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"Serving the Local Communities"

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Sunday, December 31, 2017

Published Weekly



Winter Fun in Fowlerville

These two young fellows enjoyed some winter fun during their holiday vacation last Thursday afternoon, snowboarding and sledding down Rotary Hill at the Fowlerville Community Park. The boys are third graders

at Kreeger Elementary, and best friends. At left is Griffin Brodersen, the nine-year-old son of Steve and Jessica Brodersen and at right is Connell Hardenbrook, the eight-year-old son of Jamey and Michelle Hardenbrook.

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Caleb Jenkins Column



Foundational Resolutions

Now that the Christmas festivities are over, we are getting back to our normal routines. People are going back to work and school, and the post-holiday blues are starting to set in for many. Amidst this trudge back to normalcy, however, there is yet one more distraction before us: New Year's. For those of you who have been reading my articles for a while, you will know that New Year's is my favorite holiday of the entire year, and no, it is not attributable to the stereotype of wild parties and rampant drinking. Rather, I appreciate New Year's because of its solemnity and the immense opportunity to reflect and start fresh.

It is very fitting that New Year's follows right after Christmas. During this time, people usually seem to be in this sort of in-between stage where they are trying to make the transition from vacation and celebrations back to the grind of everyday life. Since people are in this mode of transition anyway, why not give them the opportunity to start fresh and establish new routines? Hence, we have New Year's resolutions. As a child, I always participated in New Year's resolutions. I would usually sit down on New Year's Day itself and figure out what I wanted to achieve over the next year. I would typically pick out a couple of ways that I thought I could improve life or make myself better, and I would work toward that throughout the year.

Sometimes. Let's be honest. Most of the time, I forgot about my resolutions a few weeks after the beginning of the year. As I talked with others, though, I realized that that was normal. Few resolutions were actually kept. This caused me to be a little frustrated with the concept of New Year's resolutions. In theory, I really liked the idea of analyzing my

life and finding new goals that I could pursue. I liked the thought of being filled with renewed vigor and motivation as I pushed toward improvement. However, in practice, the concept was very wanting. What's the point of making those resolutions if they're just going to be swept under the rug in a few weeks anyway?

So, one New Year's, I decided to do things differently. Instead of simply picking out a few minor aspects of my life that I could work to change, I decided to set aside some time to fully evaluate my situation in life. I thought about my attitude, my activities, my thoughts, my personality, etc. I thought about my approach to life in general. And then I asked what I needed to change. That, to me, was revolutionary. Instead of swatting at flies, I was getting at the source. I became more concerned with my attitude than with my actions. It's fine to try to fix actions, but if you are doing that without fixing the attitude toward them, then it is extremely difficult to succeed.

Now, I try to do that throughout the year. I try to make it a daily habit. What is it about my personality or my approach to interacting with others that is good or bad? Is there something that I should stop doing? Is there something that I should be doing more? Even though I do my best to analyze myself throughout the year, New Year's is still a very special time for me, and I still set aside time to evaluate myself. I try to root out what foundational changes I can do to make myself a better person. So, what foundational resolutions are you going to make this New Year's?

St. Agnes Knights of Columbus looking for Chili Cook-off Contestants

The Knights of Columbus #8605 at St. Agnes Catholic Church are looking for contestants for their upcoming All-You-Can-Eat Chili Dinner on Saturday, Jan. 13 at the Parrish Hall. St. Agnes Church is located at 855 E. Grand River, Fowlerville.

Categories will once again be: Blazing Hot, Spicy Medium and Saucy Mild with the public voting on their favorite entry. Cash prizes for first place in each of those three classes will be awarded.

Contestants can enter their best chili recipe for the cook-off by calling Nelson Cypher at 517-294-6366 or Todd Conti at 517-819-7330.

The Cook-off is part of an overall event that includes a Euchre Tournament along with the Chili Dinner.

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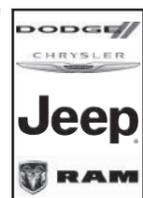


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Fowlerville High School News

OFFICE HOURS

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

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Return to School Jan 3

Doors at FHS will be open at 6:30 a.m. on school days. After school hours if your student is not participating in a sport, math lab, credit recovery or meeting with a teacher they should make arrangements to leave the building by 3 p.m.

Time is running out to buy your high school yearbook for the low price of \$55. After Jan. 1st, the price will go to \$65. Go to smart-pay.com and order yours online.

Let It Snow The club is open to 5th through 12th grade students. We ski/board at Mt. Brighton every Wednesday beginning in January 10th and throughout the month of February. For further information, please contact Ms. DeLuca 517-223-6250

or delucac@fowlervilleschools.org

Parents will no longer receive the applicable attendance notification letter in the US Mail, showing their student has accrued 5 or more absences in one or more classes. This change is being made to better utilize our existing technology and save taxpayer dollars. Instead, parents will receive an email stating that their student has accumulated 5 or more absences in one or more classes. As always, we encourage parents to monitor their student's attendance via the Parent Connect website at connect@fowlervilleschools.org, and if you have any questions, please be sure to contact the Attendance Office at 517-223-6044.

Febreze Air Care Recycling Fundraising Opportunity

The Fowlerville High School Life Skills class is proud to announce our partnership with terricycle that will pay us for recycling! The items that we will be collecting are air freshener cartridges and plugs, Air freshener packaging and flexible film, Air Freshener plastic trigger heads, Febreze One bottles with trigger heads and Febreze ONE refills. We will be paid \$1/lb of waste we send to terricycle. What I love about this is we do not have to sell anything and we can expand our recycling efforts that my class is already highly involved in. The money that we make will go toward more community based instruction opportunities, and cooking supplies for our life skills class. We have drop boxes at the high school in room C201, at Little Glads, UB church in the student center and at the Fowlerville Library. If you have a business or organization that would be willing to promote and have a drop box added to your location, please contact Deanna Ragland at 223-6145 or e-mail raglandd@fowlervilleschool.org

Registration for 'Runway Repurposed 2018' being held on Jan. 13 & 15

Runway Repurposed, the fundraiser that combines the art of fashion design with the creative use of donated clothing and materials, invites designers of all ages and levels of sewing abilities to register for the 2018 event.

Registration and clothing selection will be held on Saturday, January 13 and Monday, January 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 at Oak Pointe Country Club, 4500 Club Drive, Brighton. At that time, all registered designers will select their choice of donated clothing and fabric to create their own original garment to be premiered at the 10th annual competition on Sunday, February 25, at Oak Pointe Country Club.

Designer fee is \$35 for adults and \$20 for students. Details and guidelines are posted online with the registration form at www.grassrootsarts.org. There are six competition categories: Young Beginner (up to age 11); Student (12-18); College Design Student; Adult; Avant Garde; and Advanced. The College Design category is new for 2018. The Advanced Designer category has a \$500 cash prize. All competition winners will receive a trophy and prize.

Runway Repurposed is hosted by Grassroots Arts Initiative, a non-profit corporation dedicated to supporting the arts and artists of all mediums. Proceeds will provide scholarships for students in a variety of art disciplines and a portion of the proceeds from the event will support the Livingston Arts Council/Howell Opera House.

For more information, visit Facebook.com Runway Repurposed or www.grassrootsarts.org.

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December 31, 2017

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Live Music by The Sea Cruisers

Includes party favors, snacks, dinner, dancing, cash bar and fun!



IOSCO TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 16 2018, 7:00 P.M. IOSCO TOWNSHIP HALL 2050 BRADLEY RD., WEBBERVILLE, MI 48892

A petition has has been filed by Mike Hauser, 4141 Bull Run Rd., Gregory, MI, 48137, Property ID #09-26-100-003, requesting a Variance of the Iosco Township Zoning Ordinance that would allow him to build a pole barn beyond the front line plane of his house.

The Public has the right to appear before the Board to express their views and opinions on the request. Written comments to the board should be sent to the Township at the mailing address above, addressed to Clark Humrich, ZBA Chair.

Dan Delmerico
Township Clerk
(12-17 & 12-31-17 FNV)

St. Agnes Catholic Church

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Smith Elementary School News

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 3 – School Resumes
 January 7-13 – The Pizza Box fundraiser: don't forget your coupon!!
 January 10 – PTC meeting 6:00pm
 January 11 – Applebee's 'Dining to Donate'
 January 15 – School of Choice Window Reopens
 January 15 – NO SCHOOL
 January 22 – 1st Grade Vision Screening by LCHD
 January 23 – 1st Grade Vision Screening by LCHD
 January 26 – School of Choice Window Closes
 January 26 – Early Dismissal: 12:00noon
 * * *

Family Impact Center Food Collection! – WOW, THANK YOU SMITH FAMILIES AND STAFF who together collected \$1000 in cash – Baked Goods, Photo Booth, & The Pizza Box and 3080 pounds total of non-perishables during the Christmas Dance and at school in classrooms. Everything collected is going to The Family Impact Center in Fowlerville. **This is the first time Smith Elementary has been the Top Food Can Contributor For The District!** All of us at Smith Elementary along with The Family Impact Center would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone involved in making this a big success!

* * *

The Livingston County Health Department Will be Vision Screening – The LCHD will be at Smith Elementary on January 22 & 23 to vision screen 1st grade students. If for any reason you would not want your child to have their vision screened by the Health Department, please contact the office at 517-223-6430 so your child can be placed on the DO NOT SCREEN LIST.

* * *

'DINING TO DONATE' AT APPLEBEE'S HOWELL: The second Thursday of each month, Applebee's Howell is holding a fundraising event for our PTC during the hours of 11:00am – 10:00pm. 20% of the proceeds will benefit the school. All you need to do is bring in a copy of the flyer or a phone picture of the flyer which was sent home. You may also pick up additional flyers on the front table at school.

* * *

H.T. Smith Is A Latex Free Building! – Our building is a latex and latex balloon free zone. We cannot have any product containing latex in our building. Signs have been posted at the entrance doors as a reminder. Please be aware of this when you are planning birthday surprises or classroom parties. **ONLY MYLAR BALLOONS ARE PERMITTED!** Thank You!

* * *

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. **During the school day, this is the fire lane- DO NOT PARK THERE!**

* * *

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.

Fowlerville Junior High School News

IMPORTANT DATES:

Return from break--Wed. Jan. 3rd
 No School--Mon. Jan. 15th
 End of Semester--½ day of school on Thurs, Fri. Jan. 25, 26
 Student Count Day--Wed. Feb. 14th
 Semi-Formal Dance--Fri. Mar. 2nd
 * * *

SPORTS FOR WEEK OF JAN. 3:

Wed-Fri: 1/3-1/5: 7th & 8th GBB tryouts: 7th-4:30-6:30 & 8th-2:30-4:30; **PHYSICALS REQUIRED TO TRY OUT.** Bring clothes for tryouts. Lockers available in girls' locker room; athlete must furnish own lock.
 Sat., 1/6: **COMP CHEER @ Portland Invite;** PHS - 9am; bus - 7:15
 * * *

NEW YEAR'S POP TAB CHALLENGE

Student Council is sponsoring a New Year's Pop Tab Challenge. Students are to collect and bring in pop can tabs for the month of January to their 6th hour teacher (6th Grade to their homeroom teacher). The tabs will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. The class that brings in the most tabs wins a pizza party! Please spread the word.

* * *

YEARBOOK INFORMATION

Yearbook is underway- order yours today! Personalized books are available through March 2nd. Order on our website under order yearbooks here and it will take you to the smart pay site. You may also send a check made out to Fowlerville Community Schools with name and grade of your child on memo line. A basic yearbook is \$32.

If you have taken pictures that you would like considered for use in the yearbook. Upload them to our Imageshare app or email them to Mrs. Spisz at spizm@fowlervilleschools.org. Search for "Balfour Image Share" at the App Store on iTunes or on Google Play. It's SO easy! Students or parents simply download the iOS or Android app, enter your yearbook's information and they're ready to go. Photos can be selected from an existing gallery or taken using the app itself. Each submitted photo includes contributor information, photo identifications and a caption. Our Project number is 823649.

* * *

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!

LET IT SNOW-SKI CLUB

The club is open to 5th through 12th grade students. We ski/board at Mt. Brighton every Wednesday beginning on January 3rd and throughout the month of February. For further information, please contact Ms. DeLuca 517-223-6250 or delucac@fowlervilleschools.org

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Nice location in the Crestwood Subdivision Haslett area. This nice 3 bedroom, 2 ½ bath home features wood burning fireplace, walkout basement, 2 car attached garage and new carpet on the main level. Beautiful lot with mature trees and close to shopping and Lake Lansing parks. \$154,900.

Nice location on a corner lot in the Village of Webberville for this 3 bedroom, 1 bath home. Features corner lot, 2 car garage and updates include furnace, vinyl windows some plumbing and electrical. Within walking distance to schools and shopping. \$99,900.

Investment opportunity! Nice duplex in the Village of Fowlerville, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath each and all appliances included. New paved parking lot with 4 spaces. You could live in one unit and rent the other or use both for income. \$137,500.

Spacious 5 bedroom, 3 bath home on 5.4 beautiful acres. This home is turn-key ready just waiting for your family. Quality updates 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. \$249,900.

Beautiful hill top setting with 3+ acres on a paved road in the Fowlerville schools. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home features over 1700sq.ft. of finished living space. Nice natural fireplace in the walkout basement family room, plus full bath and 3rd bedroom. Attached 2 car garage plus 24x32 pole barn with concrete floor and heated. \$184,900.

LEASE! Nice 2 bedroom apartment in the Village of Fowlerville close to schools and shopping. Kitchen appliances included washer and dryer shared with 1 other unit. Water sewer & trash included. No smoking & no pets. 1st Month's rent plus security deposit equal to 1st month's rent. \$695.

----- VACANT LAND -----

- Great location for this nice ¾+ acre build site with natural gas and electric at the road. Paved road, close to town and schools. \$24,900.
- Great build site in quiet subdivision with all underground utilities and natural gas. Located just minutes from town on a paved private road. Last lot left in this sub. Fowlerville schools. \$32,500.
- Great Location! Nice 16 acre parcel on a paved road in the Howell schools, only minutes to town. Water, sewer and utilities at the road two build sites possible. \$75,000.

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Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. Closed**



Pastor Tom Tarpley

Love continued

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16 NIV).

Tomorrow is the first day of 2018. I want to welcome the new year by continuing to draw our attention to the subject of love.

“A healthy definition of love is crucial to understanding

the central message of the Bible. According to the Bible, love is not confined to sexuality nor is it primarily a feeling at all. The Bible teaches that love is a commitment. As a commitment, love is not dependent on good feelings but rather on a consistent and courageous decision to extend oneself for the well-being of another. That commitment then produces good feelings, not the other way around. Jesus became the perfect demonstration of God’s unconditional love for us by laying down his life for our benefit.”

(Touchpoint Help finder pg.1225)

Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it’s been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful and endures through every circumstance (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

This passage of scripture is filled with so much of what we, as Christians (if you are one), need to be practicing in our everyday walk through life. If every Christian would start the day by reading 1 Corinthians, chapter thirteen, and spending some time reflecting on what it says about what love is and what it is not, I believe we would see a decrease in the ungodly and inhumane activity being perpetrated against one another.

There is power in the Word of God. If we read it regularly and allow it to saturate our hearts and minds, we will change from the inside out, as the Holy Spirit transforms us into the kind of people God can use to grow his kingdom.

The apostle says, “*Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will is.*” (Romans 12:2)

Most of the time when I hear this passage of scripture quoted, I only hear the first part. The part about not conforming and being transformed. But the last part is equally as important. We need to know what God wants us to do and to be; the only way we can know that is by spending time with him in his word.

When I read the Holy Bible, and I read that Jesus died for me, that God loves me, that I am saved by grace and not by anything I can do, I can’t help but feel blessed and highly favored. I have a spirit of joy in my heart today that is so rooted in Christ until there is nothing this world can do to steal it.

My life has changed so much since I left the streets and decided to walk with Christ. There have been some tough times in my journey, but my love for Christ has sustained me and I know it will continue to do so until he calls me home.

I don’t know what you’re experiencing in life today. But whatever it is, please remember that you have a God that loves you and will see you through. A God that is all powerful and has no limits. A God that can take the hurt out of your hurt and the pain out of your pain. God is able to pick you up out of any pit, set your feet on solid ground, turn you around and start you out on the road that leads to eternal joy in heaven with Jesus.

I am so thankful and grateful for the love of Jesus whose birthday we celebrated last Monday. To be able to celebrate the birth of Jesus, my Lord and Savior, who gave his life for me, is an honor and a privilege I hold in high esteem. I hope you will join with me when I say, “Joy to the World, the Lord has come. Let earth receive her king.” The one and only King Jesus. Bless his holy name!

As we prepare to enter a new year, let us remain focused on the two great commandments. *Loving God with all of our heart, and loving one another in the same way that Jesus loves us (John 13:34).*

Jesus set the standards high and it will cost us everything we believe to follow him. If loving Jesus as he loves us and loving one another is not at the top of our priority list, we will never make the cut. Because to follow Jesus takes complete and unconditional surrender and a loving desire to obey the will of God.

When you’re thinking about the goals you have for 2018, please include making more time for Jesus. And remember, love is not a feeling, it is a commitment, a promise we make to someone we care about. Love is giving first place to the other person and wanting what is best for them. It is not about getting what is best for me, but what’s best for you.

There are three things we need if we want to cross the finish line into spiritual realm of eternity with Jesus. **Faith, Hope and Love**, but the greatest of these is love. Without faith, we will not be able to stand up against the adversities we will face in life. Without hope we have nothing to look forward too. Without love, we have nothing, and whatever we do is all for naught.

In the words of Dionne Warwick: “What this world needs now is love sweet love, it’s the only thing there’s just too little of.” What better time than the beginning of a new year to start practicing the art of LOVE?

Happy New Year and a blessed new beginning. If you have not found Christ, may you find him now. If you have found him, may you continue to walk with him.

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Lee Hamilton Column

What to Look For in 2018

This was an interesting year that's just passed, wasn't it? And here's the thing: I suspect 2018 will be just as intriguing.

Let's start with some good news. The economy had a good year in 2017, seeing overall growth, subdued inflation, progress on wages, and even some signs that economic growth is reaching the poor.

The question is whether this can continue. For one thing, the Fed has been raising interest rates, and will almost certainly continue to do so. Income inequality — a drag on the economy and a strain on our social structure — is accelerating. Equally worrisome is lackluster growth in productivity. And while the Trump Administration pursued an active deregulatory course in 2017, it will slow in 2018, because one key statutory authority undergirding those decisions has expired.

Two things that will certainly grow are the national debt and annual deficits; not only do policy-makers appear unwilling to rein them in, they actually are making policy decisions, like the tax bill, that do the opposite.

The nation's politics, meanwhile, have been tumultuous and largely unproductive, and that will likely continue. I should point out that on the biggest political question of the year — what happens to President Trump — there's not actually much to say. The Mueller investigation will drive a lot of the political agenda in 2018, but we're mostly in the dark about where he's headed. Whatever he finds and whatever actions he takes, however, will determine a lot of the politics of the country.

There has been no sign of a letup in political polarization; indeed, if anything, it's been exacerbated over the past year, with conservatives moving to the right and Democrats becoming more left of center on issues like immigration, health care, welfare, and race. The two parties will continue to be highly polarized. It used to be that both the Republicans and the Democrats held a mix of liberal and conservative views. That has changed. The wings are coming to define what is "mainstream" in both parties.

We've had an intensification of cultural divisions — President Trump has shown special interest in these issues, and a willingness to fan their flames. There's nothing to suggest this will let up. This past year was filled with scandals related to sexual harassment and the place of women in society, upheaval over the alt-right and its white supremacist views, and a variety of resignations and political turnovers driven in no small part by voters' cultural beliefs. I expect that volatility to continue.

In world affairs, President Trump has made "America First" his byword — a focus that has led to a worsening of relations with our key allies, especially Europeans. I don't think that will improve in 2018. Given his approach to the Middle East, his nuclear brinkmanship on North Korea, his mysterious ambiguity toward Russia, and his challenges to traditional U.S. policy and the global system the U.S. built and led for decades, there's no reason to think that relations with key European and Asian allies will improve.

The dominant foreign policy issue — absent a crisis — will be our relationship with China. While I think it's premature to believe that China will inevitably overtake the U.S. as the world's leading power, its rise is a key historical phenomenon that will continue to play out in 2018. North Korea will remain the principal "hot spot."

Yet while I see plenty of troubled and challenging times ahead in 2018, there are also real opportunities. I think voters are tired of polarizing politicians, which offers us a chance to look for leaders with consensus-building skills, and to develop those skills ourselves, in all sorts of groups and organizations.

I believe there's real interest in preserving a sense of opportunity for all Americans, a goal that is deeply ingrained in our country.

And for all the stresses and strains of the past year — and the upcoming one — I believe people will respond to leaders in both public and private life who focus on what's working well in the country, who avoid war, who emphasize common ground, and who are clearly devoted to the common good. Let's hope 2018 proves me right.

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.

Social Security Questions Answered

By Vonda Vantil,
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Question: My child, who gets Social Security, will be attending his last year of high school in the fall. He turns 19 in a few months. Do I need to fill out a form for his benefits to continue?

Answer: Yes. You should receive a form, SSA-1372-BK, in the mail about three months before your son's birthday. Your son needs to complete the form and take it to his school's office for certification. Then, you need to return page two and the certified page three back to Social Security for processing. If you can't find the form we mailed to you, you can find it online at: www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ssa-1372.pdf.

Question: How can I get a copy of my *Social Security Statement*?

Answer: You can get your personal *Social Security Statement* online by using your *my* Social Security account. If you don't yet have an account, you can easily create one. Your online *Statement* gives you secure and convenient access to your earnings records. It also shows estimates for retirement, disability, and survivors benefits you and your family may be eligible for. To set up or use your account to get your online *Social Security Statement*, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. We also mail *Statements* to workers attaining ages 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 and older three months prior to their birthday if they don't receive Social Security benefits and don't have a *my* Social Security account.

Question: My father receives Social Security retirement benefits, and I will be in charge of his estate when he dies. Should that occur, do I need to report his death to Social Security or will benefits automatically stop?

Answer: When your father dies, please notify Social Security as soon as possible by calling us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Another person, such as a spouse, may be eligible for survivors benefits based on his record. Also, we might be able to pay a one-time payment of \$255 to help with funeral expenses. We suggest reading a copy of our online publication, *How Social Security Can Help You When A Family Member Dies*, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10008.html.

Question: I'm reaching my full retirement age and thinking about retiring early next year. When is the best time of year to apply for Social Security benefits?

Answer: You can apply as early as four months before when you want your monthly benefits to begin. To apply, just go to www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire. Applying online for retirement benefits from the convenience of your home or office is secure and can take as little as 15 minutes. It's so easy!

Question: It's hard for me to get around because of my disability. Can I apply for disability benefits from home?

Answer: Yes. In fact, the best way to apply for disability benefits is online. Our online disability application is convenient and secure. You can apply for benefits over the Internet at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to schedule an appointment to visit your local Social Security office to apply. However you decide to apply, begin by looking at our Disability Starter Kit at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability. It will help you prepare for your application or interview.

Question: What is the earliest age that I can receive Social Security disability benefits?

Answer: There is no minimum age as long as you meet the Social Security definition of disabled and you have sufficient work to qualify for benefits. To qualify for disability benefits, you must have worked under Social Security long enough to earn the required number of work credits and some of the work must be recent. You can earn up to a maximum of four work credits each year. The number of work credits you need for disability benefits depends on the age you become disabled. For example, if you are under age 24, you may qualify with as little as six credits of coverage. But people disabled at age 31 or older generally need between 20 and 40 credits to qualify, and some of the work must have been recent. For example, you may need to have worked five out of the past 10 years. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Question: I am receiving Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. I just got married, and I am wondering if my benefits, and my new spouse's benefits, will stay the same.

Answer: If you marry, your spouse's income and resources may change your SSI benefit. It is your responsibility to report your status change to Social Security as soon as possible. If you and your spouse both get SSI, your benefit amount will change from an individual rate to a couple's rate. If you are receiving Social Security benefits as a widow, divorced widow, widower, or divorced widower, other factors to keep in mind are:

--You cannot get benefits if you remarry before age 60; and

--You cannot get benefits if you're disabled and remarry before age 50.

Generally, your benefits end if you were receiving divorced spouse's benefits and you remarry. You can read more about SSI and Social Security benefits at our publications library, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.



Michigan House Report

By Dr. Hank Vaupel,
47th District

I am so pleased to announce the opioid package which we have spent many months working on and perfecting was signed into Michigan law this week. The new laws require doctors to educate patients about the potential harm caused by opioids prior to writing a prescription, increase access to opioid addiction treatment and implement school curriculum regarding the risks of prescription drug abuse. There's still much to be done to improve Michigan's opioid overdose rates. I'm proud to have played a small role in the passage of these very important and necessary Michigan laws.



Rep. Vaupel (left) joins Lt. Gov. Brian Calley (right) as he signs into law the House and Senate opioid bill packages.

It was great to attend the Hartland Chamber of Commerce meet and greet last week at Hartland Insurance. It's always interesting to hear feedback from local business owners. Thanks to Barbara and David Walker for hosting.

I joined my fellow representative, Dr. Ned Canfield, in meeting with officials from the Hawthorn Center to discuss ways to make their mental health services more accessible. The Hawthorn Center is a hospital for the intensive inpatient psychiatric treatment of emotionally and behaviorally distressed children and adolescents. The Center is an agency of the Michigan Department of Community Health. Children between the ages of five through seventeen who reside in Michigan, who have severe emotional and/or behavioral disorders and who have not been successfully treated in other settings, may be eligible for inpatient treatment. This year I've worked extensively with my colleagues to make mental health services better and more accessible for the people of Michigan. I look forward to the introduction of new legislation as a result of our research in the new year.

Wishing you and yours a Happy New Year! You may be out late celebrating; I hope you'll welcome the New Year safely with these tips:

Plan a ride in advance. If you plan to drink, know your options for a safe ride home in advance.

Take precautions leaving your car overnight. New Year's Day is the second-most active holiday for car thefts. If you must leave your car, be sure it's locked and try to pick it up as early as possible the next day.

Don't use fireworks or firearms while intoxicated. Both guns and fireworks frequently make celebratory appearances at New Year's Eve parties, but it's not a good idea with holiday crowds.

Set a curfew for your kids. If they're old enough to drive, be sure they understand the dangers of driving on the holiday. Encourage them to stay in one location rather than hopping from party to party.

If you have any ideas, comments or questions for my office, please do not hesitate to call us at 517-373-8835 or send an email to HankVaupel@house.mi.gov. We are happy to hear from you!



Thank you to all who have supported us in the past and who will continue to do so in the future. We wouldn't be who we are if it wasn't for you.

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Upcoming Programs at the Fowlerville District Library

All Programs are intended for Fowlerville School District residents only unless otherwise stated.

Registration usually opens 2 weeks prior to the event.

Follow us on Facebook & www.fowlervillelibrary.org.

Phone: 517-223-9089

The Fowlerville District Library will be closed Saturday, December 30th and reopening Tuesday January 2nd to observe the new year. We wish you joyous and safe holidays. The Little Free Library is available for your reading needs during this time and any materials to be returned can be placed in the blue drop box. Thank you.

From A to Z with Mrs. D Winter Registration begins Wednesday, January 3rd

Classes start Tuesday, Jan. 9th and Wednesday, Jan. 10th

Kids 2-4 years and their adult helper. This pre-school program is designed for the 2-4 year old child and taught in a small, play-based group setting. This program focuses on early literacy and social development but also includes many activities such as science, small and large motor skill play, stories and songs based on a chosen theme, all while having fun. We offer four groups; Tuesdays at 10am and 11am and Wednesdays at 10am and 11am. *Spaces are limited and filled on a first-come first-served basis.

Travel Talk: Iceland - Thursday, January 4th at 7pm

Adults. Highlighting the sights, sounds, life-changing encounters, and humorous stories of world travel while at the library! Start the journey with an inexperienced first-time traveler and end with an around the world year-long seasoned traveler! Presentations will include question & answer sessions and refreshments. *Register in person to attend. Registration begins December 21st and includes a refundable \$5 cash deposit.

Beyond the Book: The Outsiders - Thursday, January 11th at 7pm

Adults. Featuring a book and its film adaptation, and some great discussion! Movie-style refreshments will be served. *Register in person to attend. Registration begins December 21st. Books will be given while supplies last.

Steampunk Craft Night

- Friday, January 12th at 5-8pm

Teens 6th-12th grades. Come celebrate the invention of steam power at the library! We'll make some awesome steampunk crafts and watch an adventure-filled steampunk movie! *Registration is required and includes a 2017-2018 signed Program Permission Form. Registration begins December 29th. Register by January 10th to attend.

Pop-Up Library - Monday, January 15th

10am at Rolling Meadows

11am at Livingston Greene

12pm at Glenwood

Apartments

We bring the library to you! You can get a library card; check in and out large print or audio books; get help with the Axis 360 app and eBooks; get your library questions answered; and get one-on-one technology help with your tablet or other small device. You can also visit with Lola, our Therapy Dog.

Snowman Craft - Thursday, January 18th at 7pm

Adults. Make a one-of-a-kind snowman that you can display at home and share with a friend! You are welcome to bring some personalized “bling” if you'd like, however all materials for the class will be provided. *Register in person to attend. Registration begins January 4th and includes a refundable \$5 cash deposit.

Author Visit: Ruth Barshaw - Wednesday, January 24th at 5:30-6:30pm

Kids 2nd-8th grades. Meet the author of the popular **Ellie McDoodle** series and learn how she creates cool doodle diaries in a hands-on workshop! A limited supply of books will be available for purchase at this event. *Participation is limited. Register in person to attend. Registration begins January 10th.

Stained Glass Heart Hanger Workshop - Thursday, January 25th at 2:30pm

Adults. No experience required for this hands-on workshop taught by an instructor from Delphi Glass. You will be taught basic stained glass construction including cutting, foiling and soldering from an expert. Create a stunning heart shaped suncatcher with a bevel center. *Special time and class size. Registration begins January 11th and includes a refundable \$5 cash deposit.

Fowlerville Library Writers Group Begins Wednesday, January 31st at 2:30pm

Meets Weekly January 31st-March 21st

Adults. Do you want feedback on your writing projects? Are you interested in exploring different writing exercises? If so, then join our 8-part Winter 2018 session. You are invited to bring a 1-page sample for feedback from the group.

*Registration begins January 17th. No late entries.

Crossroads United Methodist Church offering Tai Chi & Qigong Class

Reduce stress, improve balance, gain strength and flexibility, enhance respiration and cardiac status through a new Tai Chi/Qigong class starting Thursday, January 4, at Crossroads United Methodist Church.

All ages and genders are welcome at the Tai Chi and Qigong for Beginners Class, which will run from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Thursdays for eight weeks at the church, corner of Haslett and Zimmer roads east of Haslett and north of Williamston.

Attire is comfortable clothing and shoes, with no special requirements. People will be welcome to sit for any period of time as the class is adaptable and modifiable. Those who register are strongly urged to attend at least the first two sessions to obtain a good overview of the instruction and goals.

Instructor will be Jann Nestell, a physical therapist for 40 years and an applied medical Qigong healing practitioner also certified in Tai Chi for arthritis and diabetes. Ms. Nestell taught at the Parkwood YMCA in Haslett and currently teaches privately and with the Playmakers Women's 5k training group.

Cost of the class is \$10 per session. To register, contact the church at 517/655-1466, email at office.umccrossroads@gmail.com or see the website, www.umccrossroads.com.

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Kreeger Elementary Honor Roll

4th Grade

First Trimester - *Denotes All A's

Carter Banfield, Kassidy Bantau, Jerek Barnett, Maria Beach*, Landon Black, Kamryn Bodley*, Eva Bonfiglio, Jakub Bowman, Ethan Brinley, Jeffrey Brockmiller, Preston Browne, Devonne Butkiewicz, Estrella Cacique, Owen Carney*, Audie Charboneau, Izzie Chase, Isabel Cox*, Cody Cruz, Saydee Culbertson, Tristian Cummings, James Darin*, Kiely Davis, Carter Davison, Ashlyn Dean, Xavier Littrup-Dean, Kylan Dillingham, Luke Docusen, Taylor Drenchen, Derek Drouillard, Spencer Drummond, Charlie Dufort, Levi Dutton*, Brandi Edmonds, Alaina Espinoza, Lilly Estes, Avery Farris, Aubrey Feldt*, Emma Fillinger, Kailee Fitchpatrick, McKayla Fletcher, Tommy Fletcher, Landon Garcia, Ella Genovesi, Paiten George, Lila Gillies*, Adisyn Grimm, Jacob Hardies, Dayna Hargraves, Ethan Harmon, Preston Hartke, Erik Helminen*, Gracie Hesselgrave, Olivia Highhouse, Austin Hines, Evelyn Hocking*, Leila Holden, Nathan Honsinger, Anna Horne*, Gavin Hoskins, Sophia Hughes, Lillian Hunt*, Ella Jaeger, Hailee Johnston, Zach Juoperi*, Maria Kilpela*, Mariah Kirby*, Owen Kosmyna, Angelynn Kotch, Broxton LaButte, Matlyn Lawson*, Dayton Leland, Troy Lockwood*, Izzy Luce, Elizabeth Marschall, Lucas Martin, Ranger Matteson, MaKenna Maybee, Grace Miller*, Oliver Miller, Morgan Morrow*, Mya Murawski, Kaley Murphy, Payton Musser, Ella Olrich, Christian Orr, Brayden Packer, Mahra Randolph, Kylie Rea*, Jeremiah Rees*, Seth Rhine, Delaney Richardson, Jackson Richmond, Zachary Rinehart, Eisley Rocco, Keegan Sheffer, Sam Shrader, Gage Smith, Tessa Smith, Dylan Soli, Addison Specht, Gavinn Stankov, Riley Stearns, Paul Tabit*, James Taylor, Lexi Taylor, Lucas Tefft, Tegan Thompson, Cole Tochman, David Toole*, Alex Walter, Jasmine Weinstein*, Reagan Wilkins, Grant Wilkinson, Ethan Willard, and Travis Wroblewski.

5th Grade

First Trimester - *Denotes All A's

Emily Adams*, Cydnee Arnold*, Anna Arnot, Levi Baker, Jackson Balbach, Gabriella Banko, Jaimee Bell, Kierstin Bishop, Addison Borowy, Cameron Bouton, Douglas Braidwood, Avery Brown*, Kevin Brown, Meadow Browne, Maggie Buurma*, Dominic Campbell, Autumn Carr*, Braylon Chaboneau, Alana Chappell*, Tatum Chase, Elijah Clarke, Carson Clay, Cailyn Cockerill, Chloe Coker, Emma Copeland*, Mekayla Cox, Patrick Cox, Valerie Curd, Jared Curtis, Tyler Dailey*, Keefe DaSona, Abby DeCare, Nathan Densmore, Nathan Dippel, Sophia Doane, Ashlyn Dolin, Adeline Dumont*, Benjamin Durbin*, Audrey Felver*, Frinz Fisher*, Jenna Forrester*, Jossalyn Franks, Maeve Gagnon, Abraham Garcia Garza, Calvin Gasche, Ayden Goodwin*, Molly Grant, Savanah Grim, Jordan Gullede, Dylan Hagler, Ethan Hall*, Landon Harrison, Chloe Herrell, Zoe Hertzler, Aubrianna Hotelling, Trevor Hoye, Alyssa Hubble*, Timothy Huhn Glodzik, Brandon Hunt*, Clara Johnson*, Isabella Jones, Laeton Kaiser, Salene Kalis*, Mackaela Kelly*, Adeline King, Tommi Kleinschmidt, Kelsi Kline, Amelia Koenemann*, Zachary Krolczyk, Alexis Kuhn*, Molly Lamar, Waylon Lampkin*, Ethan Lancaster, Caitlyn Larson, Hayden Lewis, Ava Ludd, Kendall Lutz, Payton McConnaughey, James Mertz, Johnathan Miller, Nathan Miller*, Houdini Minton*, Delaney Misiak, Lucas Moore, Nicholas Moros*, Adrianna Morse*, Jocelyn Paramo, Sofia Perez, Ryan Perras, Madison Pikkarainen, Joshua Porter, Brayden Potchynok, Norah Presley*, Natalie Rajala*, Lennox Reason, Lillie Redinger, Chloe Reighard, Nathan Robu, Ashton Rose, Hannah Rose, Evan Schultz, Drew Showerman*, William Shrader*, Sasha Sienkiewicz, Michaela Skinner, Chloe Smith, Owen Smith, Wyatt Soli, Cole Sova*, Hunter Stewart, Trever Szumlinski, London Tasker, Morgan Thomas*, Riley Thomas*, Anthony Thompson, Kirstin Tomassi, Rylee Turner, Zachary Wallace, Ethan Way*, Alexes Wilkinson, Nathan Wylie, Stacie Young*, and Riley Zub*.

Kreeger Elementary School News

1-3-18: School Resumes
1-15-18: NO SCHOOL
1-17 & 1-18-18: Hearing Screening for 4th grade
1-29, 1-30 & 1-31-18: Hearing Rescreening 4th grade
3-13, 3-14 & 3-15-18: Vision Screening 3rd and 5th grades
* * *

FYI: 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.

Williamston Area Senior Center

201 School Street, Williamston - 517-655-5173

JANUARY EVENTS

Williamston Area Senior Center Game Night – come join us at the Williamston Area Senior Center Monday, January 8, from 4:00 – 6:30 pm. Pizza and Salad at 4:30. Enjoy cards and other games with friends new and old. Cost: Free for members and \$3.00 for guests, all welcome adults only please. Reservations requested, call 655-5173. Please bring a nonperishable item that we will donate to the food bank.

Free Basic Computer Class for Seniors – Thanks to a grant from the Capital Area Community Foundation we will be conducting two free computer classes in January for seniors. The first one will be on Saturday, January 6, from 11:00am - 1:00pm and the second one will be held on Saturday, January 13, from 10:00am - 12:00 noon where we will conduct an open computer session in which you can bring your I-pads, lap tops, phones and we will provide assistance on their use.

Sing Along with Dewey Longuski -- Mon., Jan. 15, from 5:00pm-6:30pm at the Williamston Area Senior Center. No registration, no fee, just the music of Dewey.

Other January Activities at the Senior Center – Thursday, January 4, have your blood pressure checked by the Willows of Okemos. On Wednesday, January 10, at 12:30 pm Commissioner Randy Schafer will provide an update on Senior Issues that are before the County Commission.

On any January Wed. at the Senior Center join us for the following activities:
EUCHRE – 9:30am - 11:30am.
NEEDLE CRAFT GROUP meets after lunch 1pm to 3pm.

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Cohoctah Township man enters plea on reduced charges involving a cow in his care

A Cohoctah Township man entered a guilty plea last week to reduced charges involving a cow in his care, along with pleading no contest to having an unlicensed, stray dog.

Keith Edwin Huck, Jr., 61, pled guilty to Animal Abandonment by Failing to Provide Adequate Care, Failing to Bury a Dead Animal, and having a Stray Dog and an Unlicensed Dog. He will be required to make restitution in the amount of \$19,829.

The initial report concerning the case stated that numerous cattle had been found dead and unburied at two locations. Livingston County Animal Control officers, during their investigation of this matter, confiscated three live pigs and five live cows at property owned by Huck. The dog was apparently found during that confiscation.

Linda Walker, one of the attorneys representing Huck, said in a statement that Huck pled guilty to failing to provide adequate care for a cow because he didn't call a veterinarian after it became ill. She said that he also pled guilty to not burying a dead cow and no contest to having an unlicensed dog that was 'at large'.

Walker noted that the cattle under Huck's care had adequate feed and water, stating that "pneumonia had gotten into the herd" and that Huck brought receipts to court showing he'd purchased medicine in his effort to treat the sick animals.

Huck will be sentenced by Circuit Court Judge Suzanne Geddis on Feb. 5. Under the agreement reached, if the judge decides to impose jail time at his sentencing, Huck will be allowed to withdraw his plea.

The maximum penalty for these charges, noted Livingston County Prosecutor William Vaillencourt, is up to 2 years of probation or 93 days in jail.

"This plea was arrived at in consultation with Animal Control and after further review of the information obtained by Animal Control as well as additional information provided by the defendant," said Vaillencourt in a statement.

"As a condition of the defendant's plea, he agreed to the immediate forfeiture of all the (live) animals that were seized as well as full restitution of almost \$20,000 to Livingston County Animal Control," Vaillencourt stated. "This plea allows for the immediate adoption of the animals, which was of critical importance to Animal Control and the continued health of the animals that were seized."

Huck had been arraigned in District Court on Nov. 9, on

four charges: Abandoning or Cruelty to 10 or More Animals, a felony punishable by up to four years in prison and \$5,000 in fines, as well as with misdemeanor charges for failing to bury the dead animals, owning a dog that was not properly held in leash, and not having a license for that same dog.

Livingston Centre Historic Society starts new year with meeting on Jan. 4

The Livingston Centre Historic Society has had a very productive year. The Spring Gramma's Attic Sale resulted in greater profits than the previous year. The Historic Village welcomed many new and returning visitors during the Fowlerville Family Fair, with docents offering tours every afternoon. September's Fall Fest was well attended and the annual raffle brought even better profits than previous years.

Because of these successful events and an increase in volunteers to help, restoration and improvement to the property has been increasing. A few more items on the priority list have been accomplished, including completed repairs on two roofs, a new picket fence near the Coughran School and the recently re-opened Kirkland House, as well as on-going improvements inside the Pere Marquette Depot.

The entire volunteer staff is encouraged by the success of this past year and are already beginning plans for the May, 2018 Gramma's Attic, the next Fowlerville Fair and the September Fall Fest. Among the goals for the coming year is increasing the open dates for the Village to offer more opportunities for visits. Select buildings continue to be available for wedding, shower, party and event rental; information is available through the Fair Office.

The first meeting of 2018 will be held Thursday, Jan. 4, 7:00 p.m. in the Fair Office. Newcomers, and new ideas, are always welcome!

Dansville Community Center to hold Euchre & Bunco Nights this month

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, January 6th and 20th starting at 7pm and Bunco on Saturday, January 13th 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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Kevin Kuhfeldt is observing his 25th anniversary as the owner of Livingston Spring. In back, on the wall, is a sign created by his son, Dustin.



This photo hangs in the entrance of Livingston Spring, a local auto-repair shop. It is of the owner, Kevin Kuhfeldt's late father, Bill, operating a wrecker in Farmington. Kevin tagged along on those calls. He also started helping his father repair engines at Jim's Shell Service. His father worked at Detroit Diesel on week days and as an auto mechanic at the service station during the evening hours, along with operating the tow truck.

Livingston Spring observes 25th anniversary this week

Local auto repair shop owned by Kevin Kuhfeldt

By Steve Horton

Livingston Spring, a local auto repair shop, is observing its 25th anniversary this week. The business, owned by Kevin Kuhfeldt, is located at 135 Veterans Drive in Fowlerville.

Kuhfeldt noted that Livingston Spring opened its doors on Jan. 3, 1993, at 305 E. Grand River. That building was leased and he remained there for 16 years. He then relocated to his present location.

He added that for the first three years he had a partner.

"Dennis Grima and I both drove delivery trucks for the Pepsi plant in Howell on the 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift," Kevin said. "We decided to start this business, so during the day we operated the repair shop and continued working for Pepsi. Finally, he decided to remain with Pepsi, while I resigned and became the sole proprietor of the shop."

Kevin said that the main focus of the business at the start was suspension work, including leaves, springs, struts, and shocks—hence the reason for calling it Livingston Spring.

"Early on about 75 percent of our work was suspension," he added. "Back then there was a lot of construction work going on in the area and a lot of pick-ups that were used to haul materials. But gradually we did more and more automotive repair. We do pretty much every kind of major and minor auto repair—tires, tune-ups, suspension, brakes, transmission, and maintenance. The only work we don't do are alignments since I don't have the machine. We work on foreign as well as domestic vehicles. I don't turn down too much."

A service that he offers is free inspections of used cars. "Over the years our customers have asked if we'd look at a vehicle they're thinking of buying," he said. "We encourage this. We want them to keep looking until they find a quality car for the price they're paying."

Another service he provides, one based on his experience in auto mechanics—dating back long before he opened the shop—is knowledge on how to fix older vehicles. "They're totally different creatures now," Kevin said of the newer models. "We've gone from mechanical to electronic. The younger technicians are trained in fixing those new vehicles. They don't know how to work on a pre-70s model. A carburetor, for example, is not a familiar part nowadays."

The business includes two auto technicians who assist Kevin, while his wife, Kimberly, serves as the office manager and receptionist.

"We have a good clientele," he said. "The customer base has doubled since the start. And what's really cool is that we're fixing the cars for a third generation. We started with customers who are now grandparents. We worked on their kids' vehicles and now their grandkids'."

Kevin added that he and his technicians have all of the certifications, including tune-ups, brakes, air conditioning, electrical, and front-end suspension.

His roots in auto repair date back to childhood. "My dad, Bill, worked at Detroit Diesel during the day and then at Jim's Shell Service, gas station at the corner of Orchard Lake and 12 Mile Roads in Farmington, during the evening," Kevin said. "He also drove the wrecker. I tagged along a few times when he went to pick up a disabled or wrecked car. When I was 12 he had me start helping him do the heavy engine overhauls."

At age 16 he used that experience to secure a fulltime job as a mechanic at Gordie's Garage, located at Grand River and Orchard Lake Road in Farmington. "The shop is still there and still called Gordie's," Kevin added.

Over the course of the next few years, he ran heavy equipment, began driving for Pepsi, quit and worked for Phil Utter's Specialty Contract Carriers, and then returned to Pepsi. All of the while, Kevin noted, he did auto repairs. "I kept coming

back to it," he said.

During that time, in the mid-1980s, he moved to Fowlerville. "I rented a house on Grand River, west of town," he said. "Scott Nelson was building his facility with the plan of opening an auto collision repair shop."

Nine years ago Kevin made the decision to purchase the building on Veterans Drive and move the shop to its present location. "I'd had my eye on it for some time," he said, "so when it came up for sale, I bought it. It had been a machine shop, so we needed to do a lot of remodeling inside and out so that we could use it. The building is over 4,800 square feet and we have three hoists. We also have a parking area in front and in back of the building. We needed more room, so this worked out quite well."

Kevin's father has passed away, but his mother, Joann, is still alive. He has a sister, Gail, and a brother, Fred. He and Kimberly, who reside in Conway Township on a 10-acre homestead, have been together eight years.

Kevin has a daughter, Nicole, and son, Dustin, from his previous marriage and a step-daughter, Lauren. All three are adult age.

He said that he and Kimberly "love to landscape," adding "that's our passion."

Among the features at their rural homestead is a small pond in the front yard, a water fall elsewhere, a stone wall, and a fountain, along with perennials, other flowers and shrubbery, and a trimmed lawn, plus a picturesque outbuilding next to the pond.

As for reaching this present milestone, Kevin said "I love it," adding "I'm pretty proud. Kimberly and I want to thank all of our customers who have supported us over the years with their repair and maintenance needs. We look forward to continuing serving you."

Livingston Spring is open Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The phone number is 517-223-9775.

'Unmasked Gala' to present at The Historic Howell Opera House on Jan. 9

The Key Project, a non-profit organization with the goal of raising awareness about human trafficking in our area, will present the 'Unmasked Gala' on Saturday, January 6th from 7-10 PM at The Howell Opera House.

The evening will be a formal/ semi formal dance focused on a fun night for all ages in the community to learn how to stop human trafficking from thriving. There will be booths for informational guides on how human trafficking advances, how to prevent it, and how to stop it, if you see it. Organizers will even have fair trade product available for purchase.

This event is an opportunity for the public to better understand human trafficking and its effects, with speakers who understand the particular challenges and possible solutions to this problem in the state of Michigan.

"This night is designed for you to feel confident about how to be a freedom fighter," noted Mariah McDonald, President of the Key Project.

The event is free to the public but reservations are required – please contact info@thekeyproject.org or visit <http://unmaskedgala.eventbrite.com>. Any money donated will go towards the effort to stop human trafficking in Michigan.



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Fowlerville High Varsity Sports Teams to resume seasons this coming week

With the school's holiday break coming to an end on Wednesday, Jan. 3, the Fowlerville High Varsity Sports Teams will resume their respective seasons this coming week. Shown here are the teams for Varsity Boys Basketball, Varsity Girls Basketball, Varsity Competitive Cheer, Gymnastics, and Wrestling Team.

Also resuming action will be the Dance Team and the Junior Varsity and Freshman squads.

VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM — From left, front row, Hunter Cahoon, Shaw Sova, Payton Johnson, Brendan Young; second row, Elias Kaijasilta, Brady Salter, Caden Collins, Trevor Miller; third row, Assistant Coach Wade Spalding, Assistant Coach Chris Collins, Mitchell Bishop, Blake Howard, Head Coach Jim Jonas, Josh DuFore, Geoffrey Knaggs, manager Chelsea O'Donnell, and manager Gretchen Wylie.

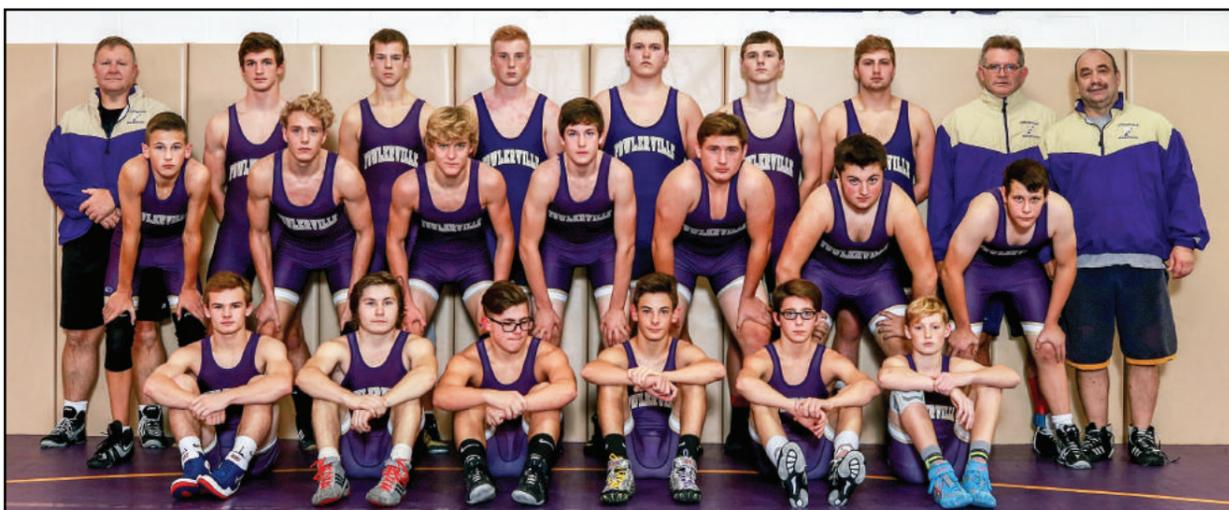


VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM — From left, front row, Dalaija Franklin and Jackie Jarvis; second row, Azhanae Depa, Miya Fillingner, Natalie Juopperi, Franny Updike, Ollie Updike; third row, Assistant Coach Lisa Cox, Kyla Chappell, Peyton Boden, Grace Wallace, Elie Smith, Taylor Patterson, and Coach Billy Selvia.



VARSITY COMPETITIVE CHEER TEAM — From left, front row, Kylie Arbenowske, Anna Hart, Kaitlyn Ripley; second row, Faith Dillon, Carlie Jones, Sophia Palermino; third row, Coach Alex Provost, Lillian Smith, Rebecca Hart, and Coach Lisa Provost-Fetterley.

GYMNASTICS TEAM — Members of the gymnastics team are: Madison Moran - 11th, Gabby Jolliff - 11th, Kenzie Brigham - 11th, Lani Burnie - 11th, Kallie Beauchamp - 10th, Quinn Soerries - 10th, Bekah Leonard - 10th, Izzy Litz - 10th, from Byron HS - Dani Wolanin - 11th, from Perry HS - Embre Willson - 9th, from Pinckney HS - Caitlin Chisholm - 10th, and Coach Katie Paquette.



WRESTLING TEAM — From left, front row, Wyatt Daniel, John Blackstone, Colin Oberski, Deagun Gonzalez, Houston Hough, Jordan Devota; second row, Brendon Bickley, Evan Kennedy, Ashton Philburn, Noah Salois, Hunter Wilson, Caleb Medina, Zach Davis, and Coach Craig Zube; third row, Coach Mike Stehley, Tom Salois, Nathan Gendron, Zach Reske, Tucker Niemi, Jayden Bradberry, Jack Brady, and Coach Dan Coon. Not pictured: Joe Aeschliman, Carter Montgomery and Devin Harvey.

Photos by Frazzini Photography
www.frazziniphotography.com

THE CONVERSATION

Why social media may not be so good for democracy

By Gordon Hull

Recent revelations about how Russian agents inserted ads on Facebook, in an attempt to influence the 2016 election, present a troubling question: Is Facebook bad for democracy?

As a scholar of the social and political implications of technology, I believe that the problem is not about Facebook alone, but much larger: Social media is actively undermining some of the social conditions that have historically made democratic nation states possible.

I understand that's a huge claim, and I don't expect anyone to believe it right away. But, considering that nearly half of all eligible voters received Russian-sponsored fake news on Facebook, it's an argument that needs to be on the table.

How we create a shared reality

Let's start with two concepts: an "imagined community" and a "filter bubble."

The late political scientist Benedict Anderson famously argued that the modern nation-state is best understood as an "imagined community" partly enabled by the rise of mass media such as newspapers. What Anderson meant is that the sense of cohesion that citizens of modern nations felt with one another – the degree to which they could be considered part of a national community – was one that was both artificial and facilitated by mass media.

Of course there are many things that enable nation-states like the U.S. to hold together. We all learn (more or less) the same national history in school, for example. Still, the average lobster fisherman in Maine, for example, doesn't actually have that much in common with the average schoolteacher in South Dakota. But, the mass media contribute toward helping them view themselves as part of something larger: that is, the "nation."

Democratic polities depend on this shared sense of commonality. It enables what we call "national" policies – an idea that citizens see their interests aligned on some issues. Legal scholar Cass Sunstein explains this idea by taking us back to the time when there were only three broadcast news outlets and they all said more or less the same thing. As Sunstein says, we have historically depended on these "general interest intermediaries" to frame and articulate our sense of shared reality.

Filter bubbles

The term "filter bubble" emerged in a 2010 book by activist Eli Pariser to characterize an internet phenomenon.

Legal scholar Lawrence Lessig and Sunstein too had identified this phenomenon of group isolation on the internet in the late 1990s. Inside a filter bubble, individuals basically receive only the kinds of information that they have either preselected, or, more ominously, that third parties have decided they want to hear.

The targeted advertising behind Facebook's newsfeed helps to create such filter bubbles. Advertising on Facebook works by determining its user's interests, based on data it collects from their browsing, likes and so on. This is a very sophisticated operation.

Facebook does not disclose its own algorithms. However, research led by psychologist and data scientist at Stanford University Michael Kosinski demonstrated that automated analysis of people's Facebook likes was able to identify their demographic information and basic political beliefs. Such targeting can also apparently be extremely precise. There is evidence, for example, that anti-Clinton ads from Russia were able to micro-target specific voters in Michigan.

The problem is that inside a filter bubble, you never receive any news that you do not agree with. This poses two problems: First, there is never any independent verification of that news. Individuals who want independent confirmation will have to actively seek it out.

Second, psychologists have known for a long time about "confirmation bias," the tendency of people to seek out only information they agree with. Confirmation bias also limits people's ability to question information that confirms or upholds their beliefs.

Not only that, research at Yale University's Cultural Cognition Project strongly suggests that people are inclined to interpret new evidence in light of beliefs associated with their social groups. This can tend to polarize those groups.

All of this means that if you are inclined to dislike President Donald Trump, any negative information on him is likely to further strengthen that belief. Conversely, you are likely to discredit or ignore pro-Trump information.

It is this pair of features of filter bubbles – preselection and confirmation bias – that fake news exploits with precision.

Creating polarized groups?

These features are also hardwired into the business model of social media like Facebook, which is predicated precisely on the idea that one can create a group of "friends" with whom one shares information. This group is largely insular, separated from other groups.

The software very carefully curates the transfer of information



across these social networks and tries very hard to be the primary portal through which its users – about 2 billion of them – access the internet.

Facebook depends on advertising for its revenue, and that advertising can be readily exploited: A recent ProPublica investigation shows how easy it was to target Facebook ads to "Jew Haters." More generally, the site also wants to keep users online, and it knows that it is able to manipulate the emotions of its users – who are happiest when they see things they agree with.

As the *Washington Post* documents, it is precisely these features that were exploited by Russian ads. As a writer at *Wired* observed in an ominously prescient commentary immediately after the election, he never saw a pro-Trump post that had been shared over 1.5 million times – and neither did any of his liberal friends. They saw only liberal-leaning news on their social media feeds.

In this environment, a recent Pew Research Center survey should not come as a surprise. The survey shows that the American electorate is both deeply divided on partisan grounds, even on fundamental political issues, and is becoming more so.

All of this combines to mean that the world of social media tends to create small, deeply polarized groups of individuals who will tend to believe everything they hear, no matter how divorced from reality. The filter bubble sets us up to be vulnerable to polarizing fake news and to become more insular.

The end of the imagined community?

At this point, two-thirds of Americans get at least some of their news from social media outlets. This means that two-thirds of Americans get at least some of their news from highly curated and personalized black-box algorithms.

Facebook remains, by a significant margin, the most prevalent source of fake news. Not unlike forced, false confessions of witchcraft in the Middle Ages, these stories get repeated often enough that they could appear legitimate.

What we are witnessing, in other words, is the potential collapse of a significant part of the imagined community that is the American polity. Although the U.S. is also divided demographically and there are sharp demographic differences between regions within the country, partisan differences are dwarfing other divisions in society.

This is a recent trend: In the mid-1990s, partisan divisions were similar in size to demographic divisions. For example, then and now, women and men would be about the same modest distance apart on political questions, such as whether government should do more to help the poor. In the 1990s, this was also true for Democrats and Republicans. In other words, partisan divisions were no better than demographic factors at predicting people's political views. Today, if you want to know someone's political views, you would first want to find out their partisan affiliation.

The reality of social media

To be sure, it would be overly simplistic to lay all of this at the feet of social media. Certainly the structure of the American political system, which tends to polarize the political parties in primary elections, plays a major role. And it is true that plenty of us also still get news from other sources, outside of our Facebook filter bubbles.

But, I would argue that Facebook and social media offer an additional layer: Not only do they tend to create filter bubbles on their own, they offer a rich environment for those who want to increase polarization to do so.

Communities share and create social realities. In its current role, social media risks abetting a social reality where differing

Plans underway for upcoming 'Salute to the Stars Celebrity' Dance Competition

The Livingston County Catholic Charities 14th annual 'Salute to the Stars with the Celebrity' Dance Competition will be held on Saturday, March 3, starting at 6:30 pm at Crystal Gardens in Howell. Join us for an exciting evening including strolling food stations, cash bar, 50/50 raffle, honoree presentation, exciting dance competition and goodwill offering with an open dance floor after the competition.

2018 Dance Teams are: Leslie & Sam Johnson, Tracy Patterson & Branden Cathey, Lynne Smelser & Michael Gackler, Kelly Roth & Eric Guerin, and Peggi & Michael Bourke.

Dance competition and voting proceeds support Liv. Cty. Catholic Charities programs serving low income and home-bound county seniors.

Great music, fun and entertainment! Visit our website to view dance team videos and vote for your favorite dance teams starting on Feb. 11 - Mar. 2 (\$5/vote). Tickets can be purchased now at www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org through Feb. 23rd.

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groups could disagree not only about what to do, but about what reality is.

Gordon Hull is an Associate Professor of Philosophy, Director of Center for Professional and Applied Ethics, University of North Carolina – Charlotte. This article is reprinted from TheConversation.com



Savvy Senior Column

By Jim Miller

Recognizing & Treating Depression in Retirement

Dear Savvy Senior,

Since retiring a few years ago, my husband has become increasingly irritable and apathetic. I'm concerned that he's depressed, even though he may not admit it. Where can we turn to get help with this, and what, if anything, does Medicare pay for?

Concerned Spouse

Dear Concerned,

Depression is unfortunately a widespread problem among older Americans, affecting approximately 15 percent of the 65-and-older population. Here's what you should know, along with some tips and resources for screening and treatments, and how Medicare covers it.

Identifying Depression

Everyone feels sad or gets the blues now and then, but when these feelings linger more than a few weeks, it may be depression. Depression is a real illness that affects mood, feelings, behavior and physical health, and contrary to what many people believe, it's not a normal part of aging or a personal weakness, but it is very treatable.

It's also important to know that depression is not just sadness. In many seniors it can manifest as apathy, irritability, or problems with memory or concentration without the depressed mood.

To help you get a handle on the seriousness of your husband's problem, a good first step is for him to take an online depression-screening test.

He can do this for free at Mental Health America, a national nonprofit organization that offers a variety of online mental health screening tools at MentalHealthAmerica.net – click on "Take a Screen" in the menu bar. Or at HelpYourselfHelpOthers.org, which is offered by Screening for Mental Health, Inc.

Both of these tests are anonymous and confidential, they take less than 10 minutes to complete, and they can help you determine the severity of your husband's problem.

Get Help

If you find that he is suffering from depressive symptoms, he needs to see his doctor for a medical evaluation to rule out possible medical causes. Some medications, for example, can produce side effects that mimic depressive symptoms – pain and sleeping meds are common culprits. It's also important to distinguish between depression and dementia, which can share some of the same symptoms.

If he's diagnosed with depression, there are a variety of treatment options including talk therapy, antidepressant medications or a combination of both.

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is a particularly effective type of talk therapy, which helps patients recognize and change destructive thinking patterns that leads to negative feelings.

For help finding a therapist who's trained in CBT, ask your doctor for a referral, check your local yellow pages under "counseling" or "psychologists," or check with the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (FindCBT.org), or the Academy of Cognitive Therapy (AcademyofCT.org).

And to search for therapists that accept Medicare, use Medicare's Physician Compare tool. Go to Medicare.gov/physiciancompare and type in your zip code, or city and state, then type in the type of profession you want to locate, like "psychiatry" or "clinical psychologist" in the "What are you searching for?" box.

Medicare Coverage

You'll be happy to know that original Medicare currently covers 100 percent for annual depression screenings that are done in a doctor's office or other primary care clinic. They also pay 80 percent of its approved amount for outpatient mental health services like counseling and therapy services, and will cover almost all medications used to treat depression under the Part D prescription drug benefit.

If you and your husband get your Medicare benefits through a private Medicare Advantage plan, they too must cover the same services as original Medicare but they will likely require him to see an in-network provider. You'll need to contact your plan directly for the details.



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**NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
LEROY TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
RESCHEDULED MEETING
DATE FROM TUESDAY,
JANUARY 2, 2018
TO TUESDAY
JANUARY 9, 2018**

The Leroy Township regular Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2018, has been rescheduled to Tuesday, January 9, 2018. The meeting will still be at 7:00 p.m. in the Leroy Township Board Room, 1685 N. M-52, Webberville. The Public is welcome to attend.

Wilma J. Whitehead
Township Clerk
(12-31-17 & 1-7-18 FNV)

**LEROY TOWNSHIP
RESIDENTS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 9, 2018**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Leroy Township Board will hold a Public Hearing at its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Leroy Township Hall located at 1685 N. M-52, Webberville MI.

For the purpose of hearing comments and input by the general public, of the Leroy Township Parks and Recreation Plan and in accordance with the procedure for adoption of the plan, to be eligible for grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the clerk by writing or calling the Leroy Township Clerk, 1685 N. M-52, Webberville, MI. 48892 or call 517 521-3729, on Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 9-4 and Tuesday mornings from 9-noon.

Wilma J. Whitehead
Township Clerk
(12-31-17 FNV)

Webberville Report



Mrs. Cloudman's class collected donations of dog/cat treats, food, and supplies for the Ingham Co. Animal Shelter.

**Webberville
Elementary
students
donate to
worthy causes**

Webberville fifth grade students honor a season of giving. Mrs. Perry's class collected donations of snacks and games for the Ronald McDonald House.



Senior Spotlight—Charlie Sicher

By Benjamin Theriault

Since attending Webberville Community Schools from kindergarten to senior year, Charlie Sicher has been an exceptional and driven student. Sicher is the son of Kate and Chuck Sicher, and is the older brother to Sarah Sicher who graduates in 2024. Sicher has loved his time at Webberville and has left his mark by excelling in his classes. Sicher is this week's Senior Spotlight student.

"My family has helped me and supported me through everything," said Sicher. "They've helped me get to where I am today, and I'm extremely thankful for them."

Sicher has been a fantastic student at Webberville High School. In his four years of high school, he has maintained a spot in the top ten of his class. Sicher has also been at Wilson Talent Center for the past two years in the Cyber Security Program where he has learned how to breach computer software.

"Charlie has been a pleasure to have in class," said Tanja Scifers who supervises the online learning lab. "He has been invaluable to me as my personal tech assistant."

Along with staying on top of his grades, Sicher has also been a member of the National Honor Society and is currently the vice president of the senior class. Outside of school, he has held a job as a Tech Support Intern at the Ingham Intermediate

School District for the Wilson Talent Center. Along with his job, he also loves to spend time with his family and his girlfriend.

"Charlie has academically achieved a lot over the past few years," said fellow senior and girlfriend Heather Chick. "His hard work has really paid off for him and I'm very proud. He's definitely going to be very successful in his future."

After high school, Sicher's future plans include attending Michigan State University to major in computer science and pursue a career in the tech field.

"I've grown up wanting to attend Michigan State, and they have a really good program for what I want to do," said Sicher. "As far as going into the tech field, there are a lot of opportunities to grow and do really unique things, and that just appeals to me."

As his last year of high school winds down, he has enjoyed being a Webberville Spartan and would like to leave advice for the underclassmen.

"Stay focused and get your work done, but still try to have fun," said Sicher. "High school goes by a lot quicker than it seems, so enjoy it while it lasts."

Capital Area Library Events

WEBBERVILLE

Drop-in LEGO Club (Age 4 & up)

Imaginative play helps develop skills used for reading. Jan. 4, 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Family Storytime (Ages up to 6)

Engaging stories, songs and activities to help build early literacy skills. Jan. 10, 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

WILLIAMSTON

Harry Potter Book Club (Ages 8-13)

Have fun with Harry Potter-themed Reader's Theater, quizzes, games and snacks. Jan. 8, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

DIY Fidget Spinners (Age 13 & up)

Design, build, and decorate a fidget spinner (while supplies last). Jan. 9, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Senior Book Chat (Held at Williamston Senior Center)

Join us as CADL staff share favorite titles and reading recommendations. Jan. 10, 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

SYSTEM WIDE

All CADL branches will be closed Sunday, Dec. 31 and Monday, Jan. 1.



The Snow Song was sung by fifth graders.



WES third graders present their festive song.

Webberville Elementary students perform variety of holiday songs

The Webberville Elementary music program is certainly a point of pride for our school. Music teacher, Alex Ellul, is dedicated and committed to making sure every student has a positive music experience. On Wednesday, December 7th, this positive experience was felt by all who attended the elementary music concert. First thru fifth graders assembled singing a variety of holiday songs. The songs were a great display of the high level of skill the students are acquiring in their music classes. It was evident they had fun with their presentation! Well done, Webberville STARS!

Webberville Middle & High School Honor Roll First Quarter

High School All A Grades

Skylar Byrne, Taylor Dettling, Alaia Driver, Daxton Driver, Eden Elzerman, Hannah Fairfield, Melanie Feltner, Rebecca Fraley, Dana Gorski, Nicolas Gutierrez, Autumn Hath, Cassie Jones, Gavin Kubiak, Maci Kubiak, Jillian Loftis, Ashton Lott, Leah Nichols, Carson Nolan, Hunter Norton, Lauren Ross, Brennan Slick-Robinson, Ella Smyth, Savannah Tennant, Ben Theriault, William Thompson, Reagan Tyler, Toby VanWyck, Colby Woodward, Tyler Wyatt

High School All AB Grades

Peyton Branch, Eve Canfield, Tommy Fairfield, Konnor Featherly, Emily Feltner, Nicolette Gilmore, Katarina Haynes, Connor Hondzinski, Grace Hull, Dawson Lott, Kelsey Mayville, Alyssa McGalliard, Branden McGowan, Hunter McGowan, Henry Molter, Josh Moran, Tyler Nelson, Brendan Peckens, Sydney Piper, Gage Rhodes, Hunter Rhodes, Carli Ross, William Sarin, Charlie Sicher, Makayla Smith, Savannah Stiffler, Maddison Stowe, McKenna Stubbert, Mackenzie Winebarger, Austin Wyatt

Middle School All A Grades

Kylie Atkins, Claire Bloom, Dylan Branch, Baylee Cloudman, Madeline Derian, Josh Fairfield, Juliette Flannery, Emma LeBoeuf, Zoey Lee, Kalista Matiyow, Evan Peterson, Logan Pierce, Sarah Sicher, Ruth Wisuri

Middle School AB Grades

Nettie Backus, Hannah Birkett, Cassandra Bosworth, Lauren Bosworth, Grace Bowen, Logan Brown, Thomas Cloudman, Adam Cyr, Bradley Davis, Maddie Delaney, Wesley Dusa, Emilee Ebert, Garrett Goodwin, Grace Kortman, Dayton Kraiger, Nathan Lott II, Kolson Lycos, Max Mills, Titus Modert, Vincent Monroe, Ryleigh Nelson, Drew Peckens, Kristina Pendell, Rebekah Phillips, Aya Sholty, Makayla Surline, Stella Wilder, Hayley Williams, Lucas Wisuri, Sydney Wolff



First grade students perform a 'movement' routine at their musical.



Ethan West and Olivia Wolff played the xylophones.



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- Non-healing wounds
- Lymphedema
- Whiplash
- Bell's palsy
- Fractures
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- Herniated Disc
- Sciatica
- Skin problems
- Bursitis
- Jaw pain / TMJ

NEIGHBORHOOD CLASSIFIED SECTION

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"This will improve six miles of trail so walkers, bicyclists and runners will have access to the full 22 miles of the Lakelands Trail, which in turn is part of the 240-mile Route 1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trail," Vaupel said. "This development is a great example of how state and local governments can work together to improve the quality of life for families in our community."

The project calls for resurfacing the six-mile segment with compacted limestone aggregate, construction of a dog waste station, additional signage and installation of benches at the trailhead.

The Legislature will consider the recommendations in the coming year.

State grant recommended for Unadilla Township trail project

State Rep. Hank Vaupel announced last week that improvements on a six-mile section of trail in Unadilla Township are included in a list of recreational grant recommendations from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Vaupel, of Fowlerville, said the project will expand recreational opportunities for local families as well as others who use the Lakelands Trail system. Funding for the project is comprised of revenue from the lease of state land and is designated on an annual basis in partnership with local governments.

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Fowlerville NEWS & VIEWS

**Steve and Dawn Horton
Lisa Tomczyk
and Tarah Wasilenski**

—Area Deaths—



Danny Lee Davidson

Danny Lee Davidson of Pinckney, formerly of Caro, age 64, passed away on Tuesday, December 26, 2017 at the VA Medical Center in Ann Arbor. Danny was born June 3, 1953 in Caro, the son of Darlene (Putnam) Davidson and the late Harry Davidson. In 1971, he enlisted with the United States Army and was honorably discharged in 1972. Danny worked for ten years at Michigan Sugar in Caro as a boiler house operator before becoming a self-employed harness horse trainer and driver, a career and passion that lasted more than forty years.

He was united in marriage with the former Claudia Cary on February 2, 2008 in Manistee and she survives. Danny's spare time was spent hunting for pheasant and deer, and he shot the biggest buck of his life earlier this year. He was proud of his farm and took meticulous care of it and his horses. He was also an avid Harley Davidson enthusiast and a member of the Fowlerville Harness Horseman Committee, Fowlerville Fair, Michigan Harness Horseman Association and the U.S. Trotting Association.

Danny is survived by his loving wife, Claudia Davidson of Pinckney; one daughter, Angela Davidson of Champion; three grandsons, Chase, Miles, and Harley; his mother, Darlene Davidson of Caro; three sisters, four brothers and their spouses, Sue & Melvin Lucksted, Patsy & David Friedlander, Tammy & Carl Sattelberg, David & Diane Davidson, Harry Davidson and friend, Margaret, Tim & Kelly Davidson, Larry Davidson; father-in-law, Joseph Cary of Webberville; sisters-in-law, Kathleen Black, Lynda Parker, Joanne Jackson; brother-in-law, Tom Cary; his faithful household companion, Honey; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to his father, Danny was preceded in death by his grandparents, George & Jenny Davidson, William & Mina Putnam.

The family celebrated Danny's life with a gathering from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 29, 2017 at the Ransford Collon Funeral Home in Caro. The gathering concluded with a brief prayer offered by Rev. Dr. Anthony Tomasino, followed by a procession to Indianfields Township Cemetery in Caro. In lieu of flowers, those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorial contributions to the Fowlerville Family Fair for a memorial race in Danny's name, 8800 East Grand River, PO Box 372, Fowlerville, MI 48836. The family was assisted with these arrangements by the Ransford Collon Funeral Home of Caro. Friends may share memories, thoughts and prayers online at www.RansfordCollon.com.



JoAnn Marie (Spencer) Coselman

JoAnn Marie (Spencer) Coselman, born May 15, 1956, passed away unexpectedly on December 6, 2017.

A much loved daughter, mother, sister and aunt, JoAnn was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph T. and Clara M. Spencer; brother-in-law Andrew Palermينو; and by her precious daughter, Nicole Danielle Spencer. Surviving are siblings: John Spencer, Paul and Julie (Miller) Spencer, Mary (Spencer) Aldecoa, Joseph T. Spencer, and Susan (Spencer) Palermينو along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Known for her good nature, kind heart and willingness to lend a helping hand, JoAnn will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 am on Thursday, January 4th at the United Brethren Church, 9300 W Grand River Ave, Fowlerville, MI 48836 with a viewing and visitation with family beginning at 10:30 am. Lunch will be served immediately following the service.

Acoustic Café to feature the Paul King Trio on Jan. 12 at Howell Opera House

Acoustic Café is an annual music series held at the historic Howell Opera House that features outstanding Michigan performers, now celebrating its 11th year. This year's series continues with the big band smooth jazz sounds of the Paul King Trio. With Rob Bourassa on guitar, Mike Karoub on bass, and Paul King on vocals, these three Michigan natives combine their considerable musical talents into a fabulous evening of jazz and swing.

The concert will be performed on Friday, Jan. 12, from 7 to 9 p.m.

The Acoustic Café series runs every Friday night from January 5– March 9. Doors will open at 7:00 pm and the show will begin at 7:30 pm. Open to the public, the cost is \$8.00 at the door, \$6.00 for Livingston Arts Council members.



Jean Elvira Roenicke

Jean Elvira Roenicke, age 86 of Fowlerville, passed away peacefully on November 25, 2017. She was born in Pontiac on March 17, 1931. In 1959 Jean married the love of her life, William Roenicke. Jean is survived by her two sons, Mark and Greg Starkel, several grandchildren, nieces and nephews and great grandchildren.

One of her biggest passions in life was being able to cook and bake on all holidays and being able to spend time with her family. She was also an avid reader. Jean was a loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother and a very well loved aunt. She will be greatly missed. Arrangements by: Herrmann Funeral Home. Please leave the family a condolence at pihermannfuneralhome.com

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Michigan Senate Report

By Joe Hune,
22nd District

2017 was a Great Year for Michigan!

2017 was yet another great year in the Michigan comeback story!

With more than 500,000 private sector jobs added to our economy, Michigan has been greatly improving over the past seven years. And in the first quarter of 2017, Michigan experienced one of the fastest rises in personal income growth in the nation.

This good news is evidence that the reforms the Legislature put

in place over the past several years are working. Responsible budgeting has helped turn Michigan into a pro-jobs, pro-growth state. We have passed a balanced budget ahead of schedule for seven years in a row and turned a \$1.8 billion structural budget deficit into a nearly \$900 million surplus in the state's rainy day fund!

This year was a busy one in the state Senate. From ensuring teachers have a secure retirement, to boosting our commitment to public safety by adding 150 new state troopers, the Michigan Senate continued to work toward making Michigan a state where we can live, learn, and play.

We passed a budget that boosted our commitment to ensuring Michigan children receive a quality education. The school aid budget invested more than \$14 billion into education this year. We also worked to ensure our veterans receive the safe retirement they earned and deserve by expanding the scope of the Veterans Ombudsman to oversee the management of new veterans homes being built in the coming years.

In 2017 we also stepped

up our efforts to combat the growing opioid epidemic that is impacting communities across Michigan. My colleagues and I passed legislation to better educate students and patients about the dangers of becoming addicted to painkillers. And we also set up a system to better monitor the number of opioids that are being prescribed. In 2018, I will continue to work on ending this horrific epidemic.

Michigan has come a long way over the past seven years. I look forward to continuing to move Michigan forward in 2018 as we work in the Senate to make our state a place where job creators want to be and where families want to live. I will continue to fight for the residents of the 22nd District and look forward to serving you in the year to come.

As always, if you have any questions or need information, 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.

Fowlerville Fire Department Report

Thursday, December 21st, at 8:35 a.m. a medical emergency on Garden Lane in the Village was reported. Personnel responded to assist EMS on Deerhill Court in Iosco Township at 8:10 p.m. Firefighters were called to the scene of a house fire on Frank Street in the Village at 11:47 p.m.

The department was dispatched to a medical emergency on Grand River Ave. in the Village at 12:46 p.m., Friday, December 22nd with a second medical emergency being on Cedar Road in Handy Township at 7:50 p.m.

Saturday, December 23rd, at 1:15 a.m. a medical emergency on Van Riper Street in the Village was reported. Firefighters were called to a medical emergency on Allen Road in Handy Township at 10:32 a.m. A medical emergency on Munsell Road in Iosco Township was reported at 12:36 p.m. and then at 12:52 p.m. personnel responded to a medical emergency on Sharpe Road in Handy Township. The department was dispatched to a medical emergency on Allen Road in Conway Township at 8:32 p.m.

At 10:51 a.m. Monday, December 25th, the department assisted at a medical emergency on Grand River Ave. in the Village. A motor vehicle accident with injuries on I-96 in Handy Township was reported at 12:36 p.m.

Tuesday, December 26th, personnel responded to a medical emergency on Gregory Road in Conway Township at 2:13 a.m. and at 12:54 p.m. assisted at a medical emergency on Alan's Drive in Handy Township. Firefighters were called to a motor vehicle accident on I-96 in Handy Township at 2:32 p.m. The department assisted the Howell Area Fire Department at a structure fire on Steinacker Road in Cohoctah Township at 5:57 p.m. and at 7:33 p.m. was called to assist at a structure fire on Millett Road in Howell Township.

A medical emergency on Gregory Road in Conway Township was reported at 1:40 a.m., Wednesday, December 27th. At 3:56 p.m. personnel responded to a medical emergency on Layton Road in Handy Township. The department was dispatched to a medical emergency on Lange Road in Iosco Township at 8:06 p.m. Firefighters were called to a medical emergency on Free Street in the Village at 11:57 p.m.



Dick Scott
MOTOR MALL

Fowlerville High School's
"ATHLETES" OF THE WEEK



Jud Scott



Wrestling

Jordan Devota had an outstanding tournament at Michigan Collegiate December 16th, winning it in the last 15 secs of the final. The guy just never quits. He stands on a record of 6-3 presently and improving every time he steps on the mat. Jordan is a great representative of the our freshman class. They are constantly working for the next point or the pin and are not afraid to come from behind to win. Jordan is also a great representative for us in the classroom carrying about a 3.5 grade point average. Before this guy's career is done he is going to turn some heads. Good luck Jordan and continue to lead.

Hunter Wilson, a senior, is working his weight down to a competitive weight. He is now at 189 and won his first tournament at that weight on 12/16 with 3 pins. After one dual and two tournaments Hunter's record is 9 and 1. Hunter is wrestling this year with a confidence that we have not seen on a consistent basis in the past and it is making a difference. He is making his mistakes because he is going after it and trying some new things. The great part is that he recovers from the mistakes quickly and usually turning those mistakes into his points or pins. It's easy to sit and wait for things to come to you but Hunter is not doing that this year and has become a pretty exciting wrestler to watch. Good luck this year Hunter and make it your best.

JUD'S FOOTBALL FORECAST

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

Outback Bowl: University of Michigan 24 vs South Carolina 20

Rose Bowl: Oklahoma 34 vs Georgia 30

Sugar Bowl: Alabama 27 vs Clemson 24

LAST WEEK: W - 12 L - 4

SEASON: W - 170 L - 86

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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