

Fowlerville NEWS & VIEWS

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"Serving the Local Communities"

Volume XXXVIII No. 3

Sunday, January 16, 2022

Published Weekly



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NHS students Hannah Ray and Emma Browne helped put on the 'Cocoa and Cram' session. Maggie Motz, Brooke Krueger, Natalie Loomis and Gavin Tschirret also attended the event.



Val Curd, Grace Nson, Sophia Lutz and Abby DeCare took advantage of the study and snack time.

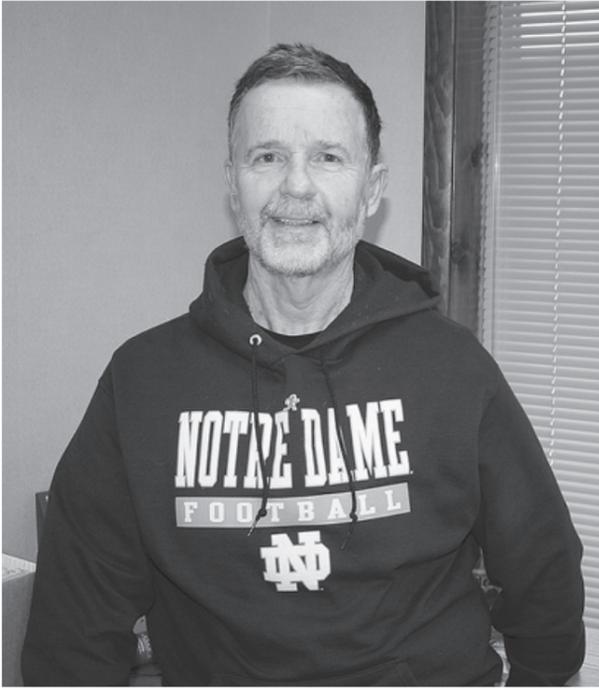


Riley Thomas, Riley Zub and Evelyn Redinger enjoyed some extra study time together.

Fowlerville High School National Honor Society puts on tutoring event

With mid-term exams coming up, members of the Fowlerville High School National Honor Society put on a tutoring event last week for their fellow students called 'Cocoa and Cram.' The NHS members stayed after school to help students on exam reviews, homework and other class work. After the study time, students were treated to cocoa, gatorade, and snacks as a reward for their hard work.

NHS tutors were especially trying to help freshmen and sophomores who might never have taken a high school exam. A trio of seniors—Emma Browne, Hannah Ray, and Alli Larson—were in charge of the event as part of their individual service project for the National Honor Society. 'Cocoa and Cram' still has one more day for students to attend, this Tuesday, Jan. 18th from 2:30-4pm in Mr. Sperry's room. All students and subjects are invited.



Kevin McKenna recently moved to Fowlerville after retiring as an active pastor. He and his wife Shirley made the move to be closer to his daughter and her family. McKenna co-founded DoorKeepers, a Christian men's outreach ministry that operates in Southeast Michigan. He plans to remain involved in the group and also bring support where he can to existing ministries in this area.

New Fowlerville resident is a retired pastor who helped found DoorKeepers

By Steve Horton

One of Fowlerville's newer residents is a retired pastor who is still active in DoorKeepers, a Christian men's outreach ministry that has operated in Southeast Michigan for over 12 years and that he helped found.

Kevin McKenna, who is 68, and his wife Shirley moved to the community a few months ago for the purpose of living closer to their daughter and her family.

He noted that his daughter Amy is a nurse practitioner and his son Neil is an electrician with DTE Energy.

"We have seven grandchildren, with three of them in college," he added.

The relocation came after a long career as an engineer with a Tier One automotive parts company and then as a pastor since 2003.

"DoorKeepers is a group of men who work at building trust relationships with each other," McKenna explained. "One of the ways we build that trust is to participate in volunteer projects in the community."

The combination of connecting with each other and putting their faith to a practical use by helping others, McKenna feels, makes the individual a better person and by extension "better



A special, reoccurring effort by McKenna and other DoorKeepers is helping at Grace Centers of Hope in Oakland County—a homeless shelter that also provides meals and other assistance. Shown here were, from left, front row, Jeff Kwasniewski and Mike Whitbeck and, in back, Dennis Hindman, Lou Mastrofrancesco, Mark Russell, Kevin McKenna, Mike Wimberly, Ray Holm, and Dan Mansfield.

husbands, fathers, employees or employers, and citizens."

While the group—which has over 200 members from around Southeast Michigan and chapters in several other states—has a religious component, McKenna stressed that it is non-denominational and added that men without a religious belief are welcome.

"A DoorKeeper is someone who is willing to put themselves in a place of discomfort for another person," he pointed out. "Our logo is that of a little running man. It symbolizes that we are always going forward with a hand out for the next person. A DoorKeeper is someone that says 'I'm willing to set aside some time and some of what I have for a person I don't know. And that, in reaching out toward another person, it doesn't matter what their faith is, their color, or age.'"

"As men reach out to others, whether it's fellow members or the larger community, they build these trust relationships and then they take this to other areas of their life—family and work—and these relationships can also take on a deeper meaning," McKenna explained.

He added that men in general and those of the older generation such as he, often find it difficult to trust one another. "Women tend to build relationships better than many men do," he said.

McKenna noted that DoorKeepers is not a recovery program, although (he added) that there are men in the group with assorted issues, be it addiction or anger, and that they are encouraged to seek help with the proper agency, while still being members.

"We also point men, if they're interested, to healthy local churches that might engage them in a certain way," he said. "But we don't try to be a local church. We're very faith-based in terms of Christianity, but we'll serve people of other faiths or those who profess to being an atheist. There are no boundaries with God's love."

McKenna said that DoorKeepers holds regular meetings, which include prayer and a religious-oriented discussion, but are also used to plan what he calls the group's 'kinesthetic Christianity' that provide opportunities for members to serve in the real world.

These service projects include ongoing assistance to other organizations such as LOVE, Inc. in Livingston County where volunteers from DoorKeepers pick up donated furniture which is then delivered to individuals and families in need, but also many one-time efforts.

"What often happens is that one of our members has heard about a group in need of help or of people facing hardship and we put together a plan to assist them," McKenna noted. "For example, after the dam broke in Midland, we learned from a member who had family in the community that things were in desperate straits. So we contacted an agency that was already on the ground there who told us that they were giving away buckets to residents filled with a certain amount of supplies. We quickly raised money within the DoorKeepers to purchase additional supplies, then contacted members to meet us at a warehouse one of our members owned. We had pallets of supplies and formed an assembly line to fill the buckets. Another member had brought his trailer, and we loaded it and drove the supplies to Midland.

"This is a case where you have guys that might not have come to one of our Bible studies, but they can fill a bucket," he pointed out. "As a group, we try to offer our members this kind of opportunity.

"We have done all sorts of things," he added. "We've manned phones or helped with fundraisers. We've collected supplies for a pregnancy center. We've sent men on trips to

places like Nicaragua to install water wells.

"What happens is that a need is identified and then other members utilize their time and talents, plus any connections they might have, to address the situation," McKenna explained. "We're always open to new things for our projects. What we attempt to do is change what many men think Christianity is all about and to just look at people as people and to do what we can to help them. Everything we do is based upon the love of God and that we meet people where they're at. We don't judge anyone. Yes, we are faith based, we point toward Jesus Christ, but we don't beat anybody in the head with the Bible. The intent is always to show God's love in a non-judgmental way to everybody."

McKenna added that on any given day or week, there might be different projects going on simultaneously.

One special, reoccurring part of the ministry is assistance given to the Grace Centers of Hope in Oakland County—a homeless shelter that also provides meals as well as a comprehensive range of programs and services to help individuals and families overcome issues of homelessness, addiction, neglect, poverty, and spiritual emptiness.

McKenna and other DoorKeepers volunteer to prepare and serve meals and mentor those staying at the shelter or enrolled in a special program. McKenna also serves on the board of directors for this faith-based, non-profit organization.

Like many groups, DoorKeepers has a core of active participants and others who are involved in varying degrees. Also, it operates as a 501(c)3 non-profit entity, allowing it to accept donations, but operates (McKenna said) with very little overhead.

"We have a restaurant and dance studio that donate space for us to hold our meetings or meet at someone's home," he said. "A lot of the stuff we need is donated by members or someone who wants to assist with a project.

"We do try to have some fun activities and include our families," he added. "We've had a pizza picnic and involved members' families in a large service project."

While most of the work done by the DoorKeepers has centered in Southeast Michigan, McKenna said that as members have moved to other places, they've taken the idea with them.

"We now have chapters in Missouri, Texas, Florida and Illinois," he noted.

McKenna and his wife were both raised in Toronto, with Kevin graduating with an engineering degree from the University of Toronto and an MBA from Notre Dame University.

"We immigrated to the United States in 1980 when the automotive company I worked for transferred me to California," he said.

He remained with that company until mid-2003, living in Texas and Indiana, and then Livonia.

"Along the way we had two children, became American citizens and I held different executive positions," he noted. "For the last ten years that I was with the automotive company, I was buying, selling and fixing other companies around the world. I lived in England for a couple of years and traveled extensively in Southeast Asia and other parts of the world."

While he had been a Christian since 1981, been very active in his church, and even taken some seminary courses, there was no plan to leave the automotive business and become a pastor.

"God literally woke me up one night," he recalled, "and

continued on next page

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS LIVINGSTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

To all residents of the Livingston Conservation District, notice is hereby given that on the 16th day of March 2020, between the hours of 5:00pm and 7:00pm, at the Marion Township Hall, 2877 W. Coon Lake Rd in Howell, Michigan, an annual meeting/open house and director's election will be held. On the 16th day of January 2022, being forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the annual meeting, absentee ballots are available for voting in this election by writing to or calling the Conservation District Office at PO Box 916, Fowlerville, MI 48836 or phone (517) 546-4838.

Notice is also hereby given to all residents who are desiring to run for Conservation District Director in this election: petitions signed by at least five (5) residents of the Conservation District must be filed at the Conservation District Office on or before January 17, 2022, being sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting. Residents are individuals of legal age who can demonstrate residency in the Conservation District via one (1) piece of identification.

Tammy L. Beal
Secretary of the Board of Directors
Livingston Conservation District
(1-16-22 FNV)



Kevin McKenna is shown here preparing a meal at Grace Centers of Hope. He is on the non-profit organization's board of directors.

told me to stop doing this and become a pastor.”

After giving the company a month's notice, he embarked on his new path, adding that he's done a few different things that overlapped.

He started out assisting the main pastor at the NorthRidge Church in Plymouth, noting that the church has two other campuses. While there, he teamed up with fellow parishioner Ray Holm to start DoorKeepers.

“We began as a men's group within the church, but then we separated it since we wanted to reach a larger group of men,” he said. “I have been the pastor, while Ray handles the finances and a lot of the organizational details.”

While remaining with this outreach ministry, McKenna decided to step away as a pastor at NorthRidge and take on a marketplace ministry.

“I became a chaplain and business director for two different Christian-run companies,” he said. “Because of my business experience, I was able to help them with major contracts and other matters and still serve in a pastoral role. It allowed me to be engaged in the marketplace at a lower level and not be running around the world and also have time to develop DoorKeepers. I found that I was really called to be with people on a chaplaincy basis, along with being part of the business world. So I did that from 2009 until I retired this past September.”

McKenna added that “retired” is probably not the correct word for his future plans.

“I'm shifting gears,” he explained. “I know there'll be further opportunities for DoorKeepers in this part of Livingston County. There are already ministries in the community that are active, so this spring I'll look for areas where we can help. Where God's called me, at least at this point in my life, is to get behind people who are already on the ground and bring them support.”



Michigan House Report

By Bob Bezotte, 47th District

Last year, I had perfect attendance in Lansing! I didn't miss a single vote, which means I casted 640 votes for 2021! I am excited to be back in Lansing this past week to represent the people of the 47th District!

Recently, Rep. John Damoose introduced HB 5265, which would prohibit the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) from collecting improperly paid jobless benefits from jobless benefits recipients if the improper payments resulted from the recipient choosing one of four ineligible Pandemic Unemployment Assistance criteria. I plan on voting “yes” in support of this bill when it hits the House floor.

Many of you contacted me in regard to letters that request you to pay back money to UIA. I fully support the idea that residents who suffered through the COVID-19 pandemic and relied on jobless benefits as a lifeline should not have to pay for a mistake that wasn't their own. I am committed to ensuring the onus remains with the UIA. Michigan residents deserve a state agency they can rely on when they need it most. The agency has proven it cannot be trusted to fix its own mistake, and therefore we needed to intervene. It's time we hold the UIA accountable.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at 517-373-8835 or RobertBezotte@house.mi.gov.

Senator Theis extends perfect legislative voting record to 6 years

State Sen. Lana Theis did not miss any of the 494 record roll call votes held in the Michigan Senate last year.

“Michiganders expect, and deserve, their elected officials to not only show up, but to do the jobs they were sent to do,” said Theis, R-Brighton. “I take my job seriously and am proud to represent the people of the 22nd District at the Capitol. I go to Lansing every day for them, because we still face a lot of challenges ahead of us.”

Theis was one of 14 senators to not miss a vote in 2021.

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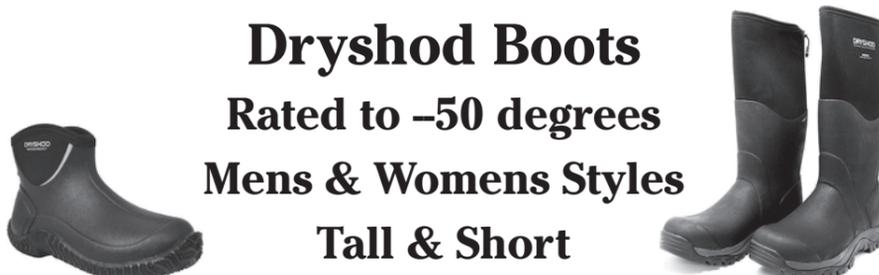
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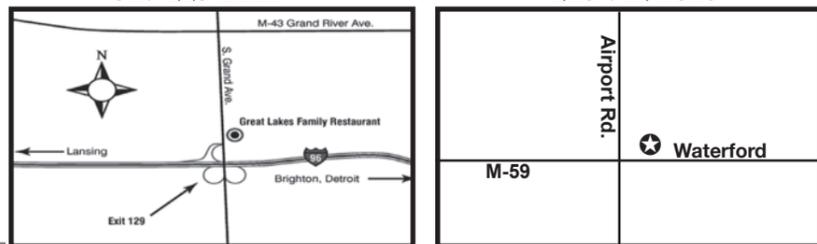
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Fowlerville Fire Department Report

January 6 - 12:11 a.m. Medical response on Crofoot Rd in Iosco Township.

11:40 a.m. Smoke alarm activation on E Van Riper Rd in the Village.

5:57 p.m. Medical response on W Allen Rd in Handy Township.

January 7 - 6:10 p.m. Medical response on Woodway Ln in Conway Township.

11:15 p.m. Medical response on Roberts Rd in Iosco Township.

January 8 - 4:33 a.m. Medical response on Nicholson Rd in Handy Township.

1:10 p.m. Medical response on Addison Circle in the Village.

3:52 p.m. Medical response on Nicholson Rd in Conway Township.

6:57 p.m. Vehicle fire on N Gregory in Handy Township.

11:49 p.m. Medical response on Robb Rd in Conway Township.

January 9 - 5:08 p.m. Medical response on Fowlerville Rd in Handy Township.

9:20 p.m. Medical response on Swartz River Dr in Handy Township.

January 10 - 8:28 a.m. Medical response on Nicholson Rd in Conway Township.

9:59 a.m. Medical response on Sycamore River Dr in Handy Township.

4:38 p.m. Pedestrian injury accident on N Grand Ave in the Village.

5:20 p.m. Medical response on Red Rock Dr in Handy Township.

January 11 - 12:11 p.m. Mutual aid for structure fire on Burke Rd in Howell Township.

12:44 p.m. Medical response on Grandshire Blvd in the Village.

8:16 p.m. Medical response on Munsell Rd in Iosco Township.

January 12

3:52 a.m. Medical response on Addison Circle in the Village.

9:54 a.m. Medical response on Nicholson Rd in Conway Township.

6:36 p.m. Medical response on Wheeler Rd in Handy Township.

Caleb Jenkins Column



When Democracy is not Used

India is the most populous democracy in the world with 1.38 billion people, over four times that of the United States at 329.5 million. Only China surpasses India in population with a slight lead of 1.44 billion. With a population of that size, one would think that India has considerable power, especially as a democracy. In some ways, that sentiment is true. Prime Minister Modi has gone to great lengths to promote India's diplomatic and economic power and opportunities around the world. The U.S. sees India as a key partner in advancing democratic ideals globally and especially in the Indo-Pacific, and tensions with China have only increased the military alliance between the two nations.

However, in many ways, India is not reaching its full potential. Over the past several years, India regressed in some of its norms of freedom. This trend includes politicization of the courts, infringements on a free press, and oppression of minorities. The structures of democracy remain, but it is questionable if they are functioning as they should. One could argue that the current government is wielding a significant majority of power compared to the people.

Events also look bleak on the economic front. Such a large population should mean greater productivity, but despite its massive size, India ranks sixth in the world in annual GDP. According to official government reports, the average Indian living in the country is surviving on the equivalent of \$4 a day. We may be seeing an increase in state capacity in India, but that does not appear to be translating into better lives for its average citizens. Those unconcerned about the machinations of the government in New Delhi are being affected by its policies nonetheless.

Why is this happening? If India has the structures and capacity to be a national and economic powerhouse, then why is it regressing politically and economically? There are many contributing factors, so it is impossible to address the problem fully here.

However, Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson in *The Narrow Corridor* provide what I think is a very important contributor, and one worth reflecting on ourselves. Despite being the world's most populous democracy, India is not a particularly *mobilized* democracy.

The problem is that there are many deep divisions between families and villages on the local level, and in places where those divisions dominate, it is almost impossible to coalesce long enough to counterbalance the state. Instead, some political actors use these divisions to maintain power and push their own agendas. And the consequences run much deeper than electoral politics. If people are too busy fighting each other, then they cannot pursue greater economic opportunities or hold the government accountable to protect their own rights.

This article can only cover one small segment of the overall picture that is India's democracy, so this is not the entire diagnosis nor prescription. But India's case is certainly not unique, and the warning it offers is time sensitive. Getting trapped in a perpetual cycle of unfruitful infighting harms us all. If we do not work together with respect despite differing approaches, then we will fall behind as bigger issues pass us by without our input.

Fowlerville Varsity Boys Basketball Team drops game to Eaton Rapids

The Fowlerville Varsity Boys Basketball Team dropped a non-league game to Eaton Rapids this past Tuesday night (Jan. 11) by a score of 47 to 44. Greg Wilkinson led the way for the Glads with 14 points and nine rebounds, Jack Shrader added 11 points and Carter Young chipped in with nine. Zane Kemp led the Greyhounds with 16 points and Trey Orr had 15.

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Fowlerville High School's "ATHLETES" OF THE WEEK

Jud Scott



Varsity Girls Basketball

Leveesa Clark - Leveesa is a senior, co-captain and a four year varsity player. Levee's skill, experience, and high basketball IQ has lead our team every game this year. She is averaging 12 points per game, 6 rebounds per game, and 3 steals per game. She is also often assigned to defend the opponent's top player. After high school, Levee will go on to play at the next level for Spring Arbor University.

Julia Johnson - Julia is junior guard and a three year varsity player. Julia leads by example. She is competitive, coachable, and reliable. Julia is a model student-athlete, excelling on the court and in the classroom. This year, she is averaging 6 points per game and is a top defender.

JUD'S FOOTBALL FORECAST NFL WILD CARD GAMES

SATURDAY, JAN. 15
 Las Vegas 24 vs Cincinnati 34
 New England 28 vs Buffalo 24

SUNDAY, JAN. 16
 Philadelphia 24 vs Tampa Bay 31

San Francisco 27 vs Dallas 24
 Pittsburgh 21 vs Kansas City 34

MONDAY, JAN. 17
 Arizona 28 vs LA Rams 31

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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Fowlerville Junior High School News

Fowlerville High School News

IMPORTANT DATES:

No School-MLK Day- Jan. 17th
 Half Day of classes- Wed-Fri. Jan. 19-21st
 End of First Semester- Fri. Jan. 21st
 * * *



CSI WINNERS FROM 1-7-22-

Michael Gaulin, Lila Neirnyk, and Anthony Monczka. Not pictured Kylan Dillingham and Michael Pounds.
 * * *

SPORTS NEWS

SPORTS FOR WEEK OF JAN. 17:

Mon., 1/17: NO SCHOOL
 Tues.-Fri., 1/18-21: GBB & B/G WRESTLING Practice: regular times; same sites*
 Wed., 1/19: CCH practice-5-7:30; FJH Aud.
 Thurs., 1/20: CCH practice-5-7:30; FHS Cafe
 Sat., 1/22: CCH-HARTLAND INVITE- TIME: tba; bus-TBA
 *Teams should check w/coaches about practice on EXAM-1/2 days.

Reminder to parents: Many schools are REQUIRING MASKS for spectators. Please be aware of a school's policy before attending a game. Also some schools in the MMMSAL have limited spectators to two per athlete.
 * * *

LET IT SNOW

The Fowlerville Ski and SnowBoard Club will begin in January. The club is open to 5th through 12th grade students and families. We ski/board at Mt. Brighton every Wednesday beginning January 5th and throughout the month of February. For further information, please contact Ms. DeLuca 517-223-6250 or delucac@fowlervilleschools.org
 * * *

YEARBOOKS

Yearbooks are on sale now for \$32 and can be ordered online or in person for this year. On our Junior High Website page, there is a spot that is labeled 'yearbook'. If you click that link, you should be able to order from there. In case you are having trouble, here is the link: <https://www.balfour.com/michigan/fowlerville/fowlerville-junior-high-school>

OFFICE HOURS

Administration Offices 7:00 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.
 Building opens 6:45 a.m.
 * * *

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES TO NOTE:

January 17 Holiday break
 January 19 1/2 day - exams 1, 2
 January 20 1/2 day - exams 3, 4
 January 21 1/2 day - exams 5, 6
 * * *

Doors at FHS will be open at 6:45 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.
 * * *

Senior & parents: It is time to order your cap and gown! Please check the fowlervilleschools.org or your google classroom for ordering information as well as other senior information.
 * * *

The yearbook staff is hard at work creating the FHS 2021-2022 yearbook. The yearbook sale deadline is quickly approaching. Fowlerville HS Yearbook Sale Deadline is 1/15/2022 for the price of \$60, after that date, the price will go up until March 30th, 2022. We will NOT order extra books, so make sure you pre-order your copy today!

If you haven't purchased a yearbook yet, you can at the following link: <https://www.balfour.com/> If you have any questions about yearbook sales, you may contact our yearbook advisor, Mrs. Hardenbrook at hardenbrookm@fowlervilleschools.org
 * * *

SENIORS-Senior pictures are due on January 14th. Please email them in the correct form to FHSyearbook@fowlervilleschools.org If your senior picture is not sent in, your school ID will be used.
 * * *

NHS is sponsoring Cocoa and Cram once again this year to help students complete their midterm study guides and study for exams! Some of our students-9th-10th graders- have NEVER taken a Midterm or Final Exam. These remaining sessions will help them prepare for the exams.
 Tuesday, January 18th (All grades)
 2:30-3:15 (study hall) Room - B108
 3:15-4:00 (study hall / snacks served) Room- B108
 NHS members will be there to serve snacks and help with tutoring.
 * * *

The Class of 2024 is offering a wonderful opportunity to purchase beautiful flowers bulbs and seeds to help raise funds to support class sponsored events such as prom and senior lock in. Please check out our website at <http://FHSClassof2024.fpfundraising.com>, orders will be delivered directly to you beginning April 1st. We thank you for your support.
 * * *

Spring 2021 Fowlerville High School Scholarship Winners: Attention class of 2021 Senior Honors Night Scholarship winners. Congratulations again for being the recipient of a Fowlerville Community Scholarship as well as successfully completing the first semester of school/training after high school. Scholarship winners from the Spring 2021 Senior Honors Night can claim their scholarships by completing the Scholarship Winners Request Form. The form is available in the Fowlerville High School counseling office or by visiting the Fowlerville High School web page-counseling tab-2021 Scholarship Winners ribbon.

Winners must provide a copy of their semester 1 college/trade school transcript showing successful completion as well as evidence of semester 2 enrollment (semester 2 class schedule). Please submit the completed form and required evidence in person to the counseling office or to hardenbrookj@fowlervilleschools.org.

Fowlerville Community School wishes to thank all scholarship providers for their continued support of our senior classes. For information on becoming a scholarship sponsor, please email Jamey Hardenbrook at hardenbrookj@fowlervilleschools.org.
 * * *

Fowlerville High School Semester 2 Co-op Program: Juniors and seniors that are interested in the co-op program can pick up semester 2 paperwork from the counseling office after Christmas break. Students must be on track to graduate and have room in their schedule for co-op elective credit. Completed forms should be returned ASAP or by the end of semester 1, January 21. Co-op paperwork is also available on the Fowlerville High School webpage. Please direct

any questions to Jamey Hardenbrook at hardenbrookj@fowlervilleschools.org.

* * *

Anyone wishing to donate to the Micro food pantry please go ahead and put canned goods etc. into the pantry.....self serve and self fill. The pantry is located on 2nd St and Grand River next to State Farm.

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Bids for Lawn Mowing Season 2022

Conway Township is now taking bids for the 2022 Lawn Mowing Season, for 5 Cemeteries and the Township Hall. A certificate of Insurance will be required from the winning contractor. Specifications can be found at the township website ConwayMI.gov, or in the office during office hours. Bids will be accepted through March 1, 2022. All bids will be reviewed on March 15 at a regular meeting of Board of Trustees at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Elizabeth Whitt during regular business hours, Tuesday and Wednesday 9 am to 3 p.m. at 517-223-0358. If mailing bids, please mail to P.O. Box 1157, Fowlerville MI 48836.

Elizabeth Whitt
 Conway Township Clerk
 (1-16, 2-6 & 2-20-22 FNV)

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Livingston County COVID-19 Report

Summary

In Livingston County, COVID-19 cases continue to rise, with 7-day test positivity rates reaching record highs. These upswings are likely due to increased indoor gatherings surrounding holiday celebrations, as well as the transmission of the Omicron variant throughout our community. Increased cases have put additional strain on our local hospital system, which is reporting operating at full capacity for the third consecutive month. Due to the high level of COVID-19 transmission and strain on local healthcare systems, Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) recommends residents take extra precaution as we enter into 2022.

Since the last report, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has also updated its isolation and quarantine guidance for the general public. The new guidance will result in shortened isolation and quarantine periods for many individuals. The updated guidance can be viewed in its entirety on the CDC's webpage: <https://bit.ly/3t8lboU>.

Case Counts

Over the month of December 2021, there were 4934 total cases (average of 160 cases per day). This is a 7% decrease when compared to the November 2021 cases in Livingston County. However, case counts have sharply increased since December 27, 2021 through the beginning of January 2022.

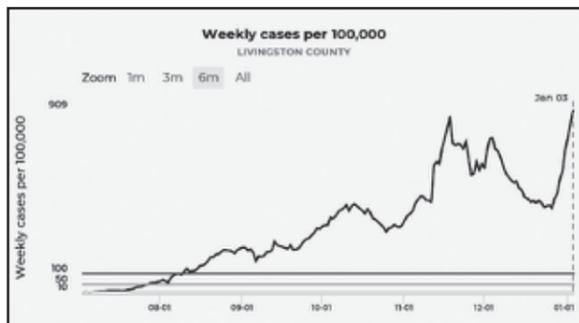
| | Aug. 2021 | Sept. 2021 | Oct. 2021 | Nov. 2021 | Dec. 2021 |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total Cases | 1360 | 2031 | 3157 | 5308 | 4934 |
| Confirmed | 1120 | 1610 | 2505 | 4207 | 4052 |
| Probable | 240 | 421 | 652 | 1101 | 882 |

There are two classifications of cases that make up the total number of COVID-19 cases; confirmed cases and probable cases. The case count above includes both.

- Confirmed cases are people who had a nasopharyngeal or saliva COVID-19 PCR test that was positive.
- Probable cases are people who have COVID-19 symptoms and are close contacts of someone who has COVID-19, but did not have a PCR test done. If someone has a positive rapid COVID-19 antigen test (as well as COVID-19 symptoms and/or are a close contact of a COVID-19 case), they are reported as a probable case, because they did not have a COVID-19 PCR test done. The COVID-19 PCR test is the most sensitive COVID-19 test and is most likely to correctly diagnose an active COVID-19 infection.

Epi Curve

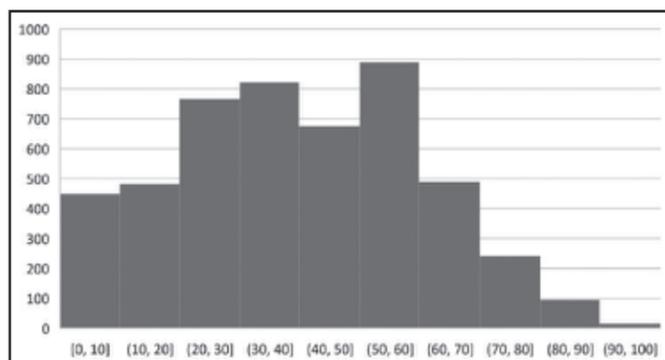
In Livingston County, there are currently 909 weekly cases per 100,000 as of January 3, 2022. This is nearly a 24% increase since November when there were 736 weekly cases per 100,000. Despite a slight decline observed at the beginning of December 2021, cases have risen significantly, likely due to an uptick in large holiday gatherings from mid-to-late December. Livingston County cases per 100,000 remains in the High risk threshold category (>=100 weekly cases per 100,000) as defined by the CDC. This is similar to neighboring counties in the Detroit region.



An epi curve is a way to visually show the onset of cases in a community during an outbreak. It shows us how many COVID-19 cases had the onset of symptoms on each day over a period of time. It is a way to illustrate the spread of COVID-19 in the community and how the number of cases has been trending.

Demographics

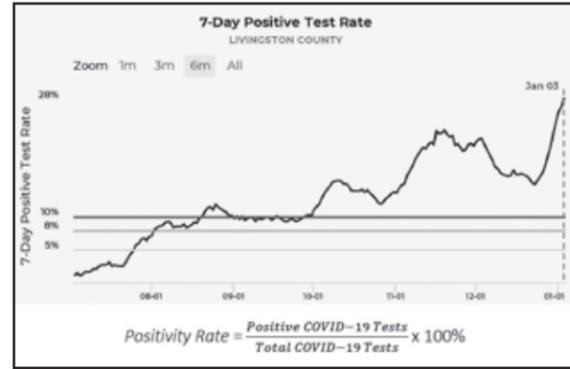
The ages of individuals with confirmed or probable COVID-19 during December 2021 range from two days to 100 years. The average age is 40 years, though the majority of COVID-19 cases are under the age of 60 years.



Test Positivity Rates

According to CDC, the COVID-19 transmission level in Livingston County remains High as defined by a test positivity rate greater than or equal to 10%. This week, Livingston County's 7-day test positivity rate reached record

highs. On January 3, 2022. Livingston County reported a 7-day test positivity rate of 28.2%. In comparison, 7-day test positivity rates on December 31 peaked around 24.7%. These local increases mirror test positivity increases seen across the State of Michigan.



The positivity rate represents the percentage of all COVID-19 tests that have come back positive over a certain period of time. The positivity rate depends on the number of COVID-19 cases in a community and the total number of tests that were done. The rate can be high if there are more COVID-19 cases and there is increased spread of COVID-19 in the community; it can also be increased if there are not enough tests being done in the community. Health departments have adopted the goal of achieving a positivity rate to be less than or equal to 3%.

Testing

In addition to increased test positivity rates, demand for COVID-19 testing has grown substantially. To increase access to testing, LCHD has partnered with LynxDx of Ann Arbor to set up a drive-thru COVID testing site at the Legacy Sports Center Complex in Brighton. Appointment based testing began on January 5, 2022 and is planned to operate Monday-Sunday from 9:00am-5:00pm. Residents can register by going to <https://lynxdx.health/register>. Frequently asked questions about the testing process and type of test being offered can be found here <https://bit.ly/3sWMRNe>.

Hospital Update

Locally, St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital has been operating at full capacity for the last three months. COVID-19 cases that required hospital admission dropped slightly in the second week of December as well as Emergency Department (ED) volumes throughout the holidays. However, ED volumes have risen since January 2, 2022. For those coming in with COVID-19, the cases are predominantly Omicron, where symptoms are very mild in those vaccinated and more severe in those unvaccinated. Lastly, St. Joseph Mercy Livingston is reporting increased COVID-19 deaths in the last 45 days primarily due to the Delta variant. Despite the slight decline in new COVID-19 hospital admissions reported at the beginning of December 2021, in the last few weeks these numbers have once again started to climb. Looking back at December 2021, there were 92 new COVID-19-associated hospitalizations. This is a 21% decrease compared to the previous month. The table below shows the number of new hospital admissions among cases referred to LCHD per month.

| | Aug. 2021 | Sept. 2021 | Oct. 2021 | Nov. 2021 | Dec. 2021 |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| New Admissions | 42 | 43 | 30 | 117 | 92 |

Deaths

Since the last report, there have been 57 additional deaths in Livingston County. To date, there have been 352 COVID-19-related deaths in Livingston County. The table below shows the number of deaths in cases referred to LCHD per month.

| | Aug. 2021 | Sept. 2021 | Oct. 2021 | Nov. 2021 | Dec. 2021 | Jan. * 2022 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Covid-19 Related Deaths | 12 | 14 | 30 | 50 | 55 | 2 |

* At the time this report was developed.

Variants of Concern

The first Omicron case in Livingston County was confirmed on December 27, 2021. Omicron spreads much more rapidly than other variants. Unvaccinated individuals are both at higher risk of being infected with Omicron and experiencing severe illness including hospitalizations and deaths. While vaccinated individuals are infected at higher rates than with previous variants, the disease is typically very mild among vaccinated individuals. Although Livingston County case counts and test positivity rates are extremely high right now, it is expected that these numbers will increase further before the Omicron surge improves. Using a layered approach to fight Omicron is best: ensure your COVID-19 vaccination status remains up to date, wear a high-quality mask (surgical or KN95/N95), and get tested if you have been exposed or develop symptoms.

Vaccinations

On January 5, 2022, CDC endorsed the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation to expand eligibility of booster doses to those 12 to 15 years old. Additionally, CDC recently updated its recommendation for when many people can receive a booster shot, shortening the

Fowlerville Police Report for the Village of Fowlerville Council Meeting for Monday, January 17, 2022

The Fowlerville Police Department responded to 677 calls for service over the past two weeks. Tickets issued during past two weeks 2.

Warrant Authorized/Declined

Incident #22-00007 – Concealed Weapons Violation and Driving While License Suspended – Warrant Furthered

• 56 y/o male, Stockbridge, January 4, 2022 at 2336 hours

Incident #22-00016 – Driving While License Suspended and Resisting & Obstructing – Warrant Authorized FELONY

• 24 y/o male, Flint, January 8, 2022 at 2253 hours

Incident #22-00017 – Operating While Intoxicated and Violation of Restricted License – Warrant Authorized

• 18 y/o male, Gregory, January 9, 2022 at 0247 hours

Incident #22-00012 – Operating While Intoxicated and No Motor Vehicle Insurance – Under Review

• 22 y/o female, Flint, January 8, 2022 at 0353 hours

Officers Investigated the Following Types of Complaints:

- 13-Assist to EMS/FAFD
- 2-Alarms
- 2-Assist other agency
- 154-Building/property check
- 3-Court/Prosecutor activity
- 3-Disturbance
- 1-Fireworks
- 20-Follow up
- 54- General Non Criminal
- 1-Juvenile complaint
- 11-Liquor investigation
- 3-Motorist assist
- 15-Ordinance investigation
- 2-Patrol/traffic complaint
- 3-PBT request
- 1-Personal injury accident
- 1-Public service
- 89-Subdivision patrol
- 4- Suspicious Situations/Vehicle/Person
- 1-Subpoena service
- 1-Trespassing complaint
- 2-Welfare check
- 1-Admin duties
- 170-Area check
- 2- Citizen assist
- 1-Civic event
- 1-CSC
- 1-DWLS
- 5-Foot patrol
- 4-Hazard
- 1-Info general
- 3-Larceny
- 1-Meetings
- 1-Noise complaint
- 2-OWI
- 1-Outdoor fire
- 2-PDA
- 1-Prisoner transport
- 1-Repo info
- 21-School events
- 36-Traffic details
- 34-Traffic stops
- 1-Weapons offense

The above statistical information is retrieved using the computer aided dispatching module, provided by Livingston County Central Dispatch. All supporting statistical documentation can be provided upon request.

Assist Other Agency:

Officer Duong was requested by the Livingston County Sheriff Department to check the status of vehicle that had struck a tree just outside the Village. Officer Duong checked the welfare of the driver and advised the responding Deputy that no injuries were reported. Officer Duong stood by until the LCSO Deputy arrived on scene.

Officer Feister was requested by a Livingston County Sheriff Department Deputy to assist him on checking the Fowlerville area for a suspect/ suspect vehicle that was involved in a home invasion that occurred in the County. Officer Feister checked the area and the suspect and vehicle were not located.

Additional Information:

I attended the monthly Chiefs roundtable discussion. We discussed issues/concerns and crime trends we are seeing in our respective communities. These meetings are really beneficial and it keeps the lines of communications open for Police, Fire, EMS, and Central Dispatch.

On Monday, January 10, FPD investigated a pedestrian vs vehicle injury accident. The victim was a teenage boy who attempted to cross the road. He tried to run in between two

vehicles and ran into an empty equipment hauling trailer. The victim was rushed to Sparrow Hospital in Lansing and was last listed in critical condition. Our thoughts and prayers are with the teenager and his family and hope for a speedy recovery.

Please remind your children to cross the street at crosswalks and look both ways as Fowlerville is getting busier all the time. We also ask drivers to slow down and not be distracted by using phones, eating food, or numerous others distractions. A traffic study was conducted over the summer of 2021 and on Grand River Road alone nearly 5,000 cars pass through the Village. We strive to make Fowlerville the safest community and are always looking for ways to make it safer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chief John J. Tyler

Smith Elementary School News

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm
School Hours: 8:50 am – 3:32 pm

IMPORTANT DATES:

- January 17- NO SCHOOL (MLK Jr Day)
- January 21- K-5th Gd ½ Day of School - Early Dismissal (12:02)
- January 26- Virtual Meeting for First Grade Parents re: Body Safety Training
- February 21- NO SCHOOL (President's Day)
- March 4 – End of 2nd Trimester K-5
- March 10 – K-5th Gd ½ Day of School (Dismissal 12:02)
- March 10 – Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00 – 4:00 & 5:00 – 7:30
- March 28 to April 1 – NO SCHOOL (SPRING RECESS)
- April 4 – School Resumes
- April 15 – NO SCHOOL (GOOD FRIDAY RECESS)

Medication –If your child requires any prescription or non-prescription medication during the school year, a parent or guardian must bring the medication in to the Smith Office to drop it off and complete the necessary paperwork. **School Board Policy states that children are not allowed to transport medication.**

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.

Fowlerville School Equestrian Team having general meeting Jan. 19

The Fowlerville School Equestrian Team will be having a general meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 19, at 6:30pm in the High School Media Center. This is open to students interested in joining the team this upcoming season. This would apply to kids currently in 5th-11th grade. Any questions please contact Fowlerville High School Athletics at 517-223-6061.

Meals on Wheels program needs volunteer drivers to make deliveries

The Meals on Wheels program needs volunteers in the Gregory, Hamburg, and Pinckney areas.

We would love the opportunity for you to be part of our team. This is a commitment of 1-2 hours of your time as little or as often as your schedule will allow. Once a month, once a week, temporary, or on a continuous basis. *Delivering meals to homebound seniors is a very rewarding experience.*

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! Come be part of our team.

For more information, please call Lucy @ 810-632-2155 or email info@lwmow.org

Number of COVID-19 cases in county public school districts reported

The *Livingston Daily Press Argus* had an article last week on the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by Livingston County public school districts as of Monday, Jan. 10. The totals, the article stated, were available due to an order from the state health department last fall that all public school districts must report these cases online.

Here are those totals:

- Fowlerville Community Schools- 147 cases
- Howell Public School District- 511 cases
- Brighton Area Schools- 374 cases
- Pinckney Community Schools- 272 cases
- Hartland Community Schools- 540 cases

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Livingston County COVID-19 Report (Continued)

interval from six months to five months for people who received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines. LCHD continues to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to the public. Individuals interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccine from LCHD can check our website for appointment availability: <https://bit.ly/3kGpliJ>. Individuals can also visit www.vaccines.gov to look for other nearby vaccination opportunities

Coverage Metrics

Vaccination rates in Livingston County continue to increase. At the time of this report, 65.5% of Livingston County residents have initiated their COVID-19 vaccination (i.e., received at least one dose of any COVID-19 vaccine). At the time of this report, 60.6% of residents are considered to be fully vaccinated with either one dose of Janssen or two doses of either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines. Below shows the vaccination initiation metrics collected from the MDHHS COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard as of December 31, 2021 (<https://bit.ly/39fQVxp>).

| State of Michigan | Residents Vaccinated | Vaccination Coverage (% of Residents Vaccinated) |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| All Ages | 5,928,297 | 62.9% |
| 65+ years | 1,540,955 | 87.3% |
| 12-64 years | 4,215,626 | 61.7% |
| 5-11 years | 171,194 | 20.7% |

| Livingston County | Residents Vaccinated | Vaccination Coverage (% of Residents Vaccinated) |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| All Ages | 118,836 | 65.1% |
| 65+ years | 30,672 | 89.2% |
| 12-64 years | 84,292 | 63.4% |
| 5-11 years | 3,868 | 25.5% |

Sweetheart Dances being sponsored by Howell Rec during February

Monday, February 7th – Daddy/Daughter 1
 Tuesday, February 8th – Daddy/Daughter 2

Wednesday, February 9th – Mother/Son
 Thursday, February 10th – Family Dance 6pm-8pm

Our annual Sweetheart Dances are back this February! Join us for four

nights of dancing fun for the whole family! There will be a red carpet roll out and paparazzi on site for this night of Hollywood fun. Don't miss the chance to put your star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at this great community event!

Cost is \$16 per person with dinner included. Last day to register is January 31st. The dances will be held at Chemung Hills, 3125 Golf Club Rd. Howell. Contact us: parksandrec@howellrecreation.org or call 517-546-0693 ext. 0



Smith Elementary highlights 'Classroom of the Week'

The 'Classroom of the Week' at Smith Elementary School are the students in Mrs. Andrea Hart's first-grade class. From left, front row: Malachi Khang, Ella Buxton, Emma Boyde, Joel Piedra, Anastacia Baez, Brooklyn Siconolfi; middle row: Mackenzie Reighard, James Johnson, Wyatt Ulman, Nora Salgado, Annabella Tatarian, Shelby Nickolopoulos; and back row: Mrs. Hart, Seth Miles, Zac Hargrove, Lillian Duckett, William Shadrack III, Luke Roy, MaKenna Reindeau, Lucas Shafer, and Ms. Shelby LeMay.

Fowlerville Varsity Boys Basketball Team tops league rival Mason, 61-46

The Fowlerville Varsity Boys Basketball Team took on league rival Mason on Friday night (Jan. 7) and came away with a hard-fought 61-46 win.

Brendan Ray scored a career-high 23

points, including 8 in the fourth quarter as the Glads out scored the Bulldogs 22-12 in the final period. Greg Wilkinson added 16 points and 10 rebounds, while Jack Shrader scored 7 and Carter Young had 6.

The win put Fowlerville at 4-2 for the season and 1-1 in CAAC Red play as they prepared for further play this past week.

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| <p style="font-size: x-large; font-weight: bold;">\$265*</p> <p style="font-size: small;">OIL BOILER MAINTENANCE</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">*Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at time of service. Boiler must be in operating condition. This value excluded. Offer ends 2-28-22.</p> | <p style="font-size: x-large; font-weight: bold;">\$50 OFF</p> <p style="font-size: small;">WATER HEATER INSTALLATION</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">*Not valid with any other offer. Present coupon at time of service. This value excluded. Offer ends 2-28-22.</p> | <p style="font-size: x-large; font-weight: bold;">\$25 OFF*</p> <p style="font-size: small;">DIAGNOSTIC FEE WITH REPAIR</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">*Not valid with any other offer. Present coupon at time of service. This value excluded. Offer ends 2-28-22.</p> | <p style="font-size: x-large; font-weight: bold;">\$200* OFF</p> <p style="font-size: small;">FURNACE INSTALLATION OR A/C INSTALLATION</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">*Not valid with any other offer. Present coupon at time of service. This value excluded. Offer ends 2-28-22.</p> |

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Fowlerville Masonic Lodge installs a new Master

Last Tuesday night, Charles Burroughs was installed as the new Master of the Fowlerville Masonic Lodge. Burroughs is a Past Master of Dimondale Lodge and now a member in the local lodge. Many Masonic dignitaries were present and took part in the ceremony, including Masters and Past Masters from the surrounding communities.

From left were Ryan E. Binkley, District Deputy Instructor; Charles R. Burroughs, the new Master of Fowlerville Lodge #164; and Dan Byres, Past Master of the Howell Masonic Lodge.

Livingston County United Way holding community discussion on environment

Livingston County United Way would like to invite you to a Community Discussion about our environment and sustainability. The Discussion Session will include key topics such as the environment, recycling and composting, green gardening, clean energy, waste reduction, and transportation alternatives.

Livingston County is well known as pioneers in collaboration and county-wide solutions. Why should environmental efforts be any different?

We know many businesses have a passion and commitment to recycle and reduce waste. We want you at the table! The session will be an opportunity to hear from the various community members and organizations that are already acting on these issues, learn what work is being done that can be amplified in our community, and learn what needs still exist. The result will be identifying how we might work together to achieve greater impact. We also hope this will culminate into a plan for Earth Day 2022.

WHEN: Thursday, January 27 from 3-4:30pm

WHERE: Zoom platform

RSVP: Email to Liz Welch at lwelch@lcunitedway.org

We think this is a critical issue- and we know that you do too. We look forward to including your perspective into the conversation.

Letter to the Editor

Well, January 6th has become the Left's new Christmas day. They cannot celebrate the many failed policies of Joe Biden on every front. Look at Afghanistan: hundreds or more at-risk Americans and allies are still being supported and evacuated as possible by private and veteran groups. Just check your grocery bill and utility bills to determine the inflation. Look at the border: for example, the mayor of Yuma, Arizona has declared a state of emergency in his town because of the unlawful surge of illegals.

Why don't we ever hear this on the news? These are just a few of the debacles. The only thing the Dems have (or think they have) is Jan. 6th—the "insurrection" when all Congress was supposedly in great danger. According to Harris, this day rivals 9-11 and Pearl Harbor. Really? The person who was killed was an unarmed woman and veteran, Ashley Babbit, whom the media seems to have forgotten about. So has Joe Biden. I guess she does not matter, only the dramatic whining of the imaginary victims in the House and Senate. I wonder why Pelosi refused National Guard support when it was offered. She had something in mind.

This failed president and his party are hoping that the conservatives and Trump supporters will be blamed for this event which they have so darkly portrayed. They hope they can somehow use this smokescreen to pull a victory out of their own incompetence and unconstitutional acts. Is this distraction working with Americans? I don't think so. We aren't that stupid. Yes, I agree that we are fighting for the soul of America, but Biden and the Democrats are on the wrong side of the battle.

Sandra Helzerman,
Fowlerville

Senate adopts Thisis resolution opposing Biden's Head Start vaccine & mask mandates

The state Senate on Wednesday adopted a resolution sponsored by Sen. Lana Thisis opposing the Biden administration's recent mandate of Head Start programs throughout the nation, including in Michigan, to require

continued on page 16



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We are pleased to announce Master Media and Smart Business Source have joined forces. We conducted an extensive search within our region looking for an opportunity like this.

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**When will this happen?
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Kreeger Elementary School News

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sign areas marked. Bring your child's original raised seal birth certificate, 2 proofs of Fowlerville Schools residency and if your child attended a school in Michigan his/her immunizations will be on the MCIR website.

CALENDAR OF KREEGER EVENTS

- 1-17-22 NO SCHOOL K-12
- 1-18-22 Art Club 4th Grade A group
- 1-19-22 Art Club 4th Grade B group
- 1-20-22 Art Club 3rd Grade A group
- 1-21-22 ½ Day School K- 5 12:02 Dismissal
- 1-24-22 Art Club 5th Grade
- 1-24 thru 1-27 Vision Screening for 3rd & 5th Grade Students
- 2-21-22 NO SCHOOL K-12

VISION SCREENING INFORMATION

Livingston County Health Department is providing Vision Screening for 3rd and 5th grade students from January 24th thru January 27th. Please call the school at (517)-223-6005 if you

do not want your child screened. If you have a concern and would like your child tested technicians will accept parent/teacher requests on the first day of screening (Please call and we will add you to the list). Any other questions regarding Vision Screening may be answered by calling the Health Department at (517)-546-9850.

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your student will be absent for any reason please call the attendance line at 517-223-6333. We do not get messages that are sent directly to the teachers. Thank you.

STUDENT MEDICATION

If your child requires any prescription or non-prescription medication during the school year, a parent or guardian must bring the medication in to the Kreeger Office to drop it off and complete the necessary paperwork. **School Board Policy states that children are not allowed to transport medication.**



JUST for KIDS



Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On January 15, 1929, Michael King, Jr. was born to Michael King, Sr., a Baptist pastor who traveled to Germany and was inspired by the reformist Martin Luther. As a result, King Sr. changed his name as well as his son's.

At the age of 15, Martin Luther King, Jr. entered Morehouse College. While growing up, he witnessed how the Jim Crow Laws segregated white and black people in public places. Moreover, African-Americans were denied the right to participate in elections. By 1955, he earned his doctorate degree at Boston University.

In 1955, King Jr. first emerged in the Civil Rights Movement after the Rosa Parks incident. Rosa Parks was arrested when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white man. King, along with other African-American leaders, organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott which lasted for 381 days. After the boycott, the Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation was unconstitutional.

As an activist, King was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi in employing non-violent protests.

In 1963, MLK delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech which became one of the famous speeches in the history of the United States. His dream was a society where in both black and white people can live peacefully.

After a year, he became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in outlawing racial segregation and discrimination.

In 1968, MLK was assassinated while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis. James Earl Ray was arrested for his murder and was imprisoned for life until his death in 1998.

After MLK's death, campaigns emerged for a public holiday to honor his birthday. Trade unions led the campaign until it was endorsed in 1976. In 1983, after six million signatures, President Ronald Reagan signed the bill into a law.

Three years later, the first Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was first observed in some states. In 2000, all states commemorated this day to honor the influential African-American Civil Rights Movement leader.

SOME MLK DAY OBSERVANCES

Civil Rights Day to commemorate the movement rather than King alone.

On this day, Americans promote equal rights regardless of background.

In Chicago, a number of museums with exhibits highlighting MLK's life and legacy are open free of admission fees for Illinois residents.

In Cleveland, Ohio, programs including film screenings and musical performances about the Civil Rights Movements are organized each year.

During this day, about 500 national parks are open for free. MLK Day is one of four times a year in which these entrance fees are waived.

In Washington, D.C., many locals visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the National Mall where the March on Washington was culminated.

Two of the biggest annual parades honoring MLK are held in Florida and Colorado. Various programs fostering multiculturalism and King's dream are open for huge crowds.

ADDITIONAL MLK DAY FACTS

Other than Martin Luther King, Jr., there are only two individuals with national holidays honoring them: George Wash-

ington and Christopher Columbus.

Congressman John Conyers of Michigan first proposed a bill to honor King just four days after the assassination, but it was not passed until 1983.

Former slave holding states initially re-

scinded the holiday because it coincided with Confederate General Robert E. Lee's birthday.

Other than the United States, MLK Day is also celebrated in Hiroshima, Japan; Toronto, Canada; and Holland.



Martin Luther King Jr.

Alabama
Brotherhood
Change
Civil Rights
Dream
Equality
Freedom
Georgia
Integration
January
Justice
Minister
Nobel
Nonviolence
Peace
Rosa Parks
Segregation
Speech

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—Area Deaths—



Judith A. (Miner) Forster

March 31, 1949 ~ January 7, 2022 (age 72)

Judith A. (Miner) Forster was called to eternal life to be with our heavenly father on January 7, 2022. She was born the daughter of the late William and Lucille (Finlan) Miner. She was the loving wife of Harry H. Forster for 49 years and 9 months. She is survived by her daughters: Bridget (Todd) Russell and Kendra Forster; granddaughters: Alexis and Emmalee Russell, Betsy Jo and Chloe Reighard; her siblings: Thomas (Bonnie) Miner and Susan (Dennis) Kreeger. She was honored to be an aunt to Gary K. Miner and Sandra (James) Boggio and Nathan (Teresa) Kreeger and Jessica (Jonathan) LaCross while being a Great Aunt to their six children. She will be remembered fondly by numerous cousins, too many to count, of the extended family whom she

was very close with.

Judy was a lifelong Fowlerville resident and member of St. Agnes Catholic Church. She graduated from Fowlerville High School in 1967, married and began her family in 1972. She was a dedicated employee at local banks working the teller line and retiring from First National Bank of Howell in 2015 in their customer service department.

Music was an integral part of her life, one that was shared and passed down the generations; her musicality is no surprise being part of the Finlan sister family consisting of Lucy, Jo, Fran and Mary. She was active in the church choir, golfed many years with friends and family on the Monday Night Ladies League at Oak Lane, picked up whittling as a hobby and was known for her handcrafted knickknacks, canes and walking sticks. She enjoyed knitting and crocheting, making various items from blankets and one-of-a-kind clothing for her grandchildren and their dolls. She was skilled at games and card playing, spending hours at the table beating her friends. Judy's life has been gifted with many close friends, life-long relationships where any place she went she was greeted by familiar faces. Her red hair and spitfire personality will be part of her legacy by those who knew her.

Judy was blessed with a strong faith and a loving, caring personality. She left friends and family with lasting memories to be cherished.

A visitation for Judy will be held on January 20th, at St. Agnes Church in the Lothemer Parish Center in Fowlerville from 4:00-8:00pm, with a 7:00pm Rosary. A funeral service will be held Friday, January 21st, at 10:30am at St. Agnes Church and a burial at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to a charity that helps children such as Shriners Hospital, St. Jude's, something more local like Ele's Place or foundation of your choice. Helping children was always a priority in Judy's life and taking care of them in her name would be celebrated.



Mary Lou Burge

Mary Lou "Luey" Burge 62, of Fowlerville, Michigan passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 6, 2022 with her family by her side. Mary Lou was born October 18, 1959 to the late Howard W. Goetterman and Shirley A. (Major) Goetterman-Harder. On August 4, 1984 she married the love of her life, Darwin "Dar" L. Burge.

Mary is survived by her husband Dar Burge and her son Darwin James "DJ" Burge, both of Fowlerville, MI. She is also survived by her siblings: Sharon (Larry) Chimovitz of Flint MI, Ralph Goetterman of Fenton MI, Ronald Goetterman of Webberville MI, Robert (Debi) Goetterman of Beaverton MI, Lori (Patrick) Grover of Morrice MI, and Ryan Goetterman of Burton MI. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews that she dearly loved as well as her special childhood and lifelong friends JoAnne Epp and Lori Wakefield who are among so many friends, too numerous to mention.

She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings: Nancy, Howard, James, and Richard Goetterman as well as her special sister-in-law Cheryl Goetterman, niece Joanne Goetterman and nephew Howard J. Goetterman.

Mary worked several years as a materials handler for TRW as well as in housekeeping and food service for McPherson Community Hospital, now known as St. Joseph Mercy Livingston. She was forced into medical retirement upon the onset of multiple debilitating medical conditions which she considered a blessing as it allowed her to spend time with and care for her son DJ, who was her pride, joy and beacon of light in her life.

She enjoyed playing her online games and engaging in constant conversation via Facebook with her huge network of friends and family. She also loved her time outdoors planting and tending her garden, canning and preserving the herbs and vegetables she nurtured there.

Cremation and related services were provided by the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home in Saline. A memorial service will be held later in the year. Memorial contributions may be made to the family to be utilized for her final expenses. To sign Mary's guestbook, to leave a memory, or for more information or directions please visit www.rbhfsaline.com.



Thomas Rodney Stage

Thomas Rodney Stage, age 83 of Fowlerville died at his home on January 6, 2022. He was the son of Gleason & Lynette Stage. He married Jenell House on June 28, 1959. She survives him.

A 1956 graduate of Fowlerville High School. He served his country in the Air Force where he was a communication specialist. Upon discharge from the service he returned home to continue the family farm for over 40 years. He loved to go camping and enjoyed his grandchildren.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Jenell. 2 daughters: Kay (Ed) Latson of Byron and Lori Stage of Morrice and 1 son: Tim (Patty) Stage of Fowlerville. 4 Grandchildren: Catherine Mirling, Ryan (Jessica) Stage, Melanie (Eric) Szczepanski, and Christa Latson and 2 step-grandchildren Tessa (Patrick) Perla and Joshua (Natasha) O'Connell. 3 great grandchildren: Abby Mirling, Addison Mirling and Rodney Lee Stage and 2 step-great grandchildren: Nicholas and Mathew O'Connell. Brother; Floyd (Carol) Stage, Sister; Rachel Dickie and several nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brother Theodore, brother-in-law Terry Dickie, brother-in-law Elliott House & sister-in-law & brother-in-law Idalene and AJ Lindquist & their son John Lindquist.

Visitation took place Monday, January 10, 2022 at the Herrmann Funeral Home from 3-7pm. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, with a visitation from 10-11am and the service starting at 11am at the Fowlerville First United Methodist Church.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Elara Caring, 3100 W. Road #110, East Lansing 48823.



Rodney Lee Sober

On January 24, 2020, Rodney Lee Sober, age 75 passed away peacefully after a battle of cancer. A longtime resident of Fowlerville, MI, he was born on October 26, 1945 to Hubert and Audrey (Shoup) Sober.

Rodney proudly owned the Hair Barn in Fowlerville for many years. He had a passion for gardening, and he took much pride in his yards and gardens and giving a helping hand to whoever needed it. He enjoyed volunteering at the Fowlerville Fairgrounds. You could find him fishing anytime he had a chance or hunting. He had a contagious laugh and loved making his grandchildren giggle anytime possible.

Rodney was preceded in death by his brother Richard Sober, sister Patricia Devlin, niece Nancee Sanville and his parents Hubert and Audrey Sober. He is survived by his sister Jacqueline (Jack) Calkins, daughters Rachelle (Matt) Henney of Sunfield, MI and Roni (Jeremy) Henney of Lake Odessa, MI; grandchildren Cameron Winter, Aubri, Addison, Taylor, Lucas & Reid Henney, as well as many nieces, nephews and a dear close friend Les Crampton.

There will be a mass in the repose of Rodney on January 23, 2022 at the St. Agnes Catholic Church in Fowlerville, MI. at 11 a.m.

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Webberville Report



Senior Spotlight—Logan Brown
 By Logan Pierce

Logan Brown is the son of Erin Buell and Kevin Brown, and the brother of Tyler Millar who graduated from Durand in 2015. Brown has been at Webberville Schools for eight years, and in his time here has made an impression on and off the playing field and court as well as in the life of the school.

Brown takes pride in being involved in numerous extracurricular activities including cross country, basketball, track and field, choir, and campus life. One of Brown's biggest achievements was helping his cross-country team qualify for the state meet. The team finished in the top ten, and they even beat Morrice throughout the season, as well as at state meet.

"The amount of honor and pride I felt from being able to run with my teammates in such an important race was an exhilarating feeling," said Brown. "I will for sure never forget that day."

In his free time Brown enjoys playing basketball, working out, playing video games, and spending time with his best friend Nathan Lott.

"He's been my best friend since 7th grade," said teammate Nathan Lott. "Plus, he's sweet at Call of Duty."

Although Brown is unsure of his plans after high school, he knows what he'll miss the most next fall.

"I'll miss seeing my favorite teachers, being a part of pep rallies, and sitting at the lunch table talking about school, sports, and other activities."

A few of Brown's favorite teachers are Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Rolan, and Mr. Katona.

"The one thing that stands out to me is when Logan used to bring his own book of beginning Spanish words to middle school Spanish class," said Spanish teacher Mrs. Rolan. "It was too funny to watch how proud he was to show me that he was ready to learn the language. He learned more than most other students that year!"

Brown is inspired by Baylen Levine, a social media influencer, "He inspires me to be a positive person, and to be nice to everyone. Even if the people around you do not give the same positivity back. He also inspires me to chase after my dreams."

As a senior, Brown has been able to learn from his high school experience and he offers this advice to future graduates: "Don't lay off your work, it will end up snowballing. Believe me, I know."

NIESA Fire Report (Northeast Ingham Emergency Service Authority)

On Wednesday January 5, 2022 NIESA responded to three calls. Two were emergency medical calls, with one occurring in the City of Williamston, and another in Williamstown Township. NIESA also responded to a vehicle accident in Leroy Township at the corner of Grand River, and M-52.

Thursday January 6, 2022 NIESA had six calls. One was a fire response which was an assist to Meridian Township for a possible commercial building fire on Grand River. The other five responses were emergency medical calls, with two occurring in the City of Williamston, one in Leroy Township, one in Wheatfield Township, and one was an assist to Stockbridge.

Friday January 7, 2022 was a busy day with ten responses. Two responses were for vehicle accidents. One occurred in Wheatfield Township at the corner of Linn and Zimmer Rd, the second was in Leroy Township on Grand River. NIESA also responded to eight emergency medical calls. There were two calls each in the Village of Webberville, City of Williamston, Locke Township, and one call each in Wheatfield Township and Leroy Township.

On Saturday January 8, 2022 NIESA responded to six emergency medical calls. There were four calls in the City of Williamston, and one each in Wheatfield Township and Williamstown Township.

Sunday January 9, 2022 NIESA had three calls. All of the responses were emergency medical calls and they occurred in Locke Township, the City of Williamston, and the Village of Webberville.

On Monday January 10, 2022 NIESA had five calls. One was a vehicle accident in Leroy Township at the corner of Gramer Road and Grand River. The remaining four responses were emergency medical calls occurring in the City of Williamston, Leroy Township, Wheatfield Township, and White Oak Township.

Tuesday January 11, 2022 NIESA responded to three calls. All were emergency medical calls, with two occurring in the City of Williamston and one in Wheatfield Township.

Williamston Area

Senior Center

201 School Street - 517-655-5173

January 2022 Events

Please check our website www.williamstonseniorcenter.com or our Facebook for specific announcements of upcoming activities.

Tuesday, January 18th – Euchre 10am-Noon and Tai-Chi Chair Exercise with Paul at 12:30pm

Wednesday, January 19th – Euchre 10am-Noon, National Popcorn Day/Movie & Popcorn showing Mary Poppins and Needle Work Group from 1pm-3pm

Thursday, January 20th – Euchre 10am-Noon and Consumers Energy Workshop at 12:30pm

Monday, January 24th – Chili & Cornbread Lunch from 11am-1pm

Tuesday, January 25th – Euchre 10am-Noon and Mind Games with the Library at 12:30pm

Wednesday, January 26th – Euchre 10am-Noon, Australia Day/Travel to Australia Day at 12:30pm and Needle Work Group from 1pm-3pm

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Crossroads United Methodist Church holding Swiss steak dinner Jan. 29

Crossroads United Methodist Church will resume its monthly Swiss steak dinners for the public on Saturday, January 29. Dinner will start at 4 p.m. and last until supplies are gone. The cost is \$9 per person, regardless of age.

Due to Covid19 protocols, all dinners will be boxed. People will pay inside, pick up their dinners and carry them home or take them to a table in the fellowship hall to eat, picnic style. Masks are encouraged. On the menu will be Swiss steak, mashed potatoes with mushroom gravy, vegetables, coleslaw, rolls and cookies.

The church is located at the corner of Haslett and Zimmer roads, east of Haslett and north of Williamston. For more details, please contact the church at 517/655-1466 or email at office.umccrossroads@gmail.com.

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Some Special Recipes

By Dawn Horton

Thank you to Jean Carl, a local resident and former mail carrier for these recipes. Both sound great for the cold winter days ahead. Enjoy!

CHICKEN POT PIE

This would also be very good over biscuits.

In a saucepan combine:

• 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breast halves, cut into 1/2 inch cubes

- 1 cup sliced carrots
- 1 cup frozen green peas
- 1/2 cup sliced celery

Add water to cover and boil for 15 minutes. Remove from heat, drain and set aside.

- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/3 cup butter

In same saucepan, over medium heat, cook onion in butter until soft and transparent.

Stir in:

- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1/4 tsp celery seed

Slowly stir in:

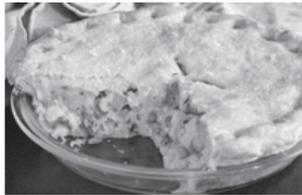
- 1 3/4 cup chicken broth (1 small can)
- 2/3 cup milk

Simmer and stir until thickened. Remove from heat and set aside.

- 1 pastry for a 9 inch pie

Arrange pie crust into whatever dish you wish to use. Spoon in the chicken mixture, then spoon some of the broth mixture over it. Top with a top crust, cut slits in it to allow steam to escape, and bake at 350 for 30-35 minutes or until golden brown. (Preheat the oven to 425 then turn it down when you put the pie or pies in.) I used casserole dishes for individual servings. Place them on a cookie sheet to save them from boiling over on to the bottom of your oven. It is easier to remove from the oven too. They will be HOT. Let cool for 10 minutes before serving.

—Jean Carl



JEAN'S PINEAPPLE CAKE

Mix:

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tsp baking soda

Add:

- 1 large can undrained crushed pineapple
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 5 oz. chopped pecans

Bake in a greased and floured 9x13 inch pan at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes. Reduce to 325 degrees if using a glass dish. Bake as a sheet cake for only 20-25 minutes. Frost when cake cools with this frosting or any other that you wish.

FROSTING

Cream together:

- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened (one stick)
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

—Jean Carl



Control

By Jace Arledge

I have had something on my mind for awhile, I just wasn't sure how to go about writing it down. I didn't want it to come off as offensive, or have people take it the wrong way as my posts are usually about lifting people up and doing the right thing no matter the cost.

Unfortunately, there is always a time that if you don't show the vulnerable side, healing doesn't come and I am not too primitive of a man to let my guard down and share. I think it portrays me as a human.

Which brings me to this week's writing.

You see the title CONTROL...ask yourself, Are you in control of your life? You need to be objective when answering because most believe they are even when they aren't. Our entire lives we have been conditioned to subject ourselves to the mercy of others that we often forget what may be in the best interest of someone else may not be in our best interest. There is no vision for and you are not in the driver's seat of your own car. You may be riding along but surely not driving. So I ask then, who IS driving? Your boss, spouse, parents, children?

It seems like I have lost my vision and as I get older the further away that vision becomes. My wife read a book a while back called the "5 second rule" by Mel Robbins. Now while I have not read it, she did read some snippets to me and I can tell you it's got some good suggestions. You should pick up a copy and check it out. In the book Mel talks about how if you want to find the person who is going to change your life, "you must look in the mirror." (pg.11, 5 second rule). However, if what you see in the mirror you don't like, then this becomes an almost impossible task.

I grew up in a normal home, but a strict one. Control was never mine. From the way I dressed to the friends I kept, there was this expectation and nothing else was really ok. I mean, if it were up to me I would have worn jeans with holes and old shirts and had the burnouts over to spend the night along with the jocks. Alas, control wasn't in my hands, and it gave me a bitter taste in my mouth.

I remember saying that I wouldn't be like my parents. Now please don't misunderstand me, I didn't do drugs and wasn't interested, I just liked people no matter what social, cultural or other class they were in. It was a bit easier in my day (before indoor plumbing.. LOL) that if you did not want to participate in certain activities you weren't made fun of, that's not the case today. It's as if that's how kids get popular.

So when my children started getting older and wanted to spread their wings and fly, I began to see me doing the one thing I said I wouldn't, BECOME MY PARENTS. I justified it with "I want them to be safe," "The world is not the same as when I was young," and many other excuses, yet I was still doing it. Which leads me back to my title, CONTROL. Does my past still have control over me? Is this how I work towards getting rid of my control by controlling others and then passing it down, like a family heirloom? I don't know, I just know that I hope to accidentally "drop" this antique behavior so it shatters into a thousand pieces that can never be repaired.

I am a work in progress, and I am sure I will stumble and fall but I am determined to regain CONTROL one day. With faith and grace, I will prevail.

So ask yourself, are you REALLY in control or are you in the passenger seat? What's your next move?

Till next time...

Eastern Ingham Farmers Market bottle & can collection two Sundays per month

The regular season may have ended, but Sowing Growth, the non-profit that operates the Eastern Ingham Farmers Market in Williamston, continues its bottle and can collection fundraiser for the Market during the off-season. On the first and third Sundays of the month, they accept Michigan-returnables from the large parking lot of McCormick Park in Williamston on these dates in 2022:

- January 16, 11am to 1pm
- February 6 and 20, 11am to 1pm
- March 6 and 20, 11am to 1pm
- April 3 and 17 (Easter), 11am to 1pm, and
- May 1, 11am to 1pm
- May 15, the 2022 regular season for the Market begins, 10am to 2pm collecting bottles and cans each of 22 Sundays

For more information about Sowing Growth and the Eastern Ingham Farmers Market in Williamston, to become a vendor, to be added to the newsletter email list, to volunteer in the off-season or to donate to the Market, visit the Market website www.EasternInghamFarmersMarket.org, visit its Facebook page or contact Market Manager Tom Cary (616-916-9823) or EasternInghamFM@gmail.com.

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Your Local Shopping Bazaar

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS LEROY TOWNSHIP INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF LEROY TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following is a general summary of amendments to the Leroy Township Zoning Ordinance text, which were adopted by the Leroy Township Board at the meeting held January 4, 2022:

- Establish a Civil Infractions system for zoning enforcements.
- Establish rules for Marijuana Caregiver Home Occupations.
- Exempt unenclosed front porches from setback requirements.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of the amendments can be obtained by contacting Leroy Township Hall at 517-521-3729.

Wilma Whitehead
Leroy Township Clerk
1685 N. M-52
Webberville, MI 48892
(1-16-22 FNV)

NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY TO INCORPORATE AS A CHARTER TOWNSHIP AND RIGHT TO REFERENDUM

Official certification has been received from the Michigan Secretary of State that the Township of Handy has a population of 2,000 or more according to the most recent United States Census and is therefore eligible to be incorporated as a charter township under the provisions of the Charter Township Act, Public Act 359 of 1947, as amended (MCL 42.3a). The Township Board has the right to exercise one of three options concerning status as a charter township:

1. Adopt by majority vote a resolution opposed to incorporation as a charter township.
2. Adopt by majority vote a resolution of intent to approve incorporation as a charter township. At least 60 days after the adoption of the resolution of intent, the Township Board may adopt the resolution to incorporate as a charter township.
3. Adopt by majority vote a resolution to place before the electorate at the next regular or special township election the question of incorporation as a charter township.

If option 2 is adopted by the Township Board, the citizens of the Township have the right to file a "Right to Referendum Petition." This petition must be filed within the 60 days which must lapse between the passage of a resolution of intent to incorporate and before the final adoption of the resolution to incorporate as a charter township.

The petition must follow, in general form, the nominating petition form as prescribed in the Michigan Election Law (MCL 168.488), and the heading must indicate "Disagreement of Intent to Incorporate as a Charter Township." The petition must be signed by not less than 10% of the registered voters of the Township based on the vote cast for all candidates for township supervisor at the last election in which a supervisor was elected.

If the petition is successful, the question of incorporation will be placed on the ballot at the next general or special township election.

Laura A. Eisele, Clerk
Handy Township
(1-16 & 23-2022)

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Every Saturday starting at 9:45 am

January 8, 2022 Prices

| Auctioned Item | Quantity | Price |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Square Hay | 1594 | \$2.00-\$7.25 |
| Large Square Hay | 24 | \$30.00-\$42.50 |
| Round Hay | 230 | \$15.00-\$60.00 |
| Square Straw | 339 | \$2.25-\$3.75 |
| Large Square Straw | 18 | \$22.00-\$25.00 |
| Wood | 5 | \$77.50-\$95.00 |
| Eggs | 127 Dozen | \$1.25-\$2.00 |
| Chickens | 8 | \$2.50-\$12.50 |
| Pigeons | 30 | \$5.50-\$6.00 |
| Rabbits | 11 | \$1.00-\$15.00 each |
| Ducks | 8 | \$1.00-\$14.00 |
| Calves | 4 | \$225.00-\$400.00 |

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 *Fowlerville News & Views* 
-DEADLINE THURSDAY BY 3PM-

DIRECT CARE STAFF NEEDED: To take care of disabled adults in Howell. DL/ID, GED/Diploma needed. Call Shelbey at 810-588-3724.

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WANTED: Junk or Disabled vehicles or scrap metal. Paying up to \$1,000 depending on what you have. Call John 517-225-8291.



Steve Horton Column

Time to re-visit the consequences of Michigan's new No-Fault Auto Insurance Reform Law

With the holidays over, it's time to re-visit the consequences of Michigan's new No-Fault Auto Insurance Reform Law—namely how people who have suffered severe, long-term injuries due to an automobile accident are being left without the care they once had or having that care threatened or downgraded.

The main problem is that, as of July 1st, changes to the law allowed insurers to cut the reimbursement rates paid to care providers by 55 percent on what they had been. Those caregivers have indicated that this new rate fails to reimburse them for their actual costs.

The revised law also limits reimbursable in-home care for many accident victims to 56 hours per week and this care can only be provided by a relative, friend, or business associate or anyone living in the same household as the injured party—not by a hired caregiver.

This change has put an extra burden on many families, with some of them facing the prospect of giving up a job to care for their loved one.

Furthermore, the new law did not grandfather in people who had been receiving this care, some of them for many years. So, once the change went into effect, they and their families suddenly had a way-of-life, and level-of-care and assistance upended.

As some of you may recall, I wrote a commentary in the Oct. 31, 2021 issue of the *News & Views*, attempting to explain the matter. I pointed out the ill effects that concerned me, and explained that some care providers were reportedly going out-of-business, feared they would have to close, or else were no longer able to provide services to these severely injured auto accident victims due to the fee reduction and limits on in-home care. For families that were able to find a facility for their loved ones, the level of care was not of the same quality they'd had.

There were other repercussions as well, but these were the main ones.

The issue—or should I say problem—came to my attention thanks to a series of reports I heard on Michigan Radio, along with articles I'd read in newspapers.

The media coverage, coupled with an organized effort by advocates for these accident victims, not to mention desperate attempts by the survivors and their families to plead their case to legislators, had resulted in numerous bills being introduced in the House and Senate to fix the law.

These bills had the support of both Democrats and Republicans. Our local representative, Bob Bezotte, was among those who sponsored some of the proposed legislation.

But the bills, at this point in time, don't have the support of Republican leaders in either chamber who have declined to give any of them a hearing. They also don't have a champion in Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. While the governor told the Legislature to send her bills "fixing the problems," she chose to send a letter to the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association—the agency created in 1978 to make the payments to qualified accident victims—pointing out that there was a surplus of \$5 billion in the fund and that this money should be refunded to car-insurance customers.

The refund has been calculated at \$400 per car.

In fact, if you happened to be watching Michigan State and the University of Michigan in their respective football bowl games, you have been treated to Gov. Whitmer wearing a college sweatshirt, touting the success of the auto reform law, and how she was able to get that money returned. No mention of the men and women in wheelchairs, or those who need assistance to eat, bath, or get in and out of bed and how the money in the fund had been collected for their medical and treatment needs.

The purpose of the reforms was to lower automotive insurance costs, and certainly changes were called for to accomplish that goal. And who can't use 400 bucks in the pocket?

But, as I quoted from one newspaper editorial, "these changes could have been done without penalizing the most helpless and needy among us."

I had thought—and said so in my column—that continued pressure from the media, from both liberal and conservative voices, and from an informed and aroused public would inspire some action.

And it seemed to do just that as evidenced by the bills that were introduced.

But it's hard to keep the media, lawmakers, and the public focused for very long on a specific issue, given the myriad of other things that happen. The shooting at Oxford High School is a prime example of what can occur that causes a sudden, unexpected shift in our attention.

It's difficult as well to advance a change in the law when a powerful interest group, like the auto insurance companies, and leaders in the Legislature as well as the Governor (regardless of political party) resist that effort or have other priorities.

Throw in the distractions of the Christmas season and it's easy to see how the cause of the severely-injured accident victims, seemingly at full steam several weeks ago, can lose traction, resulting in a loss of momentum.

I had already intended to re-visit the impact of the reform law at some point this winter, and to do so in an ongoing fashion. But a news report on Wednesday jumpstarted my plan. It concerned a study that was done by the Michigan Public Health Institute, a health research firm, that essentially reaffirms the dire consequences that the reform law is having on accident survivors and the caregivers that many of them have depended on over the years.

Now admittedly the study was commissioned by the Brain Injury Association of Michigan, a group which advocates on behalf of amending the reform law. As such, some defenders of the new status quo will likely dismiss the findings for that reason. Nevertheless, if advocates are going to change legislative minds and public opinion, they'll need data—not just emotional pleas—and an independent study is a step in that direction.

To that end, the highlights of the study can be found in an accompanying article in this issue of the newspaper.

I also saw a TV news report on a large group of survivors, their families, and caregivers who greeted legislators on their return to the state capitol on that same day.

Apparently, I was not the only one seeking to put this issue back on the front burner and push for needed fixes.

The plight of the severely injured is going to continue regardless of governmental inaction and, if allowed to fester, will only get worse for those most directly concerned.

It's easy enough—whether you're part of the media, a governmental official, or the public at large—to move along to the next crisis, attention-grabbing event, or flavor of the day. Even so, there are matters of concern that shouldn't be allowed to fade away, get sidetracked, or left behind by the passing parade.

For me, this is one of them. Fortunately, I am not alone in that view.

Study by health insurance firm details consequences of Michigan's new No-Fault Auto Insurance Reform Law

By Steve Horton

An independent study by the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), a firm that does public health research, details the consequences of Michigan's new No-Fault Auto Insurance Reform Law.

The study was commissioned by the Brain Injury Association, a group of care providers who provide services to people who have suffered severe, long-term injuries due to an automobile accident and have their medical and treatment expenses covered by no-fault insurance. It was released last week.

The auto-insurance reform law was passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 2019, but the new fee schedule didn't go into effect until last July 1st. It allows insurers to cut the reimbursement rates paid to care providers by 55 percent of what they had been given, a reduction many care providers have stated is below the costs they incur in providing various services.

Here are the results from the survey.

- 349 providers participated in the survey, representing 273 unique organizations that collectively had more than 16,296 employees and served more than 16,753 patients before July 1, 2021.
- Out of 11,733 employees from the 140 organizations that provided employment data, 3,049 (26 percent) were eliminated.
- Out of 16,751 patients served by the 208 organizations

continued on next page

Fowlerville Mini Storage
7074 W. Grand River • Fowlerville, MI • (517) 223-9090
NOTICE OF SALE
A liquidation sale will be held on
February 4, 2022 at 10am to dispense of the items stored in the following units:
Gregory Woolworth Units I-156, I-145
This sale is subject to cancellation without notice.

NOTICE OF SALE
A liquidation sale will be held on
Tuesday, February 1, 2022 @ 11:00 a.m.
to dispense of the items stored in:
Jessica Alana - Unit 257
THIS SALE IS SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION WITHOUT NOTICE.
NELSON MINI STORAGE
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(517) 223-0137

—Area Deaths—



Patricia Shepherd

Patricia Shepherd of Howell, MI passed away peacefully on Friday, January 7, 2022 with family by her side. She is preceded in death by her husband, Herman, daughter, Penny and granddaughter, Katie.

Pat was born on September 15, 1937 in Wooten, KY to Lawrence and Kate Turner. She married Herman Shepherd on July 28, 1958 and had 4 children: Tammy (Chris) O’Doherty, Herman Talmadge Shepherd, Penny (Robert) Cox and Greg (Jennifer) Shepherd. She had 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren whom she loved dearly.

Pat was extremely proud of the years she dedicated to being a working mother; volunteering in her spare time and thriving for over 30 years of labor on assembly lines in various factories. She was the type of person that would give anyone the shirt off her back or the money out of her sock.

In her spare time, Pat loved teaching family and friends how to make fried chicken and hand pies, decorating for holidays and collecting antiques. In her golden years, she devoted herself to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who were truly the light of her life.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, January 13th at Herrmann Funeral Home in Fowlerville at 1:00pm. There was a private family viewing from 10-10:30am, followed by an open viewing from 10:30am-1:00pm. Burial followed at Greenwood Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Herrmann Funeral Home. Online condolences may be expressed at pjherrmannfuneralhome.com

Judith Lynn BeVier-North

Judith (Judi) Lynn BeVier-North, age 63 of Howell, passed away on Jan. 11, 2022 at St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor. She was born May 4, 1958 in Wayne MI, the daughter of Bruce & Marion (Horton) BeVier. She was a retired school teacher.

A Celebration of Life is being held this Saturday, Jan. 22, at Herrmann Funeral Home in Fowlerville, with a visitation from 10am-12 noon and services starting at 12 noon. She is being cremated with interment at Greenwood Cemetery in Fowlerville.

Full obituary will be published in Jan. 23, 2022 issue of the newspaper.

Study by health insurance, continued

that provided patient data, 1,548 (9 percent) had to be discharged.

- 263 (96 percent) of the organizations reported that their services were impacted by the 55 percent reimbursement cap. The most impacted services are: private duty/attendant (28 percent), case management (27 percent), therapy (21 percent), and outpatient therapy/treatment (20 percent). Other services and products impacted, but to a lesser degree, are community-based therapy, residential/supported living, transportation, vocational services & counseling, durable medical equipment, sheltered/supported work program, neuropsychological or psychiatric services, guardianship/conservatorship/legal assistance, nursing, and home modifications.

Over 50 percent of these organizations indicated that they had to significantly reduce services and products, 35 percent cannot accept new patients with auto insurance funding, 27 percent had to modify the types of patients they can serve, 11 percent had to discharge patients with auto-insurance funding, and 8 percent had to close their operations completely.

As for the 89 organizations who reported either no impact on services, no reductions in revenue, or no reduction in workforce, most of them said that they anticipated not being able to serve patients with auto insurance funding within the next 12 months.

A news report on the study explained that many of these companies are using their ‘rainy-day savings’ to continue operations in hopes the current situation will be changed.

The MPH research team did caution that “this report should be viewed as an initial impact from the no-fault auto insurance fee structure changes on the responding service providers,” adding that follow-up surveys (two are planned for the coming year) will add questions to understand how providers are impacted by 1) the 200 percent Medicare rate cap for covered services, and 2) the insurance companies’ utilization review processes.”

The team described the situation “as fluid.”

Provider Perspectives

As part of the survey, providers were asked to describe in their own words what these changes meant to them. Those comments dealt with financial loss or closures, transportation shortages, confusion over insurance codes, patient discharges, downsizing, aide shortages, and an unsustainable situation.

“I have had to endure the loss of revenue, a pay cut, limits on resources I can use with my clients,” was one comment.

Another one stated: “While the services that we provide have all been covered thus far, we have had several patients not be able to attend their treatment due to a loss of medical transportation (coverage) and several patients are clearly deteriorating even with treatment due to a loss of attendant care and issues with case management services.”

On insurance code confusion, there was this statement: “The other unbelievable thing is that every insurance company and adjuster is doing something different and not consistently paying, they are not paying the required amount, or they send the bill back several times stating the right codes are not entered, and they don’t offer any assistance as to what codes to use.”

As for providers who have needed to discharge patients due to the company losing money, some of them said that they “fear negative outcomes could impact the community, and patients may end up in jail.”

“The patients we serve are human beings that were unfortunately innocently injured catastrophically in a motor vehicle accident,” one of those providers said. “It is

horrendous that we are now being forced to discharge them because they have no resources or are being denied benefits when we have all been told that they are unlimited and lifetime for the injuries they sustained.”

The fee reduction and slow pay have also caused a shortage in aides and, thus, a decline in services available to patients was another problem that was cited. This, in turn, (it was noted) has resulted in “worsening health outcomes, including an increase in seizures, pain, number of sleep disturbances, and overall stress.”

Finally, in stating that the situation is unsustainable for them,” one provider said: “We have stayed in this fight for our clients and for our staff, but will not be able to sustain without some immediate changes.”

Livingston County United Way seeking nominations for annual awards

Each year, Livingston County United Way looks for people in the community that give from the heart and make things happen. Despite the impacts of the pandemic, the volunteer needs in our community increased this year and many people stepped up to help out others! If you know someone or a team that did exactly that, please take a few minutes out of your day and nominate them for one of Livingston County United Way’s Annual Volunteer Awards.

Nominations are needed for the following 5 Awards by January 28th:

Charles W. Itsell Volunteer of the Year Award: an individual whose commitment to the Livingston County United Way and the health and human service needs of our community during the past year goes far “above and beyond” normal volunteerism. Neal Glazebrook was last year’s recipient.

Donald Epley Lifetime Community Service Award: recognizes an individual who embraces volunteerism and service to the community as a way of life, is committed to the Livingston County United Way, and over the years has made a significant impact to, and contributed to the betterment of, those lives he or she has touched. Barbara Walker of Hartland Insurance Agency, was last year’s recipient.

Young Person of Distinction Award: recognizes an area youth for outstanding service and leadership to his or her community, showing true selflessness and an overall sense of caring for others. Lucas Vetter, an 11 year old at Holly Academy, was recognized last year.

Youth Organization of the Year Award: recognizes an area youth organization for outstanding service to their community, showing true selflessness and an overall sense of caring for others. Livingston County Community Alliance – Youth Led Prevention Group was last year’s recipient.

Randy Rudisill Business-of-the-Year Award: recognizes an area business that perpetuates Randy Rudisill’s strong commitment to community, reflecting a commitment to continuous improvement, people, hard work, customers, ethics, and profit. KemKrest of Brighton, was the recipient last year.

To make your nomination, please complete electronically the application at www.lcunitedway.org. Please note, we will only be accepting electronic applications this year! Nominations are due to the Livingston County United Way by January 28th.

Recipients will be recognized at Livingston County United Way’s “Spirit of the Community” Annual Meeting, to be held on March 2nd at Crystal Gardens in Howell.

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Pastor Thomas E. Tarpley, Sr., who passed away on August 15th, published two books.

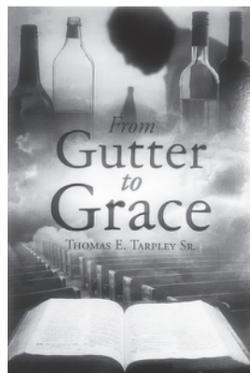
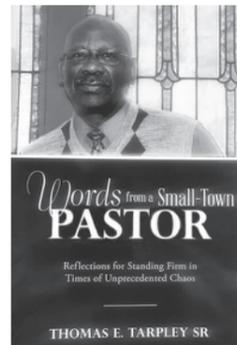
From Gutter to Grace tells of how he overcame his abuse of alcohol, which began at age four, as well as his use of illegal drugs and a pursuit of worldly pleasures by finally turning to God and finding a personal relationship with Jesus. That life-changing event, which occurred when he was 48, eventually led him to becoming a pastor.

Words from a Small-Town Pastor: Reflections for Standing Firm in Times of Unprecedented Chaos is a compilation of 82 of his articles that first appeared in the Fowlerville News & Views. Pastor Tarpley had a weekly column in the newspaper from 2015 until just before his death.

Both books are available for purchase at the Fowlerville News & Views office, 206 E. Grand River, Fowlerville MI 48836, with the money going to Gloria Tarpley, his widow.

From Gutter to Grace costs **\$13.95**
Words from a Small-Town Pastor costs **\$19.95**

Call 517-223-8760 to make an appointment to pick up either or both books.



Fowlerville District Library Upcoming Events

Monday – Wednesday: 9:30 am to 7:00 pm
 Thursday: 9:30 am to 9:00 pm
 Friday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm
 Saturday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Sunday: Closed
 * * *

For questions or more information on any of our materials or programs, email info@fowlervillelibrary.org or give us a call at (517) 223-9089.

* * *

ALL AGES

Glowforge Program: Friday, January 21, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
 Meet our newest makerspace tool, the Glowforge laser printer, and learn about the capabilities and uses from Connor. We'll also be accepting requests for print jobs.

* * *

ADULTS

Adult Game Night: Third Mondays, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Play new board games, cards, and trivia here at the library. Meal provided.

* * *

Fitness/Yoga with Belinda: Mondays, 10:00 am– 10:45 am
 Practice postures to strengthen and promote flexibility in all parts of the body with an emphasis on balance and core strengthening. This class is for all levels of fitness. Bring bottled water and your yoga mat.

* * *

Line Dancing: Wednesday, January 19, 6:30 pm
 In celebration of country music, learn to line dance.
Registration required.

* * *

Monthly Cardmaking: Thursday, January 20, 6:30 pm
 Join Card Queen Mary to create four stunning Valentine's Day themed cards. All supplies included, guaranteed hands-on fun. Classes fill up very fast, call to reserve your spot.
Registration required.

* * *

Monthly Book and Coffee: Monday, January 24, 1:00 pm
 Join Zoe in the afternoon for a traditional book club that includes

coffee and dessert. This month's selection is *Orphan Train: A Novel* by Christina Baker Kline. **Registration required.**

* * *

Monthly Beyond the Book: Thursday, January 27, 6:30 pm
 Join Zoe in the evening for a book discussion of *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult, followed by some extra special materials. **Registration required.**

* * *

TEENS

Tabletop Wednesday: Wednesdays, 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm
 Drop in and play your favorite tabletop RPGs. Play with your friends or have our teen librarian Connor run a one-shot. All are welcome, no registration required.

* * *

Teen Craft Wednesday: Wednesdays, 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm
 Mary has her finger on the pulse of what teens are into. Dabble in fun and free arts and crafts, such as beaded bracelets, fairy angels, and other top secret projects.

* * *

Friday Gaming: Fridays, 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm
 Join us for free play on the Nintendo Switch. Enjoy multiplayer classic like Smash and Mario Kart or choose games from the library's collection.

* * *

Magic the Gathering Draft Saturday, January 22, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
 Join Connor's free MTG booster draft. Assemble decks, challenge other participants, win prizes, and take home the cards you open! The best deal in town. Drop in, or pre-register to hold a guaranteed spot.

* * *

Teen Book Club: Tuesday, January 25, 4:00 pm
 January's theme is Book Turned Into a Movie. Read a book that fits that theme and then join Zoe after school for a lively discussion accompanied by snacks and a craft.

* * *

FOR KIDS

Drop in with the kids for any of our revamped storytime programs – open to everyone!

* * *

Preschool Storytime (ages 3 to 5 with caregiver) 10:00 am Tuesdays & Wednesdays
 Join our wonderful Mrs. D. for engaging stories, sing-alongs, neat crafts, finger plays, and so much more!

* * *

Toddler Storytime (ages 1 to 3 with caregiver) 10:00 am Thursdays & Fridays
 Get ready to move and groove with some funky tunes and stories with our dynamic youth librarian Storm.

* * *

Baby Lap Sit (ages 0 to 2 with caregiver) - 9:30 am Fridays
 Come and make some new baby friends in this musical storytime led by Storm. Babies and their caregivers will socialize, sing songs, and play together.

* * *

Facebook Live Storytime (ages 2 to 8) 12:00 pm Thursdays on Facebook
 Join LIVE on our Facebook page for this amazing program where kids can interact with Storm from home! Build some early literacy skills in your pajamas.

* * *

K-5 Book Club (Ages 5 -12) Tuesday, January 18, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
 January's theme is Book With an Animal. Read a book that fits that theme and then join Zoe after school for a fun discussion accompanied by snacks and a craft.

* * *

My First Escape Room: Pokémon (Ages 5-9) Friday, January 28, 4:00 pm
 Can you catch them all? Perfect for younger kids with curious minds who love puzzles! No previous knowledge of Pokémon is required. **Registration required.**

This resolution, continued

COVID-19 vaccines and the wearing of face masks. The mandate requires all Head Start staff, volunteers, and contractors to be vaccinated and all individuals two years of age and older to wear masks. "President Biden doesn't have the right or the authority to issue this or any other vaccine or mask decree," said Theis, R-Brighton, who chairs the Senate Education and Career Readiness Committee. "We the people are not beholden to the whims of a president, whether he knows it or not. The fact of the matter is, two federal courts have already enjoined enforcement of Biden's Head Start mandate, effectively prohibiting it in the states whose attorneys general challenged it in court. Senate Resolution 101 underscores the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, under which states or the people retain all powers that are not expressly delegated to the federal government. It argues Biden's latest mandate infringes on states' rights and thus radically alters the relationship between states and the federal government.





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