can also play Mario Kart Wii and make your own pins and perler bead crafts! Pizza and a beverage will be served. **Register in person to attend. Registration is required and includes a 2017-2018 signed Program Permission Form. Registration begins September 8th.*

* * *

Fowlerville Library Writers Group Begins Wednesday, Sept. 27th at 2:30pm

Adults. Do you want feedback on your writing projects? Are you interested in exploring different writing exercises? If so, then join our self-led Fall 2017 session. You are invited to bring a 1-2 page sample for feedback from the group. This group will meet weekly until November 15th. **Register in person to attend the entire series. No late entries. Registration begins September 13th.*

* * *

Candy Jar Stands - Thursday, October 19th at 7pm

Adults. Join Cindy and Beth to create a distinctive holiday candy jar that you can display at home or give as a gift. An easy craft for beginners or experienced crafters! **Register in person to attend. Registration begins October 5th and includes a refundable \$5 cash deposit.*

Woman’s Advance Club to hold meeting September 15

By Betty Dodge

The Webberville Woman’s Advance Club will meet to start their first program of the fall on Friday, September 15, 2017 at noon, note the date change. The club will start with lunch at Brookshire Inn in Williamston and have a business meeting there. We will then go to an Alpaca farm at 5109 North Barton Road, north of Williamston, where chairs will be available to sit and learn from the co-owner about alpacas. Items from their wool will also be available for sale. If anyone is bringing a friend, please notify Exec. Committee: Jean Johnson at 517-410-4893 before September 12.

Our current membership includes: Sallie Body, Rosemary Cahaney, Cleo Chase, Betty Dodge, Jean Johnson, Marge Lawson, Pat Jennings, Jill Moon, Lynn Reed, Kathy Ward, Janice Wheeler and President Nancy Webb. We always welcome new members.

George W. Lee Civil War Round table holding first meeting of 2017-18 season

The first meeting of our 2017-2018 season will take place on September 12th, with a starting time of 7:00 PM. The meeting location is the same as last year: the Livingston County EMS Headquarters Building (aka John E. LaBelle Public Safety Complex), 1911 N. Tooley Rd, Howell, MI 48836. This building is located on the east side of Livingston County Airport. Tooley Road is accessed off of M-59, about a quarter mile east of the intersection of M-59 & Grand River Ave. Park in the main parking lot, and enter through the front doors.

The Roundtable Officers for the 2017-2018 year are as follows: The officers for 2017-2018 are: President: Dick Krueger, Vice President: Chuck Horn, Treasurer: Gary Reutter, Secretary: Judith Coebly. The non-officer positions remain Newsletter Editor: Dan Delmerico (delmericod@netpenny.net), Preservation: Barb Krueger, Publicity Chair: Judy McIntosh; Refreshments: Chuck and Rhonda Horn.

Our speaker for the evening is Dr. E. Lawrence Abel. Dr. Abel is emeritus professor of Psychology and Obstetrics and Gynecology at Wayne State University, and former Director of Wayne’s Mott Center for Human Growth and Development. He has published articles in various Civil War magazines, including *Civil War Times Illustrated* and *American Civil War*, and has published three books on the Civil War. His current power point presentation, “A Finger in Lincoln’s Brain” examines the forensic evidence regarding Lincoln’s assassination, the medical treatment he received after he was shot, and whether Lincoln’s doctors doomed him.

Speaker’s Programs for 2017 – 2018

October 10: Paul Scheidler, Hartland HS history teacher, author, historian, CW re-enactor. Topic: Livingston county veterans of the war with Mexico who go on to serve in the Civil War.

November 14: Pete Gaudette, G.W. Lee CWRT member, photographer. Topic: “Gettysburg Then and Now”

January 9: Annual “Show and Tell” Members bring items they wish to show and talk about them.

February 13: Tom Berlucci, historian, National Park Service, at historic Fort Wayne since 1974. Topic: Historic Fort Wayne

March 13: Rick Schmidt, G.W. Lee CWRT member. Topic: Class A Small Arms of the U.S. Navy during the Civil War

April 10: David Finney, former G.W. Lee Round Table member, educator, author, & historian. Topic: “John Brown’s Raid on Harper’s Ferry”

May 8: Larry Hathcock, former president of the G.W. Lee CWRT, educator. Topic: “The Last Confederate Soldier.”

Livingston Acoustic Music Society to gather on Sept. 16 at Fowlerville church

The Livingston Acoustic Music Society (LAMS) Jam Sessions are open to interested musicians, singers and listeners. We include many different instruments, styles of music and levels from beginners to accomplished.

Location: Fowlerville Church of the Nazarene; 8040 Country Corner Dr.; Fowlerville, MI: In the strip mall just south of the I-96 (over pass) bridge on Fowlerville Rd.

We are a fun, no obligation, family friendly, music-sharing, relaxed, informal group. Open to the public. Our next LAMS Jam Session is: Saturday, Sept. 16, starting at 7 p.m.

Howell Eagles to host the Blue Notes band on Sunday, Sept. 17

The Howell Eagles will host the Blue Notes band at their September dance on Sunday, the 17th from 3 to 7 p.m. at the club house, located at 141 Schroeder Park Dr. in Howell. Admission is \$5 with food and beverages available for purchase. Membership is not required to attend. For additional information call 517-548-1630 or 517-548-4313.

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Information provided by:
Lori Killen, Associate Broker
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11196 Mason Rd. \$269,900	9140 Sober Rd. \$213,000
19025 Wasson Rd. \$180,000	8617 Manistee River Dr. \$199,900
8103 Majestic Blvd. \$160,000	6590 Hanna Ct. \$206,000
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Lee Hamilton Column

Who Needs to Step Up?

An interesting thing keeps happening to me. Every few days, someone — an acquaintance, a colleague, even a stranger on the street — approaches me. They ask some version of the same question: What can we do to pull ourselves out of this dark period?

For the many Americans who respect representative democracy, the Constitution, and the rule of law, there’s reason to be concerned. The President is off to a rocky start: he’s unproductive and undignified at home and derided on the world stage. Congress struggles to get its bearings. In the country at large, forces of intolerance and division are at loose on the streets and on the nightly news.

So are we in a downward spiral as a nation? Not by a long shot. Because here’s the thing to keep in mind: our institutions are far more durable than any single president or any single historical period.

History is certainly on our side. We’ve survived a civil war, two world wars, Watergate, four presidential assassinations, the packing of the Supreme Court by Franklin Roosevelt, economic depressions and recessions, more nasty power struggles than you can count... and still the country has moved forward. You can look back and gain confidence from our history.

Or you can look around you. Congress as an institution is being tested as it rarely has in its modern history, and it’s shown a few hopeful glimmers. It did so when it passed by a huge margin its sanctions bill against Russia, rebuking President Trump for his mysterious fascination with Vladimir Putin and his unwillingness to single out Russia for criticism.

It did so even more forcefully when Republican leaders in the Senate took the extraordinary step of holding pro forma sessions during recesses so that a Republican president could not make recess appointments and circumvent the normal Senate confirmation process — or, to be more precise, so that he could not fire the attorney general and then appoint someone who would fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

The federal bureaucracy has drawn lines in the sand, too. When the President suggested that law enforcement officers should, in essence, rough up suspects, the acting chief of the Drug Enforcement Administration sent an email to his employees rebuking the idea. When the President announced plans to discriminate against transgender troops, the Pentagon declined to begin the process.

When two billionaire friends of the President tried to force federal regulators to bend rules in their favor, they were rebuffed by the agencies in question. There’s been real pushback by Foreign Service officers against a move to hollow out the State Department. And, the courts have blocked various Trump immigration policies.

At the state and local level, there’s been similar resistance. Though some states appear ready to go along with the Presidential Advisory Commission on Voter Integrity’s maneuvering to shrink the vote, many are not. California Gov. Jerry Brown and other governors and mayors took a major step when they indicated that they will still be working to address climate change even after President Trump declared the U.S. would withdraw from the Paris climate accord.

And it’s not just pushback: The failure by Congress and the President to make progress on funding the rebuilding or expansion of basic infrastructure has alarmed governors, mayors, and policy makers throughout state and local government, who are demanding action on infrastructure problems.

Then, of course, there are the business and other leaders who resigned from various presidential advisory boards in the wake of the President’s response to the Charlottesville clashes in early August. And the scientists, including some within the government, who are trying to draw attention to administration efforts to weaken the role of scientists in environmental regulation and climate policy.

And an aroused, watchful national media that has worked hard to shine a light on the administration’s actions and the President’s activity. And the many Americans who besieged Congress as the Senate considered repealing the Affordable Care Act.

In other words, our institutions — Congress, the executive branch, the courts, civil society — are being put to the test. And they’re beginning to step up. So must we all.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished

Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Savvy Senior Column

By Jim Miller

Check-In Services That Can Help Seniors Stay Put

Dear Savvy Senior,

Are there any services you know of that check in on elderly seniors who live alone. I worry about my 84-year-old father falling or having a medical emergency, and not being able to get to the phone to call for help. And he won’t wear a lifeline help-button.

Desperate Daughter

Dear Desperate,

Depending on where your dad lives, there are check-in call services, volunteer visiting programs, and a variety of technology options you can turn to that can help you keep tabs on him. Here are several to check into.

Daily Check-in Calls

To make sure your dad is OK every day, consider signing him up with a daily check-in call service program. These are telephone reassurance programs run by police or sheriff’s departments in hundreds of counties across the country and are usually provided free of charge.

Here’s how they work. A computer automated phone system would call your dad at a designated time each day to check-in. If he answers, the system would assume everything is OK. But if he didn’t pick up or if the call goes to voice mail after repeated tries, you (or whoever his designee is) would get a notification call. If you are not reachable, calls are then made to backup people who’ve also agreed to check on your dad if necessary.

The fallback is if no one can be reached, the police or other emergency services personnel will be dispatched to his home.

To find out if this service is available in your dad’s community, call his local police department’s nonemergency number.

If, however, the police or sheriff’s department in your dad’s community doesn’t provide a daily check-in call program, there are a number of companies you can turn to that offer similar services offered directly to consumers for under \$15 per month. Some to check into include the CARE senior calling program (*Call-Reassurance.com*), CareCheckers (*CareCheckers.com*) and IAmFine (*Iamfine.com*).

Volunteer Visiting Programs

Another option you may also want to investigate is volunteer visiting programs, which are usually run by churches, community groups, or social service agencies.

These programs provide volunteers who will visit an older adult in their home usually for an hour or two once a week, providing companionship as well as the reassurance that someone is checking in on a regular basis. They can also alert you if they notice your dad’s health or living conditions start to decline.

To find out if these services are available, check with local churches or the area agency on aging near your dad – call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 for contact information.

Technology Solutions

Technology also offers a number of ways to help keep your dad safe at home, and help you keep an eye on him from afar. For example, for safety and peace of mind there are medical alert systems, which provide a wearable “help button” that would allow him to call for help anytime he needed it. Some of these systems (like Bay Alarm Medical, *BayAlarmMedical.com*) also offer wall-mounted buttons that can be placed near the floor in high fall risk areas like the bathroom or kitchen, if he didn’t wear a help button.

And to help you keep daily tabs on your dad, there are wireless sensor-monitoring systems (like Silver Mother, *Sen.se/silvermother*) you could put in his home that will notify you if something out of the ordinary is happening; and video monitoring cameras (like the Nest Cam, *Nest.com/camera*) that have built-in motion and sound detection that will let you know when something is detected, and two-way audio that will let you talk and listen to him.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of “The Savvy Senior” book.

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Area woman earns three Ontario Angler Awards during Canadian fishing trip

Doreen Smith, formerly of Fowlerville and now of Williamston, recently took her first fishing trip to Canada and earned three Ontario Angler Awards for the fish she caught. The trip was a last-minute invitation that she and her husband Allen received from Jack Kane and his son Jeffrey after another of Jack’s sons was unable to take part as planned.

“Jack said that both of us should go,” said Doreen. “He told us that the cabin was comfortable and scenery unbelievable. It sounded interesting, so with just a week’s notice we were all headed to Canada.”

The group arrived at camp, located over 500 miles from Williamston with (Doreen noting) “the final 17 miles being a gravel logging road.”

The following is her report on that trip.

“I was a little curious as to what was in store since we would be fishing for six straight days. Jeffrey had the boat ready to go within an hour of arriving and we all headed out to fish.

“This lake is like none other that I had ever been on. It was over 10,000 acres in size, 20 miles long and has over 130 miles of shoreline with islands and bays everywhere. Within five minutes Allen and I had no idea where we were at and it was a running joke that we had to find our way back.

“Well, after about a ten-mile ride, we stopped and started our fishing. Allen and I were only used to bobber fishing for pan fish, so Jeffrey got us set up with the right tackle and gear. I was using a jig and just fishing over the side of the board, not casting out.

“After awhile I wondered if Jack had planned this as some sort of prank on me because everyone else had caught fish, and I still didn’t have a nibble. Then the bite came and when



Jack Kane, shown here, and his son Jeffrey invited Doreen and Allen Smith to join their fishing trip in northern Ontario. Jack helped Doreen show off one of her award-winning catches.

the fish got up top where it could be seen, the men were shouting and scrambling for the net. As it turned out, my very first walleye was 28 inches long!

“Later during the week I caught another walleye of 26 inches and a smallmouth bass of 18-1/2 inches. All three of those fish qualified for the award. I also managed to catch a pike but wasn’t long enough. Walleye have to be at least 24 inches in length and bass 17 inches to receive an Angler Award.

“All of the qualifying fish were released back for breeding



Doreen and Allen Smith went on a Canadian fishing trip where Doreen caught three fish that qualified for awards.

purposes under the conservation program. The lodge owner said the 28-incher was estimated to be over 20 years old and that many anglers that have been fishing for years never catch a single fish big enough to qualify for the awards program, let alone landing three of them.”

As a parting comment, Doreen added, “If anyone that knows Allen happens to see him, ask him what his big catch was.”

Fowlerville Fire Department Report

Friday, September 1st, at 1:14 a.m. the department was called to a medical emergency on Majestic Acres in Iosco Township. A second medical emergency, on Elliott Road in Iosco Township was reported at 4:19 p.m.

The department assisted at two medical emergencies Saturday, September 2nd. The first, at 11:40 a.m., was on Van Buren Road in Handy Township with the second one being on Grand River Ave. in the Village at 6:12 p.m.

Personnel responded to assist EMS on Gregory Road in Iosco Township at 1:10 p.m. Monday, September 4th. Firefighters were dispatched to a medical emergency on Hogback Road in Handy Township at 6:04 p.m. and at 7:47 p.m. assisted at a medical emergency on Grand River Ave. in Handy Township.

A medical emergency on Van Buren Road in Handy Township was reported at 10:07 a.m., Tuesday, September 5th. The department responded for downed power lines

on Hibbard Street in the Village at 2:14 p.m. A medical emergency on Grand River in Handy Township was reported at 5:25 p.m. and at 6:07 p.m. personnel assisted at a medical emergency on Hazelnut Street in the Village.

Wednesday, September 6th, at 6:27 a.m. firefighters were called for a medical emergency on Layton Road in Handy Township. The department assisted at a medical emergency on Garden Lane in the Village at 5:51 p.m.

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Michigan House Report

By Dr. Hank Vaupel,
47th District

This past week I had the opportunity to visit the Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Saline with my fellow members of the House Mental Health Task Force. This facility provides both diagnostic services to the criminal justice system and psychiatric treatment for criminal defendants found incompetent to stand trial or acquitted by reason of insanity. Our next meeting will be in Detroit next week at the Team Wellness Center. We will hear from panelists from concerned organizations who want to see change in Michigan's mental health care outlook. There's still time for you submit your ideas for updated mental health care legislation. Please visit www.House.MI.org/CARES to submit your ideas by Oct. 1.

Thank you to Unadilla Township Police Chief David Russell for joining me as my guest for the annual Sept. 11 Memorial Service at the Capitol. The service remembers first responders and members of the military from Michigan who died in the line of duty within the past year.

I am always thankful for the opportunity to attend the Michigan Township Association meetings. This past week we heard a great and informative presentation by Consumers Energy and DTE on power source and distribution.

It was great to give a presentation at the Ready Livingston Family Emergency Readiness Expo. In my presentation I covered some of the important steps to take in preparation for emergencies in Michigan, especially as it pertains to animal care, whether that be pets or livestock. Be sure you have a plan for emergency preparedness. Visit ReadyLivingston.org for more information. Here are some ways you can prepare your pets for an emergency situation:

- Create a buddy system in case you're not home. Ask a trusted neighbor to check on your animals.
- Identify shelters. For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets.
- Find pet friendly hotels along your evacuation route and keep a list in your pet's emergency kit.
- Locate boarding facilities or animal hospitals near your evacuation shelter.
- Consider an out-of-town friend or relative
- Have your pet microchipped and keep your address and phone number up-to-date and include contact info for an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.
- Call your local emergency management office, animal shelter or animal control office to get advice and information.
- If you have no alternative but to leave your pet at home, there are some precautions you must take, but remember that leaving your pet at home alone can place your animal in great danger!

I hope you'll be able to join me for my in-district office hours on Friday, Sept. 15 at the following times and locations:

- 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Fowlerville Farms, [941 S. Grand Ave.](#) in Fowlerville
- 4 to 5 p.m. at Kahuna Coffee, [1836 Old U.S. Highway 23](#) in Hartland
- 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at All Star Coney Island, [934 Michigan Ave.](#) in Howell

No appointments are necessary to attend. If you are unable to attend but would still like to share a thought, concern or idea with me, please contact my Capitol office at (866) 828-4863 or HankVaupel@house.mi.gov.

This past week students headed back to school! I want to thank all teachers for their service to our community and wish students best wishes for a happy school year!

Baker College of Owosso holding GED & Pathways Adult Education Workshop

Are a lack of basic educational skills hampering your job search? If so, join the many other Michigan adults who are improving their reading, writing, and math skills. Start right now by attending a free workshop on Tuesday, September 19, for information about how to pass the GED and how to earn your diploma. This workshop will be held in the Curwood Building on the main campus of Baker College in Owosso (off Gude Street, not at the Welcome Center) from 9:30 am – 10:30 am in Room 1421 (on the second floor).

For more information, contact Megan Garvin at 989-729-3615.



State Rep. Hank Vaupel, of Fowlerville, hosted guest Unadilla Township Police Chief David Russell for the Michigan House's annual Sept. 11 Memorial Service at the Capitol. The service remembers first responders and members of the military from Michigan who died in the line of duty in the past year.

Livingston County Catholic Charities looking for Foster Parents

Livingston County Catholic Charities is holding an orientation for persons interested in learning more about foster care, 3rd Monday of each month, 5pm-7pm. LCCC is located 2020 E. Grand River #101, Howell. To RSVP: call Amanda today to reserve your spot, 517-545-5944. Currently there are not enough local homes to accommodate abused and/or neglected children to keep them close to their home of origin in order to maintain stability in their lives.

Ingham County Genealogical Society to meet Sept. 14 in Holt

The Ingham County Genealogical Society will meet on Thursday September 14, 7 p.m. at the Sam Corey Senior Center 2108 Cedar St., Holt, on Cedar Street between Holt Road and Aurelius Road at the "Cross Walk" sign. The program will be "You Have Received Your DNA Report-NOW WHAT??" film and discussion. In case of inclement weather please check our web site (www.icgswb.org) for alternate information.

For information call Audrey Martini, President, (517) 719-4737.

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First National Bank announces several staff promotions

Several staff members at First National Bank, the only bank headquartered in Livingston County, are taking on new and additional responsibilities. In announcing the promotions, Ron Long, President/CEO, commented, ‘A high performing bank is built with high performing people. Carrie Conine,

Carrie Newstead, Mary Tumbarella and Brian Byrd are great examples of the bank’s high performers. They bring substantial talent and skill sets to their new roles and each of them will help the bank continue to grow and prosper.’

Brian Byrd, the downtown Howell Main Office Branch Sales Manager, is joining First National’s Commercial Lending Team as a Business Banking Officer. Brian’s success on the retail team will serve him well as he expands his

own training and develops commercial relationships. First National’s commercial lending activity in 2017 alone is over \$40 million dollars. This continued growth requires the knowledge and ability to serve our customers in the manner they have come to expect from their local, community bank. Brian will help deliver on that brand promise.

Carrie Newstead, Branch Sales Manager in the Fowlerville office will become the Branch Sales Manager at the downtown Howell Main Office (succeeding Byrd). In 2016, the Main Office Branch Staff accounted for 36% of the Banks consumer loan sales and that is expected to increase in 2017. Carrie’s success in Fowlerville along with her strong knowledgebase in cash management, treasury services, deposit operations and loan sales will serve her and the bank well in continuing to build on the strong foundation in place at the Main Office.

Mary Tumbarella, the Branch Sales Manager at the Howell VG’s branch will become the Fowlerville Branch Sales Manager. She has been with First National since 2010 and previously worked at the Fowlerville office as a Customer Service Representative. Mary has enjoyed proven success at the Howell VG’s office, including growing consumer loans in that office by over 300%. She will bring that same focus and commitment to the Fowlerville office and build on their solid performance as well.

Carrie Conine, the Assistance Branch Sales Manager at the Howell VG’s office, will now assume the Branch Sales Manager role there. She has been with First National since 2005 in a variety of roles. Carrie was part of the team responsible for a recent bank-wide data processing upgrade and contributed significantly to the Howell VG’s office producing \$1M in loan volume in 2016. Her diverse experience will help play a key role in her continued success in this branch leadership role.



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THE CONVERSATION

How robots could help bridge the elder-care gap

By Cynthia Matuszek

Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, UMBC, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Despite innovations that make it easier for seniors to keep living on their own rather than moving into special facilities, most elderly people eventually need a hand with chores and other everyday activities.

Friends and relatives often can't do all the work. Growing evidence indicates it's neither sustainable nor healthy for seniors or their loved ones. Yet demand for professional caregivers already far outstrips supply, and experts say this workforce shortage will only get worse.

So how will our society bridge this elder-care gap? In a word, robots.

Just as automation has begun to do jobs previously seen as uniquely suited for humans, like retrieving goods from warehouses, robots will assist your elderly relatives. As a robotics researcher, I believe artificial intelligence has the potential not only to care for our elders but to do so in a way that increases their independence and reduces their social isolation.

Personal robots

In the 2004 movie "I, Robot," the robot-hating protagonist Del Spooner (played by Will Smith) is shocked to discover a robot in his grandmother's house, baking a pie. You may have similar mental images: When many people imagine robots in the home, they envision mechanized domestic workers doing tasks in human-like ways.

In reality, many of the robots that will provide support for older adults who "age in place" – staying at home when they might otherwise be forced to relocate to assisted living or nursing homes – won't look like people.

Instead, they will be specialized systems, akin to the Roomba, iRobot's robotic vacuum cleaner and the first commercially successful consumer robot. Small, specific devices are not only easier to design and deploy, they allow for incremental adoption as requirements evolve over time.

Seniors, like everyone else, need different things. Many need help with the mechanics of eating, bathing, dressing and standing up – tasks known as "activities of daily living." Along with daily help with cooking and managing their medications, they can benefit from a robotic hand with more intermittent things such as doing the laundry and getting to the doctor's office.

That may sound far-fetched, but in addition to vacuuming robots can already mop our floors and mow our lawns. Experimental robots help lift people into and out of chairs and beds, follow recipes, fold towels and dispense pills. Soon, autonomous (self-driving) cars will ferry people to appointments and gatherings.

The kinds of robots already available include models that drive, provide pet-like social companionship and greet customers. Some of these technologies are already in limited trials in nursing homes, and seniors of course can already rely on their own Roombas.

Meanwhile, robot companions may soon help relieve loneliness and nudge forgetful elders to eat on a regular schedule.

Scientists and other inventors are building robots that will do these jobs and many others.

Round-the-clock care

While some tasks remain out of reach of today's robots, such

as inserting IVs or trimming toenails, mechanical caregivers can offer clear advantages over their human counterparts.

The most obvious one is their capacity to work around the clock. Machines, unlike people, are available 24/7. When used in the home, they can support aging in place.

Another plus: Relying on technology to meet day-to-day needs like mopping the floor can improve the quality of time elders spend with family and friends. Delegating mundane chores to robots also leaves more time for seniors to socialize with the people who care about them, and not just for them.

And since using devices isn't the same as asking someone for help, relying on care-giving robots may lead seniors to perceive less lost autonomy than when they depend on human helpers.

Interacting with robots

This brave new world of robot caregivers won't take shape unless we make them user-friendly and intuitive, and that means interaction styles matter. In my lab, we work on how robots can interact with people by talking with them. Fortunately, recent research by the Pew Research Center shows that older adults are embracing technology more and more, just like everyone else.

Now that we are beginning to see robots that can competently perform some tasks, researchers like Jenay Beer, an assistant professor of computer science and engineering at the University of South Carolina, are trying to figure out which activities seniors need the most help with and what kinds of robots they might be most willing to use in the near term.

To that end, researchers are asking questions like:

--Do robots need to understand and convey emotion to be accepted?

--How can robots provide social support?

--Is it best when machines simulate eye contact with us?

--Does it help if they can converse?

But the fact is we don't need all the answers before robots begin to help elders age in place.

Looking ahead

After all, there's no time to lose.

The Census Bureau estimated that 15 percent of Americans – nearly one in six of us – were aged 65 or older in 2016, up from 12 percent in 2000. Demographers anticipate that by 2060 almost one in four will be in that age group. That means there will be some 48 million more elderly people in the U.S. than there are now.

I believe robots will perform many elder-care tasks within a decade. Some activities will still require human caregivers, and there are people for whom robotic assistance will never be the answer. But you can bet that robots will help seniors age in place, even if they won't look like butlers or pastry chefs

This article was originally published in The Conversation. www.theconversation.com

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Square Straw	148	\$1.30-\$1.70
Round Hay	96	\$15.00-\$32.50
Round Straw	14	\$5.00
Large Square Hay	24	\$47.50-\$60.00
Eggs	31	\$2.40-\$2.30
Chickens	129	\$1.00-\$12.00
Quail	41	\$1.00-\$3.00
Pigeons	12	\$2.00-\$3.50
Geese	6	\$6.50-\$8.50
Rabbit	9	\$1.00-\$7.50
Sheep	11	\$50.00-\$90.00
Goat	3	\$75.00-\$210
Potbelly Pigs	1	\$20.00 Each
Calves	2	\$145.00-180.00

Webberville Report

Linc's Little Reading Railroad, sponsored by CADL Webberville, will be giving free rides during Fireman Field Days.

Webberville Library Report

By Head Librarian Peg Mawby

The end of summer doesn't mean the end of fun! There are many events happening in September at Capital Area District Libraries' Webberville branch.

The fall session of Family Storytimes will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 11:15 a.m. with stories, music and activities for children up to age six. It meets each Wednesday through Dec. 13, skipping Nov. 29. We are happy to have younger siblings along and hope to see morning preschoolers before they head home for lunch. The more the merrier!

Older kids (ages 8–14) will enjoy making pouches at a Duct Tape Workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 3:30 p.m. Then on Thursday, Sept. 28, they can come in at 3:30 to learn how to write computer code using Scratch. Both of these events require registration by calling 517-521-3643.

Along with most of Webberville, we'll be celebrating Fireman Field Days this month. On Saturday, Sept. 23, Linc's Little Reading Railroad will give free rides between the library and the carnival area from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. There will be fun activities in the library in the morning; adults can be prepared to be spooked by Kat Tedsen, author of the *Haunted Michigan Travels* series in a presentation at 1 p.m. Pick up a complete schedule of fall events in the library, or visit cadl.org/events.

Capital Area District Libraries' Webberville branch is located at 115 S. Main Street in Webberville. For more information, call 517-521-3643 or visit cadl.org.

Memorial 5K fun run/walk for Lisa (Hoag) Borchard being held Sept. 23

Lisa's Run, a memorial 5k fun run/walk in honor of Lisa (Hoag) Borchard will be held on Saturday, September 23, beginning at 9 a.m.

The event starts in front of the Webberville Elementary School, ending at the Webberville High School and is sponsored by Lisa's family members and friends. A freewill breakfast will be served following the event in the High School cafetorium.

All proceeds will go to the "Lisa Borchard Scholarship" Fund which will be awarded to a graduating Webberville student.

Lisa was a 1985 Webberville High School graduate. She died from Lou Gehrig's Disease in 2010 and the run was started later that year.

Entry fee for adults is \$22 with a T-shirt or \$10 no T-shirt, and \$5 for students up to age 10.

For further information call (517) 490-1846.

Annual Children's Pumpkin Decorating Contest being held at Ox Roast

The Webberville Garden Club is sponsoring a children's pumpkin decorating contest for boys and girls sixth grade and under during the upcoming Leroy Firemen's Ox Roast. Entries will be accepted starting Friday, September 22 at 3:00 p.m. until Saturday, September 23 at 3:00 p.m. Bring your decorated pumpkin to the Garden Club booth in the Exhibit building next to the Fire Station. Pumpkin entries will not be accepted after 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Only **one** pumpkin per child. Pumpkins are **not** to be carved and decorating to be done **only** by the child. Each child will be asked to write one sentence describing their pumpkin on the entry form. Adults may help the younger ones write their responses. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded.

Capital Area Library Events

WEBBERVILLE

Family Storytime (Ages up to 6)

Engaging stories, songs and activities to help build early literacy skills

Sept. 13, 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

***Duct Tape Pouches (Ages 8–14)**

Make a fun and useful pouch. *Call 517-521-3643.

Sept. 19, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fireman Field Days--Meet Author Kat Tedsen (Adults)

Michigan author Kat Tedsen will lead a journey through audiovisual paranormal evidence files.

Sept. 23, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

* * *

WILLIAMSTON

Harry Potter Book Club (Ages 8-13)

Have fun with Harry Potter-themed Reader's Theater, quizzes, games and snacks.

Sept. 11, 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Family Storytime (Ages up to 6)

Engaging stories, songs and activities to help build early literacy skills.

Sept. 20, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Littles & Bigs Geek Out! (Ages up to 5)

Come with your kids, dress for a Star Wars theme, and enjoy stories, games, and crafts.

Sept. 22, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

* * *

SYSTEM WIDE

WTC Memorial Quilt Project (Held off-site)

Meridian Township and CADL are proud to present the WTC Memorial Quilt Project, on display in the east wing/food court area of Meridian Mall.

Sept. 8-11, 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

*Registration required.

Crossroads United Methodist to offer free coffee & donut on Mondays

Monday morning commuters in the north Williamston area can pick up free coffee and a doughnut (while they last) at Crossroads United Methodist Church during the month of September.

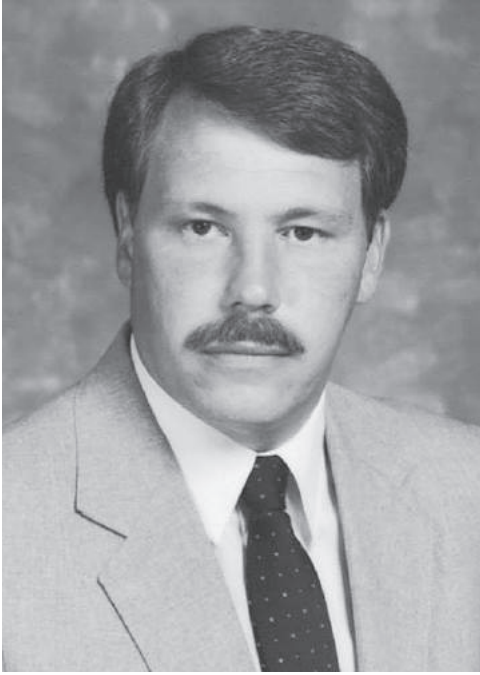
From 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Mondays, September 11, 18 and 25, the church parking lot will serve as a drive-through coffee bar for morning drivers. Entrance to the lot will be from Haslett Road, with exit onto Zimmer Road.

With the start of a busy fall season, the Crossroads congregation decided to offer a little something to help start the week on a positive note. For details, please call the church at 517/655-1466, email at office.umccrossroads@gmail.com, or find the church on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/Crossroads-United-Methodist-Church-291666434194188/>

Webberville United Methodist Church to serve Chicken Dinner on Sept. 16

The Webberville United Methodist Church is having its monthly chicken dinner on Saturday, September 16 with oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, vegetables and biscuits. The meal will include coffee, lemonade, and dessert. The dinner will be served 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$9 per adult, \$4 for children 12 and under, preschoolers eat free. This is an outreach service to the community and proceeds will fund church ministries. Webberville United Methodist Church is located on the corner of Holt Road and M-52.

—Area Deaths—



Gregory C. Braun

Gregory C. Braun of Williamston returned to his eternal home in Heaven on Sunday evening, August 27, 2017. The love of his life, his wife Cathy and their son Andy, were with him at the time of his passing.

Gregg was born in Detroit on April 5, 1947, and lived in Roseville until the age of seven, after which his family moved to Fowlerville. He grew up in Fowlerville where his father and mother, Edward and Luella Braun, owned a business. He then attended Western Michigan University and began his career at the Lansing Police Department in 1969.

Gregg and Cathy married in 1974 and were married for over 43 years. They made their home in Dewitt and then moved to Williamston in 1986. They were greatly blessed with the birth of their son Andy in 1989. Becoming a father was one of his greatest joys.

Gregg loved coaching, including flag football and basketball. He enjoyed playing sports in Fowlerville, graduating in 1965, and it is notable that he still holds a track record from 1965, along with his team in the 4x220 (880 relay). He coached many of his son's teams at Williamston. This was a highlight of his life.

In 1994 he retired after over 25 years of honorable service to the people of Lansing at LPD. He spent fifteen more years in law enforcement with the Mason and East Lansing District Courts. After that he finally retired and bought himself a Can Am Spyder. Gregg was always looking for a smooth country road to travel and enjoy the countryside drive with Cathy.

He was a loving husband and caring father who experienced the best in life, the love of God and the love of his family. Gregg said he was looking forward to seeing his parents, Edward and Luella Braun, his brother Tom and nephew Rodney, and other loved ones.

On earth, awaiting a glorious reunion, are his wife Cathy and his son Andrew (Jessica) and grandchildren Elliott and Addison. His sister Virginia Lehman, father and mother-in-law Gene and Marion Paulino, sister-in-laws Dawn Braun, Karen Dyer, Cheryl (Don) Heriford, Carol Stevens, Maryann (John) Loveless, Deb (Mark) Giles, Pam (Roger) Hankins, and brother-in-law Rodney (Patricia) Paulino. He has many nieces and nephews that were a great blessing to Gregg and he loved them all dearly. Gregg leaves behind, here on earth, a legacy of integrity and honor for the generations to follow.

Visitation took place on Thursday, August 31 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Herrmann Funeral Home, 1005 E. Grand River Avenue in Fowlerville with a memorial service and celebration of his life held at the United Brethren Church, 9300 W. Grand River Avenue in Fowlerville on Friday, September 1 at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Tom Tarpley officiating the service with Pastor Ed Watts from Gateway Church of Flint. United Brethren Church Worship Pastor Eric Griffon assisted and music and worship songs of "Beautiful", "We Shall Behold Him" and "I Can Only Imagine" were led by Tami Neuberger Flick from Kalamazoo.

Eulogies were given by Andy Braun, Tom Tannar, Kurt Braun, Bruce Lankheet and Ann Stine. Pallbearers were Andy Braun, Kurt Braun with his son Greg Braun, Roger Hankins, Kevin Kater, Tony Heriford and Nick Heriford.

You may leave the family a condolence at Pjhermannfuneralhome.com

Cards may be sent to the Braun family at P.O. Box 131, Williamston, MI 48895.

In Gregg's honor, contributions may be sent to the Williamston Schools Foundation, P.O. Box 70, Williamston, MI 48895.

St. John's Episcopal Church serving German-Polish Dinner on Sept. 15

St. John's Episcopal Church will be serving a German-Polish Dinner on Friday Sept. 15th, from 5 to 7 p.m. Free Will Offering. Carry out \$8. Questions, call 810-923-4516. The church is located at 504 Prospect St. in Howell.



Claudia Gallup

Claudia Gallup, age 69 of Webberville, passed away on December 5, 2016. A Mass of Resurrection will be held Saturday, September 23, 2017 at 10 A.M. at St. Agnes Catholic Church, Fowlerville, Michigan. Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com.

Jimmy Adair

Jimmy Adair of Fowlerville passed away unexpectedly on August 28, 2017 at the age of 74.

Jimmy was born on July 24, 1943 in Moulton, Alabama to William & Hazel (Terry) Adair. A few years after the death of Jimmy's father, the family moved to Howell, Michigan to make a new start.

In 1962, Jimmy met Rosie Hatfield and they married on October 5th of that same year. They settled down in Fowlerville and had four daughters: Phyllis, Patty, Margaret and Jessie.

Jimmy worked as a Truck Driver in the 1960's and went on to run the Fargo Gas Station in Fowlerville until 1980 when it closed down. After the station closed down, Jimmy went to work at Diamond Chrome in Howell, chrome plating parts for Boing until he retired in 2011.

Jimmy is survived by his Daughters: Patty (Mark) Coselman of Fowlerville; Margaret Adair (John Abdoo) of Howell and Jessie (Nick) Hath of Webberville; Brothers: Rhode (Gloria) Adair of Fowlerville, Bill Adair of Perry and Robert Worthington of Alpena; Grandchildren: Jan Smyth and Blain Smyth (both of Webberville), Whitney Coselman and Heath Coselman (both of Fowlerville), Chloe Adair, Samantha Abdoo, Paige Abdoo and Nick Abdoo (of Howell) and Autumn Hath (of Webberville); Great Grandchildren: Nicholas Adair, Myles, Kolton & Hayden Smyth and Kamber & Jaxsyn Coselman.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his wife Rosie Adair, mother Hazel Worthington, daughter Phyllis Smyth, grandson Derrick Coselman, and stepfather Gordon Worthington.

He will be missed and his memory will live on through family and friends.

Jimmy will be cremated and a Celebration of Life will be held on September 16, 2017 from 1 until 5pm at 417 S. Maple Street, Webberville, MI 48892. Please come and help us celebrate and remember.

Dwayne E. Slayden

Dwayne E. Slayden, age 50 of Fowlerville, passed away on September 5, 2017. He enjoyed BBQ dinners with family and friends and horseshoe and bean bag toss games. He was preceded in death by his parents, Caroline Franks and Leonard Slayden. Surviving are his wife: Trela; step-father: Don Franks; children: Jordan, Cassey, Kayla, Keela (Leo) and Josh; sister: Cheryl; brothers: Lenny, Terry, Eddie (Theresa), Brent, Tom, Scott, Brian and Tracy; grandchildren: Novallie, Chevaya, Leya and Klayton; and many nieces and nephews.

Contributions are suggested to: Team Destiny, payable to Tim or Jodi Coselman at 10341 Alans Drive Fowlerville, Michigan 48836.

Visitation was held on Friday September 8, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. until the service time at 2:00 p.m. The service was held at Herrmann Funeral Home with Pastor Jeff Howard officiating. Please leave the family a condolence at pjhermannfuneralhome.com



Cory Bigos

Cory Bigos, age 25, passed away Wednesday, August 7th, 2017. He was born November 9, 1991 in Howell Michigan to Bruce and Elly Bigos. Cory is survived by daughter Lily, wife Brittany, brother Russell, parents Bruce and Elly, and Grandmother Suzanne.

He served in the U.S. Army from which he retired from in 2014. He honorably served overseas in Afghanistan as an infantry corporal. Cory's strong personality and charisma will be missed by many. He was one of a kind and always stood up for what he believed in.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, Sept. 10, from 2-8 p.m. Funeral Service will Monday, Sept. 11, at 10:00 a.m. at Herrmann Funeral Home. Burial will follow on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. at Fort Custer National Cemetery with full military honors. Please leave the family a condolence at pjhermannfuneralhome.com

A. Ione Simpson

A. Ione Simpson passed away on July 29, 2017 at age 93. She was born on May 10, 1924 to Ford and Agnes (Radford) Grostic. She graduated from Fowlerville High School in 1942 and was married to Frank Simpson on Jan. 16, 1947. She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and two sisters: Carol and Bonnie. She is survived by her sons: Ford (Debbie) of Fairborn, Ohio and Cass, 3 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, 2 sisters: Thelma Rossetter of Fort Worth, TX and Ruth (Dale) Krueger of Kalamazoo, brother: Marvin also of Kalamazoo, and several nieces and nephews.

Following creation, she will be interred in Fort Custer Cemetery in Battle Creek, MI.

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By Vonda Vantil,
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

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This important planning document allows you to:

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You can open your own *my Social Security* account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Another tool you can use to estimate your possible monthly benefit amount is our *Retirement Estimator* at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator. It shows you how much you may be eligible to receive based on different scenarios, like different future earnings amounts and various retirement dates.

To learn more about your retirement benefits, you can read *Your Retirement Benefit: How It's Figured and When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits* at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/.

We also encourage you to review the other online benefit estimates available from Social Security, because responsible planning includes contingency plans.

To learn more about the important safety net Social Security provides if you become disabled or die, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/disability and www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors.

Social Security is with you through life's journey. Get to know us at www.socialsecurity.gov. Social Security Column #3



gating through our menu.

Along the way, you'll see how your Social Security number opens many important doors throughout life, from making it easier to apply for student aid and open your first bank account to starting your first job and buying your first house. You'll also discover how your contributions to the Social Security system through FICA payroll taxes can make you eligible for important future benefits when you reach retirement age or if you become severely injured or ill.

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- Learn more about how we're securing your today and tomorrow.

Now that you've started to get to know *your* Social Security, stay in touch by visiting our *Social Security Matters* blog at blog.ssa.gov/ and our website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Vonda VanTil is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov

‘Cheers to Volunteers’ to be held by Volunteer Livingston on Sept. 28

“Cheers to Volunteers” is the annual thank you event that provides an opportunity to recognize and thank volunteers who lend their time, talent, and voice to support causes they care about in our local community. This event is our way of saying a collective “thank you” and honoring the impact these change makers bring to our community all year long.

Volunteering unites us by bringing people together to tackle tough challenges, create change, and build a stronger, more vibrant Livingston County. Volunteerism empowers individuals to find their purpose, to take their passion and turn it into meaningful change.

“Cheers to Volunteers” is our opportunity to celebrate the impact of volunteer service on our community. We want to take a moment to thank the thousands of individuals and groups who give their time to strengthen Livingston County. Community really is rooted in service,” said Brenna Wheeler, Volunteer Livingston Program Coordinator

Volunteer Livingston, a program of Livingston County United Way, connects area residents with opportunities to give their time and expertise to nonprofit organizations that seek volunteer help. Since its launch in 2002, Volunteer Livingston has matched thousands of volunteers to organizations, supporting the growing need for consistent and coordinated match services for local volunteer programs. Volunteer Livingston has made over 6500 connections to local opportunities. Anyone can volunteer! Volunteer Livingston operates a free, online database of volunteer opportunities available in the Livingston County area. The site has options for all ages, skill levels, time commitments and locations. Visit www.volunteerlivingston.org to find an opportunity that matches your passions, skills and interests.

“Cheers to Volunteers” is being held on Thursday, September 28, 2017 from 4:30-7:30pm at the Howell Opera House. This drop-in style event with food and drinks furnished by Howell High School catering is available to anyone who volunteers in Livingston County. RSVP by September 15, 2017 by calling 810-494-3000 or emailing volunteerlivingston@gmail.com.

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ATTENTION BACK PAIN AND SCIATICA SUFFERERS!

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Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop Reveals How to
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- ⇒ Do you have pain when you sit for long periods or drive?
- ⇒ Do you experience pain, numbness or tingling into your butt, groin or down your leg?
- ⇒ Does your back ever “go out” if you move the wrong way?
- ⇒ Are you afraid your pain will get worse if you don’t do anything about it?

If you have answered YES to any of the above questions (or have a stubborn spouse who is in denial)
– the Lower Back and Sciatica Workshop may be a life changing event for you...

‘I cannot say enough about my “Healing Experience” at Mid-Michigan PT. I literally came in on a mattress and after PT, my life returned to normal. I had an excellent experience at Mid-Michigan PT and will be forever grateful’ - Dana B.

Hello,
Back pain and sciatica can completely ruin your life...I’ve seen it many times.

- It can make you lean on the shopping cart when walking through the grocery store...
- It can take your focus away from enjoying your life... like spending time with your children or grandchildren...
- It can mess up your work or force you to do a job you don’t want to do...
- It can ruin your travel plans...
- And it can take away your ability to live life... having to rely on others... or having to wait for you to sit down for a minute.



John Dean DPT
Board Certified
Orthopedic &
Sports PT

And less movement and enjoyment of life can lead to depression, increased stress and a sedentary lifestyle (mostly sitting...not moving much) which leads to bigger health problems... and life problems.

Here at Mid-Michigan Physical Therapy Specialists, over the past 10+ years, with our expertise, we’ve helped literally 1000’s of people from right here in Livingston County... and the surrounding communities... who have suffered needlessly with lower back pain and sciatica... it’s our specialty!

SO BY REQUEST, I’M HOSTING A FREE SCIATICA AND LOWER BACK PAIN WORKSHOP!

Saturday, September 23, 10:00am – 11:00am
Where: Mid-Michigan Physical Therapy Specialists (Howell Location)
2810 W. Grand River, Suite 100 (¼ Mile East of Tomato Bros. Restaurant)

If you’re unsure about what to do and are looking for answers, here’s some of what you’ll learn:

- ✓ The Single Biggest #1 Mistake back pain and sciatica sufferers make which actually stops them from healing...
- ✓ The 3 Most Common Causes of Lower Back Pain and Sciatica...
- ✓ A Sure-Fire Way to Pick the Right Treatment for the Cause of Your Pain (and save a ton of time and money)
- ✓ How a problem in your back can cause pain, numbness or tingling in your leg...
- ✓ What successful treatment and permanent relief looks like without the side effects of medications, injections or surgery.

‘I would highly recommend Mid-Michigan PT! This is the BEST I have felt in over 20 months and I am now hopeful that I will be able to return to many activities that I surrendered because of my back problems!’ - Kenneth A.

How Do I Register for the Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop? **Call our office to register at 517-545-3200**

When you register, we will mail you The Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Worksheet which you will bring with you to the event.
We only have a limited number of seats available for the event... while news of this event will also be announced in our Patient Newsletter and On-Line. So if you would like to attend, be sure to register now... **Call 517-545-3200**

How Much Is It to Attend? The Workshop Is FREE!

As a Special Bonus... the first SEVEN people to call and register for the event will receive a **FREE EXERCISE GYM BALL!**
All attendees for the Sciatica and Lower Back Pain Workshop will receive a Special Report:
“The Top 10 Burning Questions for Sciatica”.

Looking forward to seeing you there,
John Dean PT, DPT, OCS, SCS
Co-Owner, Mid-Michigan Physical Therapy Specialists

PS – The first SEVEN People to call and register at 517-545-3200 will receive A **FREE EXERCISE GYM BALL!**
PPS – We have a limited number of seats for this event, but when you register, you can bring a guest (we do this because many people request to bring their spouse or other family member).



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Fowlerville News & Views




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REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES *SYNOPSIS
MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017

*A synopsis is a brief summary of the motions that were made at the meeting. The complete set of minutes can be viewed on the web site at www.fowlerville.org

The Regular Village of Fowlerville Council Meeting was called to order by President Hill, at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

Trustees present: Bell, Bielous, Heath, Mailloux and Schultheis. Absent: DeGrush. Also present: Village Clerk/Manager, Kathryn Arledge, Chief of Police, John Tyler and Village Attorney, David Stoker.

MOTION BIELOUS, SECOND BELL, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BIELOUS, SECOND MAILLOUX, TO REMOVE ITEM 6.g., AND APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS AMENDED.

MOTION BELL, SECOND HEATH, TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 461, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FOWLERVILLE VILLAGE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING CHAPTER 34, EMERGENCY SERVICES, ARTICLE II, ALARM SYSTEMS. ROLL CALL VOTE. AYE. AYE: BELL, HEATH, BIELOUS, MAILLOUX, SCHULTHEIS AND HILL. NAY: NONE. ABSENT: DEGRUSH. UNANIMOUS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BELL, SECOND SCHULTHEIS, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 17-23, A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF FOWLERVILLE, MICHIGAN, APPROVING REVISED FALSE ALARM FEES. ROLL CALL VOTE. AYE: BELL, SCHULTHEIS, MAILLOUX, HEATH, BIELOUS AND HILL. NAY: NONE. ABENT: DEGRUSH. UNANIMOUS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BELL, SECOND BIELOUS, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:11 P.M., VOICE VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn M. Arledge, CMMC
Village Clerk/Manager
(9-10-17 FNV)

BLAINE TRASH REMOVAL: Why rent a dumpster? Call us for full service garage & house cleanouts. Tree & brush removal, yard clean-up. Home, business & commercial. “Insured.” Call 517-980-0468, ask for Jay.

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WANTED: Disabled vehicles and scrap metal. Cash paid for some items. Free pick-up. Call John at 517-225-8291.

HELPWANTED: Laborers, \$13 per hour, must have transportation to Fowlerville. Clean criminal background. 517-223-4400.

COLORADO TRUE BLUE SPRUCE TREES. \$25 to \$100, 4 ft. to 8 ft. Deciduous trees “priced to sell.” Boulders, sand, black dirt, “will load you up.” Tree planting and removal. 989-984-4861.

FOR SALE: 2014 FORD TAURUS, \$14,800 firm. SEL, FWD, and only 35,500 miles. Ruby Red metallic exterior, dark grey cloth interior, flexible fuel. MSRP was \$31,240. Only serious call, ph. [517-927-7240](tel:5179277240) for more info and leave msg.

PELLET STOVE FOR SALE. \$400. 517-861-9271.

GARAGE SALE: 9-5 Friday & Saturday, Sept. 15-16. Household items, bikes, toys, antiques, rototiller, furnace, some tools. 6960 Slawski Drive off of South Cemetery Road, Fowlerville.

BARN SALE: 6375 Hayner Rd., north of Fowlerville. Something for Everyone! Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 15-16-17. 9 to 5.

GARAGE & BARN SALE: 3540 Potts Road west of Fowlerville Road. Friday & Saturday, September 15 & 16, 9am - 5pm.

FOR SALE: RV, excellent condition. Sleeps 6, 47K miles. Call for more information. 517-672-2835.

JD 8300 DOUBLE DISK GRAIN DRILL with seeder, \$3,500. New Holland 492, 9 ft cut haybine, \$4,800. 517-294-5085.

FREE FIREWOOD: U Cut, U Clean up, U Haul. Fallen ash tree. By appointment only. 517-798-9502.

FOR RENT: Clean large upper 2 bedroom apartment overlooking Fowlerville. Heat included, \$795/mo. 517-245-5403.

GARAGE SALE: Misc. for sale. September 14, 15 & 16, 9am - 4pm. 10080 Marrisa Lane, East off Bradley Road in Gregory.

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Office Hours & Deadlines

Monday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tuesday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Closed Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Deadline for ALL news copy, display advertising & classified ads is Thursday at 3 pm.

206 E. Grand River, Fowlerville
(517) 223-8760
email: fowlervillenews@gmail.com



New School Year: Everyone starts fresh

By Brian Whiston,
State School
Superintendent

It's always exciting to get back to school. New teachers for the kids. New kids for the teachers. Even new schools for some!

Every new school year opens with great hope, energy, and anticipation. Everyone starts fresh.

I want to thank the teachers and administrators for all they do for our kids and our state. It's challenging to reach all your students and help them learn and grow both academically and personally. It's a tremendous task and you do it with sincere purpose and passion.

As we continue Michigan's drive to become a Top 10 education state in 10 years, the beginning of a new school year is a great opportunity to look at how we're doing and provide everyone with a chance to improve.

It is continuing the innovations already in place and beginning new strategies that have shown success for other schools. It's integrating deeper learning efforts for students and having students really own their learning – taking ownership of their individual pathways to success.

We must set a tone and culture of respect for others and carry that inside and outside of our classrooms. Our country is witnessing some alarming clashes between races and beliefs. Hate speech, harassment, and bullying are not acceptable in any manner or form. Our schools must be safe havens for our children and teachers – free from hate; free from intimidation; free from bullying; and free from fear.

Our schools, our communities, and our nation are better when we respect and help each other grow and succeed together. Let's make our schools the centers of scholarship, where students are happy, healthy, and eager to learn.

I will continue to visit school districts around the state this year to celebrate your successes and see the innovative ideas being implemented. That, by far, is the best part of my job as State Superintendent.

This is going to be a great school year! Let's build a bright future together for Michigan.



Flatten the Tax Code Select tax breaks aren't the answer to our tax problems

By Jarrett Skorup

In 2014, Michigan Congressman Dave Camp rolled out a major tax reform proposal. It hit all of the main pillars that economists across the political spectrum thought would spur economic growth – it lowered rates, expanded the base, was revenue neutral and eliminated many company and industry favors.

But it died. Getting rid of loopholes is a great idea, but when proposed, the beneficiaries of select tax treatment come out in hordes to defend their privilege. Farmers, realtors, energy groups, municipal governments – all came out to defend the tax breaks.

Republicans have been talking tax reform for years and now that the party controls the White House and both chambers of Congress, leaders are putting together another plan. Unfortunately, many of the same groups (and more) are out in force against these plans. Corporations are treated differently by the current code and those who have an advantage don't want to lose it.

Michigan is going through a similar fight. After several years of lowering business taxes by flattening the tax code, a bipartisan majority of the Legislature is pushing back. Previously swearing off special tax credits (after racking up billions of dollars owed) and eliminating a number of other preferences in the tax code, the Legislature has passed two packages this year favoring select businesses. Proposals to expand property tax write-offs, give special privilege to pension income and favor people who regularly trade in to purchase new vehicles are all gaining ground.

A better tax system has a broad base and low rates. It's not a good idea for legislators to favor some companies, some industries and some people over others.

Jarrett Skorup is the Marketing and Strategic Outreach Manager at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. Reprinted with permission from the Mackinac Center, www.mackinac.org.

Michigan League for Public Policy releases 2017 Labor Day report

Since 2000, Michigan has lost 326,000 workers, seen labor participation rate go up for older workers, down for younger workers

LANSING—Since 2000, Michigan's labor force has lost 326,000 workers, driven largely by a drop in workers 16-24 years old, according to the *2017 Labor Day report* released last week by the Michigan League for Public Policy. The report shows that while Michigan's monthly unemployment rate dropped to 3.7 percent for July—the lowest jobless rate since 2000—this decline can be attributed as much to worker attrition as economic improvement.

Workers drop out of a state's labor force in several ways: physically leaving the state, death, institutionalization (i.e., incarceration), or stopping both work and the search for work (i.e., retirement, disability, staying home with children, etc.). Michigan's labor force reached its numerical peak of 5.16 million in 2000 and was down to under 4.84 million for 2016, showing a net loss of 326,000 workers.

"How Michigan's economy is doing depends on which worker or policymaker you talk to and what data you look at," said Gilda Z. Jacobs, president and CEO of the Michigan League for Public Policy. "Michigan's declining unemployment rate is certainly good news, but it doesn't tell the whole story. Since the unemployment rate was last this low in 2000, Michigan has been steadily losing workers, and our workforce is getting older, neither of which bodes well for our economic future."

Michigan's labor force participation rate, which measures the percent of the civilian population 16 years old and over that is working or looking for work, has been at a historic low for several years. Its high-water mark was 69 percent in 2000, but fell to a low of 60 percent in 2011 and 2012, where it has hovered since, despite the improving unemployment rate. In the same way, while Michigan's employment-population ratio shows clear improvement since 2011 concurrent with falling unemployment, it is below where it was during the economically difficult years of the early and mid-2000s and the 20 years prior.

Michigan's labor force has also begun to shift toward older workers. From 1979 (the earliest year data on worker ages is available) to 2000, the share of Michigan's labor force that was 55 years of age or older was between 10-13 percent annually. Following 2000, however, this age group began comprising a steadily larger share of the workforce, and in 2016 their share (22.2 percent) nearly doubled that in 2000, while the portion in prime working age decreased from 70.4 percent to 62.3 percent over that span.

Younger workers, those from age 16-24, comprised a moderately smaller share of the workforce in 2016 (15.4 percent) than in 2000 (17.9 percent) but considerably smaller than in 1979, when they accounted for more than a quarter of the workforce. In keeping with the pattern of the previous 20 years, 72 percent of residents aged 16-24 were either working or looking for work in 2000. That percentage took a sharp and steady plunge over the following decade, bottoming out near 50 percent in 2011 sitting at 63 percent for 2016.

"We've all seen this data in action. Think about your daily life and the variety of workers you encounter in jobs that young people used to hold—a fast food worker, a grocery bagger, a restaurant server," Jacobs said. "Lawmakers need to look at these changing demographics and embrace policies that help younger and older workers alike get the education, skills and training they need to get the jobs that they want."

Although a higher portion of older individuals are remaining in the workforce, as they retire there are fewer younger workers to replace them. The League's Labor Day Report offers the following policy recommendations for legislators to strengthen Michigan's workforce at both ends of the age scale:

--Make college education less expensive by lowering tuition and increasing financial aid, which will help cut down on student debt;

--Encourage universities to offer more academically relevant work-study for students with low incomes so that they may gain meaningful work experience;

--Make postsecondary training for "middle skills credentials" (a short-term or two-year credential such as a license, certificate or associate degree) more accessible to young people, especially those who live in areas with high unemployment and poverty and few available jobs;

--Provide support services to young single mothers that encourage them to participate in postsecondary education or training and facilitate their completion and success; and

--Retain Medicaid expansion in order to help provide healthcare for older workers earning lower wages.

To read the full Labor Day report and see labor force and jobless rate data for all 83 counties, go to www.mlpp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Labor-Day-Sept-2017.pdf.

* * *

The Michigan League for Public Policy, www.mlpp.org, is a nonprofit policy institute focused on economic opportunity for all. It is the only state-level organization that addresses poverty in a comprehensive way.

Feeling stressed? Something missing? Try the ALPHA course at St. Agnes

Feeling a little stressed these days? Feeling like something is missing in your life? Asking yourself – Is there more to life than this? Do you have a faith life or has that been neglected due to other obligations?

If you are looking for answers to any of the above questions, an ALPHA course may provide the answers for you. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life"- John 14:6.

ALPHA is an introduction to Christianity, discovering who Jesus is and how a relationship with Him will help you find more meaning for your life. This course is for the unbaptized, the baptized and even those actively involved in their faith of any denomination. St. Agnes Church in Fowlerville is hosting an Alpha course beginning September 13 at 6:30pm in our Lothamer Parish Center. If you are interested, call the office at 223-8684 or email msheridandre@gmail.com. If you are not sure what you are looking for, just come to the first night and see what it is all about. We begin with dinner at 6:30pm. There is no cost.

Breathers' Club meeting to be held on Sept. 12 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital

The Breathers' Club is a community service support group for patients affected by heart and breathing (cardio-pulmonary) diseases and their caregivers, family and friends. Everyone interested in learning how to live a better, fuller life or how to care for those with these conditions is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at noon (12:00p.m.) in the Community Room at St Joseph Livingston Hospital in Howell. An informational speaker and pertinent topic are featured each month.

Our next Breathers Club is scheduled for Tuesday, Noon: Sept. 12. Our Pulmonary Rehabilitation Therapist is available to assist and answer questions. For recorded meeting information call: (517) 545-6020.

Michigan's Office of the Great Lakes awards grant funding for coastal initiatives

The Coastal Management Program in the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes last week announced awards of more than \$500,000 in federal grant funds for a variety of initiatives on Michigan's Great Lakes coastline.

The funding will support the efforts of local governments, non-profit organizations, and university researchers in 2018 to protect coastal communities, conserve valuable coastal environments, and collect new data. Projects will improve beach safety, create public access, and develop tools to protect coastal habitat.

In addition to grant funding, the Coastal Program provides grantees with technical support and data. Some funds will continue support for successful initiatives like the popular Adopt-a-Beach and Clean Marina programs, while others will explore new ground with aerial photography and geospatial technology. All grants will maximize resources by leveraging a local 1-1 match.

The Office of the Great Lakes will support 11 coastal initiatives:

1. Coastal Planners Initiative
2. Coastal Clean Beaches Initiative (Adopt-a-Beach Program)
3. Coastal Clean Marina Initiative
4. Great Lakes Underwater Historic Resources, Shipwrecks
5. Coastal Hazards Assistantship
6. Coastal Dunes Spatial Data Project
7. Norton Shores – Black Lake Park Accessible Kayak Launch
8. Village of Sebewaing Master Plan
9. Mapping Great Lakes Beach Hazards and Decision Support Tool
10. Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Website Development
11. Aerial Invasive Species Mapping and Monitoring System

Learn more about the individual projects on this [fact sheet](#). "These initiatives and collaboration will keep our spectacular coastal resources clean, safe, and vibrant," said Office of the Great Lakes Director Jon W. Allan.

Michigan's Coastal Management Program is funded in part through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which supports a nationwide network of state-federal partnerships protecting America's fresh and saltwater coasts. Michigan's program will celebrate 40 years in 2018.

Discover how the Coastal Management team works to protect, restore, and enhance Michigan's Great Lakes coastal resources at www.michigan.gov/coastalmanagement.

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VILLAGE OF FOWLerville
NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD OF
APPEALS MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017
@ 7:30 P.M.

A meeting has been scheduled by the Village of Fowlerville Zoning Board of Appeals for Monday, September 18, 2017 at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, Village of Fowlerville Offices, 213 South Grand Avenue, Fowlerville, Michigan 48836 to consider the following:

Request from 298 Frank LLC, for a variance regarding the size of an accessory structure. The required square footage is 250 square foot, the applicant is requesting a variance to allow for a 576 square foot accessory structure, for the property located at 298 Frank Street.

The public shall have the right to appear before the board and to express their views and opinions on the request. Written comments are welcomed and should be addressed to the Village Clerk. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Kathryn M. Arledge, CMMC
Village Clerk/Manager
(9-10-17 FNV)



Opinion: Filling in the White Spaces

By Eric Peters

Most of us take high-speed Internet access for granted. It's available at McDonald's. But there are still tens of millions of people who don't have access to it.

At home.

Some are still getting online – if they can get online at all – via dial-up modems.

Yes, really.

You've got mail!

About 34 million Americans – 24 million of them in rural areas – are stuck in the parachute pants era, as far as high-speed Internet access is concerned. This isolates them, makes it harder for them to access necessary information – including local government information – and puts them and their communities in a digital-age backwater.

The problem is that fast-forwarding to 2017 isn't free. Infrastructure and technology costs money – and many of the affected communities haven't got it.

They also can't afford the taxes necessary to fund it.

Catch 22.

But there is a way around this dilemma that does not involve new taxes – or big ticket investment. It involves using what's already in place – and not being used. Specifically, repurposing unused television bandwidth space in between broadcast channels.

Just three spaces, specifically – all of them in the 600 megahertz band.

These so-called “white spaces” are literally just sitting there – like railroad tracks without any trains running on them. The investment has already been made. Now it's just a question of using what's already there.

And already been paid for.

Existing network TV broadcasts would not be affected – and there would still be bandwidth available/set-aside on the spectrum for local, low-powered channels – such as those that provide coverage of local high school sports and so on. Only some of the white spaces currently just sitting there would be used to transmit broadband – wirelessly – to anyone within range of the signal. If you can get The Andy Griffith Show on your tube TV via rabbit ear antennas, you could get high-speed broadband Internet on your flatscreen – and have access to Hulu and Amazon Prime and everything else the rest of the country already has access to.

Microsoft has developed the technology needed to make this happen – and has offered to license its use royalty-free, no new taxes (or fees) required, to localities and others willing to work collaboratively on the project.

Capital investment would be recouped via revenue sharing downstream, once things are up and running, from online ads, partnerships and so on.

The Internet giant realizes that getting people online is far more important than charging them to get online. Without broadband/high-speed access, it's hard to shop online – or do anything online. Even loading an email can take seemingly forever, if you're trying to do it via dial-up.

The rest of the ‘Net – the rest of the world – has moved on. Microsoft's Rural Airband Initiative is similar to the 1930s-era effort to get electricity to rural areas – only this time, it's not the government that's doing the heavy lifting – and it's not taxpayers who are getting the bill.

The initial effort will fund 12 projects in 12 states over a 12 month period, with the goal of providing high-speed broadband to 2 million people not currently connected to the ‘Net at all. Microsoft hopes to close what company president Brad Smith calls the “Broadband Gap” by July 4, 2022 – a little over four years from now.

But before any of this can happen, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) must authorize the use of the “white spaces” for this new purpose. There has been some opposition, most of it arising from a misunderstanding of what's at issue.

To recap: The “white spaces” that would be given over to broadband are currently not being used for anything – except making white noise – and there will still be plenty of bandwidth space (already set aside by the FCC) for Low Power Television Providers (LPTV), the local-access programs that cover high school sports and other local happenings.

There is no downside, no losers – no people left paying or holding the bag.

But without FCC approval, the whole project falls apart. The private sector won't invest – and it will ultimately fall to the government (and taxpayers) to pick up the tab. The cost of that would be enormous because it would entail far more than the expense of additional infrastructure investment.

The human capital loss would incalculable.

Tens of millions of Americans effectively left stranded

– and excluded – from eCommerce, online education and communications; not just YouTube videos but job opportunities and vital information that they won't even know about, since they haven't got access to the technology necessary to know about it.

“As a country, we should not settle for an outcome that leaves behind over 23 million of our rural neighbors,” Smith says.

Especially when the investment is being made almost entirely by the private sector, at little cost to the public – and for the benefit of the public. More than 40 congresspeople from both parties have signed a letter to the FCC expressing their support of Microsoft's proposal.

That there is any question at all about FCC granting its approval is startling.

A decision is expected later this summer.

Eric Peters has been covering the automobile industry since the 1990s and is the author of “Automotive Atrocities and Road Hogs.” He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

Upcoming Events at St. Agnes Catholic Church

St. Agnes office hours: Monday thru Thursday 8am-4pm; Friday 8am-12noon

For the full schedule of events, visit our parish calendar at this link: <http://parishcalendar.com:8080/4/4447/>

SEPT 10 = WINTER MASS SCHEDULE: Saturday 4:30pm; Sunday 8:30am and 11:00am

*****Alpha Begins:** September 13 at 6:30pm in our LPC. Alpha is a course which seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith. Dinner included. Call our parish office for more information and to register.

*****Ticket Refund:** The September 30th Knights of Columbus production of Mystery in Margaritaland has been cancelled. If you have purchased tickets, please call the parish office regarding a refund.

*****Flu Shot Clinic:** September 16 from 4:00-6:00pm and September 17 from 8:00am-1:00pm hosted by the Walmart Pharmacy on Higgins Hall. Pneumonia vaccinations also available. No reservations necessary. Bring your ID and your insurance card. Flu shots are free with insurance card. \$10 without insurance card. For more information, call Brittany at Walmart Pharmacy at 517-223-1106.

*****ReFit:** FREE workout class, open to anyone who desires to add more fitness to their life. Upcoming dates: 7:00-8:15pm on September 11, 19, 22, 26. Classes meet in the LPC A/B. Get movin!

*****Welcome Table:** Every Thursday evening beginning at 6:00pm in our LPC. Great home cooking! An inspirational movie is shown following the meal.

*****Adoration:** A great opportunity to thank Jesus for the blessings in your life! Every Monday at 6:30pm, every Tuesday at 6:00-7:00pm, and every Wednesday at 7:00pm.

*****His Merciful Heart Prayer Group:** Praise the Lord every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm in RE 6.

*****Reconciliation:** Wednesdays at 7:00pm and Saturdays 3:00-3:45pm.

855 East Grand River Avenue, Fowlerville- Phone: 517-223-8684. Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8am-4pm; Friday 8am-12noon.

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Steve Horton Column

‘Cross in the Woods’ Shrine: A setting that is spiritual & meditative

On the way to Mackinaw City this past Labor Day weekend, we took a side trip to see the ‘Cross in the Woods,’ a Catholic shrine located in Indian River just off the I-75 freeway. The ‘we’ I refer to included my wife (Dawn), son (Bradley), daughter-in-law (Lindsay), and yours truly.

The visit was a first for all of us but Dawn and hers occurred when she was a young girl. It was Lindsay who wanted to see the place, learn more about it, and take a few photos.

The centerpiece of the place is the world’s largest crucifix with a wooden cross and a bronze figure of Christ. The statue sets atop a small mound called appropriately enough Calvary Hill.

There is an altar in front, an area to the side for musical instruments, and benches in front where visitors can sit and contemplate the scene or attend a scheduled outdoor Mass. We arrived about a half hour before the Saturday afternoon service which was scheduled for 4:30.

A beautiful indoors church, which can accommodate up to 1,000 people, sets to the south. Dedicated in June of 1997, it has large windows that allow worshipers to view the Cross while participating in Mass. It replaced the original chapel, built in 1949, three years after the parish was first formed. (Parishioners initially met at the township hall.) That area now houses the gift shop, main office, and the nun doll museum in the lower level.

Even before the first church—known as the Long Chapel—was completed, the idea of also having an adjacent outdoor church was proposed by a parishioner who had seen one elsewhere. The parish’s first administrator, Father Charles D. Brophy, liked the idea of having an indoor church for year-round attendees and an outdoor church for use in the summer. The outdoor church had the added allure, or selling point, of being a way to attract tourists to the area.

It was Father Brophy who came up with the added idea of erecting the huge cross as part of this outdoors setting and as a way of drawing visitors. The project was eventually completed when the sculpture of Christ was attached to the Cross on August 9, 1959 and the formal dedication took place seven days later. Originally called the *Indian River Catholic Shrine*, the site was renamed the *Cross in the Woods* in 1983.

The Calvary Hill includes a flight of 28 stairs leading up to the base of the Cross. These marble stairs represent the 28 steps that Jesus climbed to the throne of Pontius Pilate, where he was condemned to death. People using these stairs, I was to learn, are supposed to crawl up them (as Jesus did). There are two other stairways for those wishing to go up to the top of the hill and to the base of the Cross.

In addition, a path through the adjacent pine woods leads past the Stations of the Cross which consist of pictures and an accompanying caption that highlight the 14 specific events that occurred before Jesus was crucified and later rose from the dead.

There are several other, smaller shrines located nearby, including one of Saint Francis of Assisi. That statue was no doubt a deliberate choice since the Cross in the Woods is staffed by Franciscan Friars of Sacred Heart who are part of the St. Louis, Missouri Province—one of seven provinces in the United States for this Catholic Order.

Saint Francis of Assisi, who lived in Italy from 1182 to Oct. 3, 1226, is described as “one of the most venerated religious figures in history.” Born to a wealthy noble family, he gave up those riches and luxurious lifestyle upon his conversion—literally embracing a vow of poverty. He subsequently founded the Order of Friars Minor (little brothers) who became known as Franciscans. He also inspired the women’s Order of Saint Clare.

This holy man, after being canonized in 1228, later became known as the patron saint of animals and the natural environment. Another of his legacies is *The Prayer of Saint Francis*. The words, over the centuries, have become ingrained in Western culture—certainly not as well known as *The Lord’s Prayer*, but I’d hazard to say a respectable second in recognition.

The Franciscans over the centuries have sought to emulate his teachings and example. Helping the poor, standing up for social justice, a humble approach to life and living, caring for



The Holy Family sculpture at the ‘Cross in the Woods’ at Indian River. *Photo by Lindsay Horton.*

all of God’s creatures along with administering to the spiritual needs of the parishioners they serve and doing missionary work are among their core beliefs.

I was brought up as a Methodist and so am not overly familiar with the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, or its internal structure. Since visiting this shrine, I’ve learned that some parishes (like the ‘Cross in the Woods’) are operated by Orders, while many others come under the auspices of geographically-based dioceses.

In a Facebook posting I did a couple of days after visiting the shrine, I noted that “I used to make that well-known joke about going to church and being concerned the roof might fall in around me. So, in this case, I went to a church without a roof. All kidding aside, it’s a holy place. Beautiful Michigan scenery to be sure, but a setting that is spiritual and meditative.”

As far as drawing visitors to the shrine and to the area, that vision of Father Brophy’s has certainly been realized. On average between 275,000 to 325,000 people come here each year. I’m sure a fair number of them are repeat visitors.

BUT WHAT IMPRESSED ME MOST ABOUT THE VISIT was the message I read in the bulletin that was handed out prior to the Mass. It was from the desk of the senior pastor of the parish and shrine director, Father Mike Haney, and addressed the events that had occurred recently in Charlottesville, Virginia and the underlying discussion of racism and violence.

His message went:
“A few days ago, the leadership teams of the seven Franciscan Provinces in the United States, representing approximately 900 Franciscan men, issued this joint statement. I, personally, heartily endorse it, and intend to fulfill its challenges. The statement is not only for us Franciscans, but for all Christian people. See what you think.

“As followers of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron of peace, we, the Franciscans of the United States, join with the many public and religious leaders and fellow-citizens who have condemned the recent violence in Charlottesville, VA.

“We hold that all forms of racism, white supremacy, neo-nazism, xenophobia and hatred are wrong. Because we believe that every person is created by God in love, we also hold that disrespect or diminishment of – or violence against – anyone offends not only that person but also the One who created that person.

“As Franciscans, we strive to be bridge-builders. To avoid future instances of the tragic violence that tore not only the community of Charlottesville but also the fabric of our nation, we call for a renewed commitment to respectful dialogue by all, whereby our opinions and differences can be shared in constructive and illuminating ways that lead to the possibility of growth and conversion for all. Such dialogue might lead us beyond the overt displays of violence and intolerance into an understanding of the subtler and even unconscious forms of discrimination and intolerance that may still inhabit our hearts as well as our society.

“We commit ourselves to the responsibility of respect for and dialogue with all who seem ‘other’ than ourselves. And we pray that all the citizens of our nation will join in striving to attain respect and peace in our communities.”

Reading those words as I sat on one of the benches at the foot of the cross, with the figure of the crucified Christ looming above, was both inspiring and heartening. It spoke of a faith centered not just on the hereafter but the ‘here and now’ and of a faith that’s concerned not just about one’s spiritual well-being but of the broader needs of humanity.

It seems to me—backsliding Methodist though I might be—that there can be no “us versus them” in this faith, no justification for placing one’s self above another or regarding



The ‘Cross in the Woods’ shrine at Indian River.

one’s own kind as superior to or more worthy than others. Caring for all God’s creatures means exactly that—including all types and kinds of people.

The ‘Cross in the Woods’ symbolizes that basic premise, namely that God’s love is there for each of us to receive and embrace. There are no admission tickets to this shrine, no dress codes, no litmus tests, and no prohibitions concerning who can visit or what they might believe in or look like. This quiet and serene place, found in a small town in northern Michigan, reminds us that while none of us deserve God’s grace, it’s there for each and everyone.



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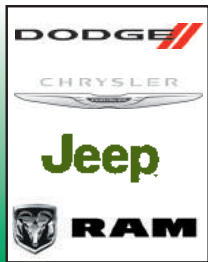


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