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Volume XXXVII No. 20 | Sunday, May 16, 2021 | Published Weekly

Dana Louise Gorski

Daxton Blaze Driver

Thomas Edward Fairfield

Claire G. Weber

Katarina Belle Haynes

Sydney Annmarie Piper

Peyton Lee Branch

Saraphine Katelin Spalding

Ella Jayne Smyth

Lucas William Bliesner

Webberville High School announces Top 10 seniors in Class of 2021

Webberville High School has announced the Top 10 seniors in the Class of 2021. Dana Gorski is the valedictorian and Daxton Driver is the Salutatorian. The others, in order of ranking, are Thomas Fairfield, Claire Weber, Katarina Haynes, Sydney Piper, Peyton Branch, Saraphine Spalding, Ella Smyth, and Lucas Bliesner.

Graduation for the Class of 2021 is scheduled this Thursday, May 20, at the high school football field. The ceremony begins at 7 p.m.

See Page 15 for brief profiles of these top academic achievers.

Fowlerville Varsity Girls Tennis loses to Eaton Rapids in hard-fought match

The Fowlerville Varsity Girls Tennis Team lost to Eaton Rapids last Monday 7-1 in a very exciting, hard-fought match. The teams played a total of 7 tie breaks, 4 of them were super tiebreaks and Eaton Rapids won them all. Here are the scores:

Singles: No. 1 - Kate Hankey, EATON RAPIDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL def. Emma Arnot, FOWLERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, 6-3 , 2-6 , 10-7

No. 2 - Breezy Marcus, EATON RAPIDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL def. Maggie Motz, FOWLERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, 6-2 , 6-2

No. 3 - Anna Hokanson, EATON RAPIDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL def. Gwenna Zanin, FOWLERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, 6-2 , 3-6 , 10-7

No. 4 - MacKenzie Schultz, EATON RAPIDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL def. Leyna Baumgartner, FOWLERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, 7-6 (5), 6-3

Doubles: No. 1 - Haylie Lewis, EATON RAPIDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL - Raynah Kidder, EATON RAPIDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL def. Emma Browne, FOWLERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - Emily Homrock, FOWLERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, 2-6 , 6-4 , 10-8

No. 2 - Sofia Kingsley, EATON RAPIDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL - Ava Kunkel, EATON RAPIDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL def. Kendall Prins, FOWLERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - Holly Birmingham, FOWLERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, 6-7 (5), 6-3 , 10-5

No. 3 - Lucy Thomas, FOWLERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - Katarina Lutz, FOWLERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL def. Isabel Marvin, EATON RAPIDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL - Brianna Kelley, EATON RAPIDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, 6-4 , 6-3

No. 4 - Lilly Schell, EATON RAPIDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL - Hannah Clarke, EATON RAPIDS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL def. Rebekah Dolezal, FOWLERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - Ivy Case, FOWLERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, 6-4 , 7-6 (5)

Saluting the Seniors in the Fowlerville High School Band & Choir Programs

The graduating seniors who have been part of the Fowlerville High School Band & Choir Programs are being saluted during the next few weeks, prior to their graduation. High School Band Director William Vliek asked each of them the following questions:

--Your plans for next year;

--Your favorite band or choir memory.

Ryan Kargel

Instrument: Trombone

Future Plans: My post high school plans are to attend Lansing Community College and pursue a degree in computer science.

Favorite Band Memory: My favorite band memory was when Logan Boughner picked me up upside down and carried me across the football field during a rehearsal.

Sydney Bush

Instrument: Flute/Colorguard Captain

Future Plans: I plan to attend Michigan State University in pursuit of a degree in mechanical engineering.

Favorite Band Memory: My favorite band memories are Max singing Milkshake during freshman-senior night and meeting my best through band.

Courtney Steffee

Instrument: Flute/Colorguard

Future Plans: I will be attending Lansing Community College in fall of 2021 and then would like to transfer to a vet school.

Favorite Band Memory: My favorite band memory is the first band camp I ever went to! It was a huge adjustment having come from a small private school, but it was totally worth it!!!

Josh Powell

Instrument: Clarinet

Future Plans: I plan on attending Davenport University for a major in Computer Science.

Favorite Band Memory: The dance we got to make up for "You Give Love a Bad Name".

Fowlerville District Library News

Special Announcements

The library is opening to 50% capacity. Appointments will no longer be required and we will continue to offer curbside service.

Face masks are still required for all library patrons and staff, as well as maintaining the social distancing of 6 feet.

Monday-Thursday
9:30am – 7pm
Friday
9:30am – 5pm
Saturday
10am – 2pm

How to Use Curbside Service

Step 1: You can make requests: by calling the Library directly, emailing us or make your holds through the FDL's card catalog (Max 10 items) –Not sure what you would like to read? Use our reader's advisory at the desk, they can help! All you need is to give them a subject, author, or genre, and they will do the rest.

Step 2: One hour after your request has been made, please come to the Library and park in the curbside pickup designated parking located in front of the side yard.

Step 3:From your car, call the Library and someone will come out with your requested materials.

Step 4:Please present your library card or driver's license and your materials will be given to you.

* * *

Upcoming Programs for May

All programs are intended for Fowlerville School District residents.

All programs are on Zoom unless otherwise indicated. Registration is required unless otherwise noted. To register for any FDL's programs please contact us by phone, Facebook, or email with your contact information including a valid email address. Zoom links will be sent out the day before the event.

* * *

Take and Make Craft Kits– K-5th Graders

Crafts change weekly and are available while supplies last. Each kit comes complete with all supplies needed and instructions. This activity requires no sign–up. Please call or stop in to find out about this week's craft.

* * *

ASL Storytime Live!– Every Thursday 10 AM FDL's Facebook Page

Meet our new Youth Librarian, learn signs, sing songs, and play in this interactive story time!

* * *

Outdoor Storytimes with Mrs. D –Tuesdays, May 18, 25, 2021 10:30AM in Library Side Yard -*Weather Permitting*-

Bring a blanket or a folding chair to sit on in our side yard. Join in the fun with songs, finger plays and a story or two. Social distancing and masks are advised. Registration is not required for this program.

* * *

Beyond the Book and Movie – Thursday, May 20th, 2021 @ 6:30 PM – Adults – Zoom

Adults – May's selection*: A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. Please read the book and watch the movie at home, then meet up with friends on Zoom to discuss them both. Everyone who signs up will get an opportunity to check out the movie and watch it on their own. Registration is required. Sign up with a valid email address to receive a book and a Zoom link. Registration is done in person inside or through curbside service at the Library. Books will be available to check out.

* * *

Patriotic Cardmaking on Zoom– Thursday, May 27, 2021 6:30 PM – Zoom

Join library staff members Mary and Zoe, as they guide you through making four different cards to celebrate memorial day. Kits will be available for pick up beginning Monday, May 18, 2021 and includes all supplies needed to make four different cards. Supplies and spaces limited, sign-up today!

* * *

For more information regarding any of our programs or services please call us at (517) 223-9089 or checkout our Facebook page.

Follow us on Facebook: @fowlervillelibrary or visit our website at www.fowlervillelibrary.org.Email any questions to:info@fowlervillelibrary.org

Fowlerville High Schoolers organize drive for personal hygiene products

Ms. Brooke Wellman's class at Fowlerville High School has organized a donation drive to collect Travel Size Personal Hygiene Products for families in need. All collected items will be given to The Giving Barn, a non-profit organization that provides support services, supplies, and aid to individuals and families in need, at risk, unprivileged, struggling and/or facing a crisis.

If you would like to donate, please contact Brooke Wellman (wellmanb@fowlervilleschools.org) or reach out to The Giving Barn on facebook!

From left, Alaina Saunders, Hannah Rinehart, Matthew Ryan, Donnie LeVanseler, and Kendra Clemons.

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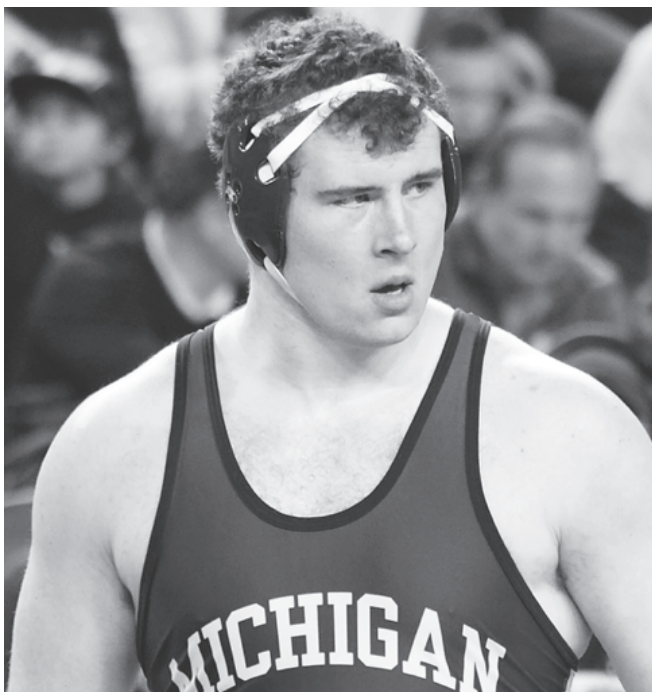

Adam Coon

Fowlerville wrestler Adam Coon fails to qualify for Olympic Games

Adam Coon, a Fowlerville High School alumnus, failed to qualify for the Olympic Games scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan, this summer despite having won the Greco-Roman 130-kilogram (285 pounds) wrestling championship at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials last month.

Under the rules, his was one of three weight classes where the wrestler needed to finish in the top two at the World Olympic Games Qualifier in order to compete in the Games.

In that tournament, held May 6-9 in Sofia, Bulgaria, the 26-year-old Coon reached the quarterfinals before losing a 6-3 decision to Mykola Kuchmii of Ukraine. He had earlier advanced to that round with a 57-second pin over Murat Ramonow of Kyrgyzstan.

Coon shared his disappointment with the two other American wrestlers—Jesse Porter and Jordan Oliver—who also failed to qualify in this last-chance competition after winning their weight classes at the U.S. Team Trials.

This was his second attempt to compete in the Summer Olympics. That earlier try saw him finish second in the 2016 Trials while he was still attending the University of Michigan.

Coon was a three-time NCAA All-American during his college career at the U of M, was a state wrestling champion while attending high school, and has won numerous medals at international competitions over the years.

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Fowlerville District Library Community Survey

Please take a moment to answer this anonymous survey about the library. All questions are optional.
Please return your completed survey to the library.

Enter to win a $25 gift card!

1. Please circle which age ranges live in your household.

0-1 years old	1-4 years old
5-12 years old	13-18 years old
19-30 years old	31-60 years old
over 60	Prefer not to answer

2. Do you have a Fowlerville District Library card? If yes, how often do you use it? Yes No

_____

3. Please circle below which hours you would like to see the library open for your convenience?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning (9am-11am)	Morning (9am-11am)	Morning (9am-11am)	Morning (9am-11am)	Morning (9am-11am)	Morning (9am-11am)	Morning (9am-11am)
Afternoon (12pm-4pm)	Afternoon (12pm-4pm)	Afternoon (12pm-4pm)	Afternoon (12pm-4pm)	Afternoon (12pm-4pm)	Afternoon (12pm-4pm)	Afternoon (12pm-4pm)
Evening (5pm-9pm)	Evening (5pm-9pm)	Evening (5pm-9pm)	Evening (5pm-9pm)	Evening (5pm-9pm)	Evening (5pm-9pm)	Evening (5pm-9pm)

4. How would you rate the importance of each of the following library services to you and your family on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1=not at all important and 5=extremely important?

	1	2	3	4	5
Borrowing materials (books, DVDs, library of things)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Recommendation of reading material	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Programs (classes, story times)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Computers, printers, copier and scanner	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Help using computers, printers and other technology	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Free internet access at the library	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Online services (website, catalog, ancestry databases)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Inter-library loan (MeLCat)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
E-books, audio books, digital magazines	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Print newspapers and magazines	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

5. What library programs would you be interested in attending? Please circle all that apply.

History	Baby Lap-Sit Story Time	Hiking/ backpacking	Food Preservation	Photography	Computer Coding	Astronomy
Art	Early Literacy	Bird Watching	Foraging/ Survivor Skills	Crafting	Web Design/ Graphic Design	Astrology
Music	Toddler/ Preschool Story Time	Geocaching	Cooking/ Baking	Upcycling	Animation	Health care/ Mental Health
Author Visits	Homeschool	Rock Hunting	Escape Rooms	Journalism	Film Editing	Exercise
STEM	Electronics	Fishing	Gardening	Writers Workshop	Gaming	Self-Care
3-D Printer	Special Needs Programs	Camping	Home Brewing	Job Skills	Current Event Discussions	Animals
Book Clubs	Life Skills	Game Board Nights	Cake Decorating	Basic Computer Classes	Bingo	Genealogy

6. How do you prefer to learn about library programs and services? Check all that apply.

❑ Library website ❑ Signs or flyers in the library
❑ Email ❑ Social media
❑ Newspaper ❑ Library newsletter
❑ Other:_____

7. Which time(s) is most convenient for you to attend library programs?

Morning (9am-11am) ❑ Afternoon (12pm-4pm) ❑ Evening (5pm-9pm) ❑ Weekends (9am-9pm) ❑

8. What would you like to see added to the library? Circle all that apply.

Children's Area Study Rooms Makers Space (a space for the arts)
Recording Studio Teen Hangout Outside Gathering Space

Completed surveys will be entered into a drawing to win a $25 gift card to a local area business. Please leave your email address or phone number if you would like to be entered into the drawing.

Email or Phone Number: _____

Thank you for your time! If you have questions about this survey or about the library, please contact us at board@fowlervillelibrary.org

Caleb Jenkins Column

Growing in Difficult Environments

A neighbor has a sign on her front door that reads, "Grow where you are planted." I typically do not care for such cliches (I think they are a little too cheesy!), but this one has stuck with me. The phrase seems a bit superfluous at first glance, but it carries a deeper lesson. I think all have dreams and aspirations of what they would like to accomplish or where they would like to go in life, but circumstances are rarely so straightforward. Despite the best laid plans of mice and men, we often end up in places and situations that are less than optimal.

The common initial response to unfavorable circumstances is to change the status quo to what we initially wanted. This process may involve moving, finding a new job, changing schools, or any of a number of other life decisions. Hope for a better future provides motivation to reach for the stars and work hard every day. It is what dreams are made of! Thinking in this way helps us contextualize circumstances and our status within them, enabling us to see the big picture and set good goals.

However, while it is healthy to have long-term objectives and work toward improving our goals, we are often stuck in a given situation about which we may not be thrilled, especially in the short-term. This may be due to limited resources, career requirements, family obligations, etc. Whatever the reason, we must choose how to approach these suboptimal scenarios. We can either succumb to perceived limitations and simply complain about the circumstances, or we can adopt a positive attitude and make the most of what we have been given. In other words, we can grow where we have been planted. While the former comes naturally to us, the latter choice will bring more joy, success, and fulfillment.

Growing in difficult environments can mean two things. First, we can take advantage of challenging events to learn and develop personally. Trials are important for growth since they force us to adapt and overcome. If approached with humility and a desire to improve, trials teach us about ourselves and how to handle difficult issues, so while they may not be fun in the moment, they can provide the best opportunity to understand strengths, limitations, and ways to improve.

Second, God places us in difficult situations for specific purposes, so look for ways to have a positive impact despite your circumstances. This is growth of a different kind; one that increases your effect. Maximize the resources and opportunities available to be a blessing to the people and events around you. This is seizing your circumstances instead of succumbing to them! Choosing to grow where you are planted is rarely easy, but it is always worthwhile.

Gold and Purple, Tried and True!

On Wednesday, May 5th, the Fowlerville High School Alumni Association, Judy Recker, President, and Nancy Myers presented scholarships to the following FHS Class of 2021 seniors: Ramsey Lukasik, Parker Douglas, Hunter Kupniewski, and Nicholas Atkinson.

Congratulations, graduates! We are very proud of your accomplishment and wish you well on your higher education pursuits!

In 1974, officers of the Fowlerville Alumni Association established the FHS Alumni Scholarship program. Monies are raised annually to enable the organization to present scholarships to members of the current FHS graduating class. For nearly 50 years well over 150 graduating seniors have been recipients of this scholarship.

While we cannot gather for our annual banquet this year, we are celebrating with an ice cream social at the Finlan Gazebo at the Fowlerville Fairgrounds, Saturday, June 12 from 3pm-6pm.

Donations, including In Memoriam, and corporate sponsorships are welcome! Your generosity will not only help maintain the scholarship program, but it will help a graduating senior with college expenses. The FHS Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) organization. Please contact Meghan Swain Kuch at fowlervillehighschoolalumni@gmail.com to sponsor. Your sponsorship/memory will be recognized at the event and on social media platforms.

While picnic tables will be available, for your convenience, please bring your own lawn chairs for greater comfort. Ice cream novelties will be provided.

Fowlerville Junior High School News

IMPORTANT DATES:

No School-Memorial Day break- Mon. May 31st Half days of school-Exams- Tues-Thurs. June 8-10th

Last Day of School-Virtual all hours- Fri. June 11th

* * *

SPORTS FOR WEEK OF MAY 17:

Wed., 5/19: TRACK @ Okemos w/ Holt-4:30; bus-3:30

Parents be prepared to social distance & wear masks. Good luck to our young Glads!

Remember the CoVid testing on Sunday evenings.

* * *

STUDENT COUNCIL - POP CAN TABS DRIVE A SUCCESS!

A big "Thank You" to the JH friends and families that donated pop can tabs during the month of April. The class with the most tabs won the opportunity to throw a pie in the Junior High School Principals' faces, Mrs. Lillie and Mr. Fitzgerald. The winners were Mr. Staky's 8th grade math class and Mrs. Boss's 7th grade science class.

These pop can tabs will go to our local Senior Girl Scout Troop #31626. The members of Troop #31626 have collected over 1.5 million tabs over the last several years as part of an ongoing service project. The troop donates them to the Ronald McDonald House of Lansing next to Sparrow Hospital. A Ronald McDonald House program helps reduce stress and financial burden for families when they must travel far from home to access medical care for their child, providing a welcoming place for the family to stay for as long as is needed. This is one example of how a community can work together, help others, and have fun doing it, too!

Start saving for next year! Thanks!

* * *

YEARBOOK INFORMATION

Yearbooks are on sale now for the 2020-2021 school year.

Order in person or online - the school has a link online to order there. They are $32 dollars. Checks made out to Fowlerville Community Schools

Also we have 11 yearbooks left from 2019-2020 if you did not get one. They can be purchased for $32 from Mrs. Spisz in room D-19

We have 21 students that are current 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th graders that have not picked up their book previously ordered. If you are one of these students or know someone that is, please contact Mrs. Spisz at spiszm@fowlervilleschools.org She will put your book in the Junior High Office for pick-up. Although we have put this in the paper, sent emails, and tried to distribute during virtual picture day we still have some needing to be picked up by students that may be all virtual, moved, or are homeschooling.

Mrs. Lillie got a pie in the face as part of the reward for the class that collected the most pop can tabs.

Kreeger Elementary School News

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

School Hours: 8:50 a.m. - 3:32 p.m.

* * *

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT:

All pre-enrollments are done online www.fowlervilleschools.org

After you complete those documents please print and 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

****End of Year Calendar Change**

5-31-21 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day Recess

6-8-21 Grades K – 5 Full Day, 6 – 11 1/2 Day

6-9-21 1/2 Day School – Grades K – 11 ***NEW

6-10-21 1/2 Day School – Grades K - 11

6-11-21 Full Day School – Virtual - Last Day of Classes

***

LOST AND FOUND: We have overflow in the lost and found areas for each grade level. Please be sure to check with your child to see if they are missing hats, gloves, coats, boots, sweatshirts, water bottles or tennis shoes. We will be donating clothing that is not claimed to the Family Impact Center.

* * *

GLADIATOR WEAR: Gladiator spirit wear will be sold all year long please check out the following site for orders – www.brideausapparel.com/fundraisers.

* * *

END OF YEAR MEDICATION NOTE: If your child has medication in the office, a parent needs to come to the office and pick up. We cannot send medication home with the student.

* * *

ONLINE STUDENTS: If you are having technical issues you can email the Tech Department at fcstechassist@fowlervilleschools.org and they will get back with you.

Mr. Fitzgerald got a pie in the face from students in the top class.

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Nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath ranch in the Village of Fowlerville and walking distance to schools and shopping. This home has been completely remodeled throughout with electrical, furnace, plumbing, walls, insulation and more. Enjoy summer days in the yard with rear patio and view of the open space. $149,900.

Excellent location for this nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath ranch home in the Hartland schools. This home is move in ready with central air, new furnace in 2019, all appliances included and beautiful yard with large deck to entertain. Full basement for storage needs or ready to finish for additional living space. $240,000.

Great location in Jonathan's Landing for this nice well maintained 2 bedroom, 2 bath condominium. Features include vaulted ceilings in the great room with gas fireplace, bright kitchen with all appliances included and spacious master suite with walk-in closet. Large loft for additional office or setting room area, 2 car attached garage and laundry with washer & dryer included. Relax by the community pool or enjoy time in the club house. $172,500.

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

Beautiful 15 acre parcel with splits available and possible walkout sites. This acreage backs up to the state hiking, biking and horse riding trails. Natural gas & electric are available near the front gate. This parcel is a nature lovers dream with loads of woods, fruit trees and cleared area ready for your dream home. $210,000.

Nice location for these great build sites in Linden Place subdivision from .88 acre to 1.6 acre. Underground utilities with natural gas, one outbuilding ok and paved road. Close to schools & shopping. Priced from $29,900-$39,900.

Nice building site in the Village of Fowlerville. Walkout or daylight possible, with water at the street. $20,900.

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TAMARRA BURNIE @ 517-404-5221

Contact our experienced agents for a "MARKET ANALYSIS!"

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BIDS FOR HVAC SYSTEM
Conway Township
8015 N Fowlerville Road
Fowlerville MI 48836

Conway Township is now taking bids for the replacement of the heating and cooling systems at the Township Hall. A certificate of Insurance will be required from the winning contactor.

Bids will be accepted through May 18 at 3 p.m. All bids will be reviewed on May 18 at a regular meeting of Board of Trustees at 7:00 p.m.

For details, please contact Supervisor Bill Grubb during regular business hours, Tuesday 9 am to 3 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m. 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
(5-9 & 5-16-21 FNV)

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Fowlerville High School News

OFFICE HOURS

Administration Office	7:00 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.
Counseling Office	6:30 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.
Building opens	6:45 a.m.

* * *

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES TO NOTE:
May 22nd- Prom
May 25th- Testing-Out forms due
May 25th to May 27th- Seniors last attendance days FHS
June 4th- Senior graduation practice and breakfast (Mandatory)
June 6th or June 5th - Graduation

* * *

Watch your emails from Mr. Lusk for school updates.

* * *

Last Days for seniors: Tuesday, May 25th is the last regular (non-exam) school day – Tractor Day. Wednesday, May 26th is exam day for class periods 1, 3, and 5. Thursday, May 27th is exam day for class periods 2, 4, and 6. Exams are optional for all students this semester.

* * *

June 4th - Graduation practice 7:30 a.m. MANDATORY - HS Cafeteria. Caps, gowns, fairground assignments, etc. will be distributed after practice.

* * *

Seniors! Your fines must be paid off before graduation. Payments can be made in the Attendance Office. If you are unsure whether you have any fines, come down to the office and we can look it up for you.

Parents & Seniors 2021 – Make sure to check the senior information page on the FHS website for Senior information and timelines.

Parents & Seniors 2021 – Make sure to check the senior information page on the FHS website for Senior announcements, cap and gown ordering and timelines.

* * *

This year's Junior/ Senior Prom will be held on Saturday, May 22nd from 7:00-11:00PM. Prom will include an assortment of desserts, drinks, dancing, outdoor games, complimentary professional photos, and memories to last a lifetime. Please direct any questions to: Amanda Tomassi at tomassia@fowlervilleschools.org

* * *

Testing-Out forms are available on the FHS web page under news, complete the form and email back to Mr. Diroff (diroffe@fowlervilleschools.org) by May 25, 2021 to participate in Testing-Out this summer.**

Please have the Testing-Out Information Form completed along with deposit ($50 per course) ready when picking up your testing-out materials.

* * *

SUMMER SCHOOL
DATES: June 14 - August 6 Monday – Friday
LOCATION: Fowlerville High School Media Center
TIMES: 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
COSTS: $50 Deposit per course, deposit is refunded upon successful completion.
REGISTRATION: May 10th summer school registration begins. You will want to meet with your counselor to confirm correct course(s). You can turn your money and form into the counseling office. Registration is rolling and ends once all seats are occupied. Please call during the summer for availability even after summer school starts.
Registration Information:

Students must register for the replacement class that they failed. For example, if a student failed their 9th grade English class, they would take English 9 first semester, English 9 second semester or both. Students may not register for more than two – ½ credit courses at a time. Please confirm summer school courses to be taken with your counselor.

* * *

Juniors and Seniors interested in the Co-op Program for 2021-2022 School Year:
Are you currently working? Are you interested in finding out if you could earn high school elective credit while you work? You may be eligible for the high school co-op program. For more details, requirements, and the application paperwork for the 2021-2022 school year please see the Fowlerville High School website. Additional questions should be directed to Mr. Hardenbrook at hardenbrookj@fowlervilleschools.org.

Letter to the Editor

To the Fowlerville community:

Mentor Livingston has been serving children since before 1980. Mentoring youth one-on-one started as an informal program within juvenile court. The agency formalized and became an affiliate of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America in 1982 before transitioning to Mentor Livingston in 2019.

Through mentoring, we have supported youth in our county who needed prevention services and intervention services. Over the years, hundreds of children received the benefits mentoring provides because of community members volunteering their time, efforts, and resources to improve the lives of children they didn't even know.

Since the beginning, we have maintained the ability to work hard and annually raise over 65% of our budget, until now. Our fundraisers have been based on people getting together and sharing their hearts and money to support the positive outcomes for children being mentored.

Although we have strived to adapt to this changing economic environment, we have not been able to keep up with the financial needs of the agency. Therefore, we will be closing our doors in the coming months.

We are filled with gratitude for your many kindnesses, efforts, and financial support on behalf of the kids we serve. Our appreciation for this community knows no bounds. It has been a pleasure to work with so many outstanding individuals.

Thank you for helping make such a positive impact on the lives of so many children for so many years.

Sincerely,
Mentor Livingston

Dick Scott MOTOR MALL

Fowlerville High School's "ATHLETES" OF THE WEEK

Jud Scott

JV Softball

Katie Bigos (so) - Katie is a coach's dream. She puts in hard work behind the scenes and it shows on the field. Katie is our number one pitcher and plays first and third base when she is not on the mound. Katie is leading the team with RBI's and a batting average over .500. Not only is Katie a great softball player, but more importantly, does well in the classroom. Fowlerville is incredibly lucky to have her in the softball program.

Julia Johnson (so) - Julia also makes a coach's job easy. As one of our three captains, she comes to practice every day with a positive attitude and good work ethic. Julia is one of our catchers and also plays shortstop and third base. Her willingness to play wherever we need her makes her invaluable. She bats in the high 400s and goes back and forth with Bigos for most team RBIs. Julia also excels in the classroom making her a great role model for other student athletes.

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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—Area Deaths—

David A. Warner

David A. Warner passed away on Tuesday, May 4, at the age of 67. The youngest of six children, he was born on April 10, 1954 to Robert and Joan Warner of Fowlerville. He graduated from Fowlerville High School in 1972. He married Diana K. Clark, with whom he raised three children. They divorced in 1982. Later, he met Jackie Kiss, whom he married in 1990.

Dave was a skilled carpenter and builder who valued family. He taught his children the importance of family and the value of doing a job right. A loving and devoted husband, loyal son, brother, and uncle, perhaps Dave's favorite role was that of grandpa. He loved playing and joking with his four grandsons. Dave loved God, his large extended family and the Spartans. In the past couple years, he surprised all his family and friends by forming a strong attachment with his cat, Wizzer.

David is predeceased by his son, Eric James Warner in 1991, his mother, Joan Warner in 1997, and his father, Robert Warner in 2016.

David is survived by his wife, Jackie Lyn Warner of Mason; his siblings: Patricia Diericks of Flint Township, Linda Warner of Holt, Robert Warner of Fowlerville, Steven (Kathy) Warner of Vermontville, and James (Sharon) Warner of Byron; his son, Adam Warner of Grand Rapids; his daughter and son-in-law Melissa and Thomas Hale of Grand Rapids, and his four grandchildren: Aaron Hale, Kian Hale, Taegan Hale and Camden Hale.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) in David's name. Services were held at Compass Church in Mason, and David was buried at Alchin Farm Cemetery in Webberville.

Fowlerville Fire Department Report

May 6th

10:45 am. Medical emergency on Sharpe Road in Handy Township.

2:30 pm. Medical emergency on Brookdale in the Village.

May 7th

2:37 am. Motor vehicle accident on I-96 in Handy Township.

9:22 am. Medical emergency on Robb Road in Conway Township.

11:05 pm. Medical emergency on Collins Street in the Village.

May 8th

12:03 am. Medical emergency on Mason Road in Iosco Township.

4:56 pm. Medical emergency on North Grand Avenue in the Village.

10:01 pm. Medical emergency on Crofoot Road in Iosco Township.

10:02 pm. Motor vehicle accident on Fowlerville Road in Conway Township.

May 9th

3:07 pm. Mutual aid to a structure fire for NIESA Fire Department. We supplied two tanker trucks and one engine.

5:00 pm. Mutual aid for NIESA Fire Department to assist on a medical emergency.

9:29 pm. Mutual aid to Howell Fire Department with a tanker and engine for the report of a structure fire. We were canceled while in route.

May 10th

No calls received.

May 11th

9:13 am. Motor vehicle accident on Mason Road in Iosco Township.

10:30 am. Medical emergency on Hogback Road in Handy Township.

12:13 pm. Medical emergency on Owosso Road in Handy Township.

5:11 pm. Vehicle fire on Gehringer Drive in the Village.

May 12th

No calls received

Veterans Affairs facilities accepting COVID-19 vaccine walk-ins for veterans, spouses & caregivers

All Department of Veterans Affairs facilities that administer coronavirus vaccines are accepting walk-ins for all veterans, spouses and caregivers, regardless of whether they otherwise qualify for VA care, the agency announced last Monday.

"VA encourages those who wish to get their COVID-19 vaccine without an appointment to check the walk-in hours and requirements at their local facility," Acting VA Under Secretary for Health Richard Stone said in a statement.

However, there may be wait times associated with walk-ins.

"Individuals taking advantage of walk-in vaccinations may need to wait for the vaccine to be prepared and will be screened when entering the facility," Stone added.

The VA has played a key role in the national effort to vaccinate as many Americans as possible ahead of President Joe Biden's target goal of the country returning to relative normalcy by the 4th of July.

The department had fully vaccinated 2,724,782 people, including 2.4 million veterans, as of last Monday morning. There are about 9 million veterans enrolled in VA care, but there are 18 million total U.S. veterans, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Biden signed into law the Save Lives Act in late March, expanding the VA's legal authority to vaccinate all veterans, their spouses, caregivers and some beneficiaries regardless of their VA enrollment status. The department credits the new law with 60,000 additional people getting vaccinated.

The VA says masks are mandatory at its facilities, and those seeking vaccines should check their local clinics for their hours of operation.

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Fowlerville Junior Varsity Softball Team opens season with 8-4 record

The Fowlerville Junior Varsity Team opened the first weeks of the season with a 8-4 record. Here are highlights of that action.

Grand Ledge 4/12/21

JV softball lost two heartbreakers to Grand Ledge in their season opener. Grand Ledge came from behind in the last inning to take the game 6-5. Katie Bigos threw the complete game and looked solid for the first game of the year. The Glads trailed 6-0 in the second game, but managed to take the lead midway through the game. Again, Grand Ledge battled back and ended up winning the game 13-11. Strong batting performances for the night included Katie Bigos - 4 for 7, Heidi Curd - 3 for 5, Julia Johnson and Tara Peterson both batting 3 for 6. Heidi Curd and Ava Campbell played solid defense all night.

Haslett 4/27/21

JV softball took two games from Haslett last night. Katie Bigos threw a one hit, shutout in the first game winning 10-0. Bigos fanned 11 Haslett hitters in the win. Tara Peterson was 2 for 4 in the first game. The second game was a 15-6 win. Peterson racked up the win on the mound while Bigos threw for the save. Julia Johnson was 4 for 4. Bigos and Ava Campbell also hit well in the nightcap.

Ann Arbor Pioneer and Chelsea 5/1/21

The JV softball team came out on both ends of the win/loss column Saturday in Chelsea. The Lady Glads won the first game 13-6 against Ann Arbor Pioneer. Katie Bigos continued her strong pitching with the win. Bigos, Julia Johnson, and Zoey Yuergens had the hot bats in game one.

The second game resulted in a three-inning mercy at the hands of an excellent Chelsea team. A combination of hot Chelsea bats and an abundance of errors led to the game losing result. Despite the score, Johnson made her pitching debut and threw well. Bigos, Johnson, and Yuergens also hit well in game two.

Mason 5/4/21

The JV softball team bounced back last week from a tough Chelsea game taking two games from Mason - 16-2 and 18-3. Katie Bigos and Tara Peterson both pitched full games for the wins. Most of Fowlerville's runs came off missed opportunities on Mason's part, but the hitting highlight of game one was Kenzie Kelly's 2 RBI single. The bats came alive in game 2 racking up 11 hits and batting .500 as a team. Peterson went 3 for 3 with 2 doubles. Bigos was 2 for 4 with a double. Both Lily Hall and Julia Johnson were 2 for 3 with a double. Paige Frazier and Morgan Jenks were each 1 for 2.

Saranac 5/10/21

The JV softball team won two games on Monday night vs. Saranac. Katie Bigos continued to pitch well for the Gladiators. Tara Peterson earned the save throwing just as well. Tori Briggs pitched a completed game for the second win striking out 10. Defensively, both games were well played! Top hitters for the night included: Tara Peterson - 3 for 6, Katie Bigos - 4 for 8, Raya Goulding - 2 for 5, and Zoey Yuergens - 3 for 6.

St. Johns 5/11/2021

JV softball split with St. Johns winning the first 9-7 and dropping the second 11-10 after using the international tie breaker. Katie Bigos picked up the win in game one, as well as the loss in game two after relieving Tara Peterson. Both games were exciting to watch with plenty of hits, defensive gems and miscues by both teams. Strong hitting performances came from a variety of hits and bunts, as well as putting the ball in play with two strikes and making it work. Zoey Yuergens, Julia Johnson, Peterson, and Bigos found a way to get on base throughout the night.

Some Special Recipes

By Dawn Horton

This week's recipes are from Helen Anway of Webberville. They are great sounding goodies to take on a picnic. Try and enjoy!

* * *

HAMBURGER BAKED BEANS

- 1/4 cup shortening
- 2 cups cut up onion
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup catsup
- 2 Tbs. prepared mustard
- 2 Tbs. vinegar
- 2 - 1 lb. cans of pork & beans

Brown onion and beef together with the shortening. Then add the rest of the ingredients. Bake in a covered casserole dish at 400° for 30 minutes.

—Helen Anway

* * *

CRUNCHY PEANUT BUTTER SNACK MIX

- 5 cups popped popcorn
- 5 cups crispy rice cereal squares
- 1 2/3 cups (10 oz. pkg.) Reeses peanut butter chips
- 3/4 cup light corn syrup
- 2 Tbs. butter or margarine
- 2 cups salted peanuts
- 2 cups miniature pretzels
- 1 1/2 cups (10 oz. pkg.) mini Reeses Pieces candy

Heat oven to 275°. Grease large roasting pan (or two 13x9x2 baking pans). Place popcorn and cereal in prepared pan. Combine peanut butter chips and corn syrup in heavy saucepan. Cook over medium heat stirring constantly until chips are melted and mixture is smooth and hot (do not boil). Pour over popcorn mixture, stir to coat.

Bake 30 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from oven, stir every few minutes until slightly cooled. Cool completely. Break large pieces into smaller pieces. Add peanuts, pretzels and candy pieces. Mix thoroughly. Store in a tightly covered container. Makes about 8 cups of snack mix.

—Helen Anway

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Members of the Fowlerville community donated gifts and meals as part of National Police Appreciation Week. Delivering these tokens of appreciation to members of the local police department last Monday were Michelle Soli, who organized the effort, and her children, Adyson and Rhyan Euliss. From left are Adyson Euliss, Sgt. Jeff Soli, Rhyan Euliss, Michelle Soli, Police Administrator Lorraine Ritchie, and Police Chief John Tyler.

Community makes donations of gifts & meals to local department as part of National Police Appreciation Week

The Fowlerville community, including individuals and businesses, once again made donations of gifts and meals as part of National Police Appreciation Week. These tokens of appreciation were delivered to the local Police Department last Monday.

"National Police Week 2021 is a week where we recognize the great dedication of our police officers," said Michelle Soli, who has headed the local effort the past couple of years. "Through these unprecedented times, and always, our men and women in uniform put their lives on the line so that we can remain safe."

Soli reached out to the community to see if anyone would like to help by setting up an Amazon wish list for items to go into personalized bags created for each member of the department. She then posted it on the local Parent Group on Facebook.

"Within a few days, the entire list was fulfilled by members of our community," Soli noted. "In addition to the bags, we also received a donation of handmade signs from The Villerot family, personalized drink coozies from Katherine Lamsa, snack bags for the department members including Hank the K9 were donated from Nici at Pizza Box, and gift cards for each officer were sent in from one of my family members, Michele & Pat Gustafson, from out of town. Twisted Sugar by Trish donated a variety box of cookies, and NPC Kettle Corn is donating kettle corn for all!"

Meals this week were provided by:

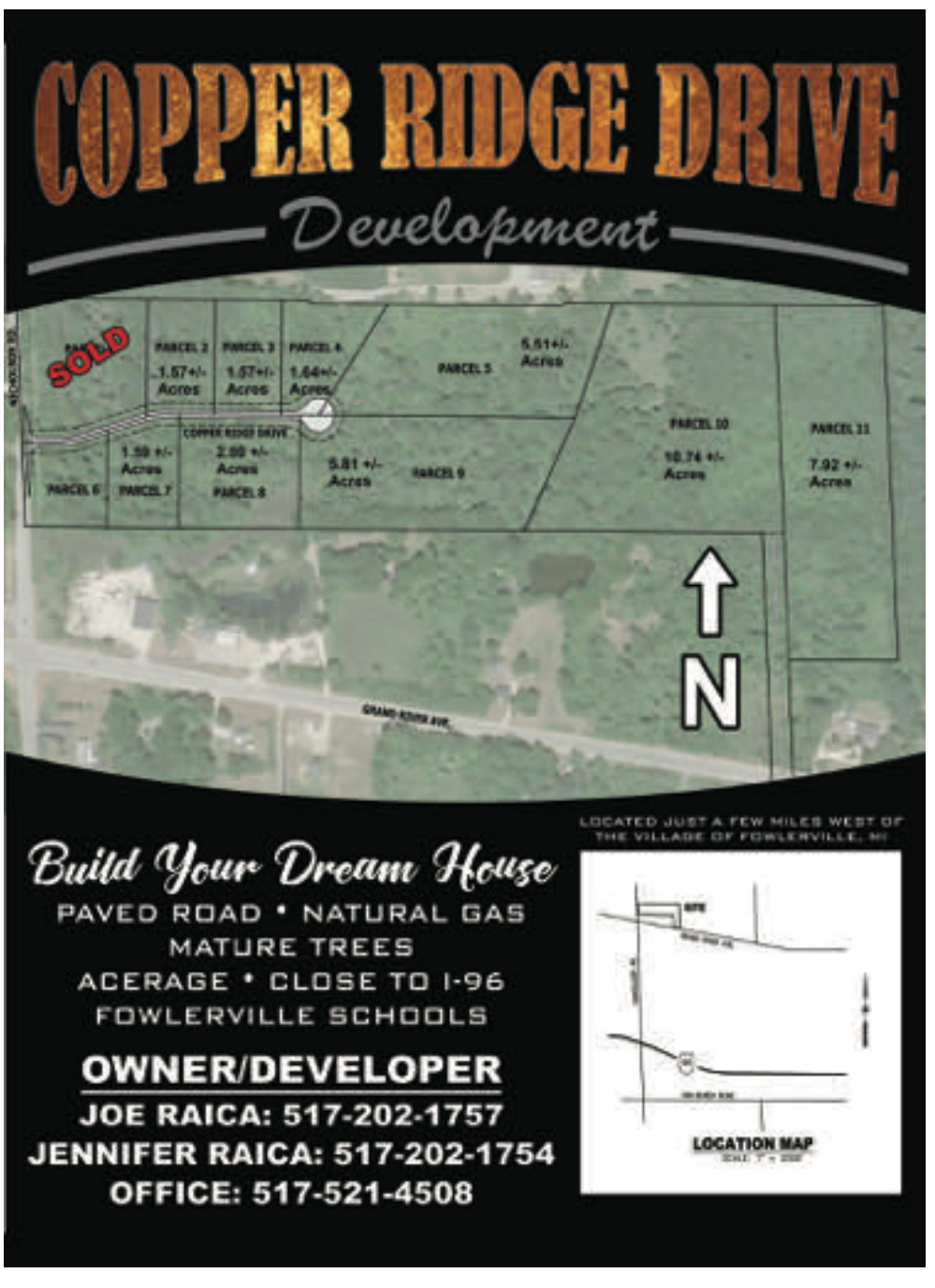
Monday- Karl & Megan Witt provided Biggby coffee and bagels.

Tuesday- Jessica Bogdan provided homemade breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as snack bags.

Wednesday- Homemade mostaccioli was brought in from Lisa Hein-Grassi.

Thursday - Lunch provided by Dukes Pizza.

Friday- Lunch provided by Fowlerville Farms.



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We have our WINNER for the 2021 Mother's Day Basket!!

Pictured here from left were Karl Witt, Vice President of FBA; Patti DuFore, Administrator; Chelcey Windish; Becky Kottong; and David Palan of Fowlerville Pharmacy

Congratulations to our 2021 Mother's Day basket winner, Chelcey Windish. Chelcey was entered at the Fowlerville Pharmacy by her Mother, Becky Kottong.

The Fowlerville Business Association would like to thank the following businesses for participating in the 2021 Mother's Day Basket Drawing.

Thank you for your continued support on making this a success!

Mother's Day Participants:

- *Harmon Real Estate*
- *Carpet Depot of Fowlerville*
- *Sweet Sensations*
- *Biggby Coffee*
- *Kern Road Veterinary Clinic*
- *Fowlerville News & Views*
- *Shear Image*
- *Aleta's Flowers & Gifts*
- *Fowlerville Pharmacy*
- *The Shop*
- *Massage Rehab*
- *Fowlerville Dental Center*
- *Save-on*
- *Chiropractic Health Center – Dr. Tim Tersigni*
- *Grampy's - Car Quest*
- *Therapeutic Massage by Erin Kelley*
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Pastor Tom Tarpley

Who are You Imitating?

"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are dear children of God" (Ephesians 5:1).

"I don't just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved. Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Corinthians 10:33b-11:1).

I started writing this article two days after Resurrection Sunday. As I reflected on what Jesus's death and resurrection meant to me, I began to think about my life and my priorities in life. A couple of questions that kept entering my thoughts were: "Am I living my life to imitate Christ?" and "Am I living in such a way that it honors Christ and reflects the love I have for Him?"

When I think about Jesus and the horrible suffering He endured because of me, it causes me to ponder over whether I am as obedient to the call he has placed on my life as I could be.

Have you ever paused long enough to consider what your life might look like if your lifestyle reflected that you are a genuinely committed disciple of Jesus? What effect would it have on your closest family members, your spouse, children, siblings, and friends if you lived out the great commission, "to love the Lord God with all your heart, soul, and strength?" (Matthew 22:37)

What if you started reserving the first part of every day to spend with God reading His Word, meditating on scriptures, and thoroughly self-examining your priorities? What if you spent more time praying for wisdom and interceding to God in prayer on behalf of others? Do you think it might influence someone who values your opinion and who looks up to you as someone they respect? Do you think it might give them the motivation to make some positive changes in their lives?

Although few people will admit it, the truth is that we all have someone in life that we imitate at one time or another. If you think back to your childhood, you will probably recall when there were certain people you wanted to be like, act like, or even pretended to be.

One of my favorite things to do as a child who loved cowboy movies was to pretend I was the Durango Kid, my favorite western cowboy of all time. I wore a mask and went around talking like he talked and saying the things he said on the movie screen.

We learn to mimic or imitate at a very early age. In most cases, the first persons we imitate are our parents or the person who spends the most time with us as we grow from infancy to toddler. We begin by trying to act like them. We learn their mannerisms, and we try to imitate them because we want to be like them. The attachment between a parent and a child is a cord that is not easily severed when children are small and impressionable.

Paul tells us that we are to imitate Christ as His beloved children the same way we try to imitate others we look up to and admire.

"Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." When we imitate someone, it's the same as saying, "This person means a lot to me, and I want to be like them."

There have been many men in my life who have had a positive influence on me. In one way or another, they have motivated me to move forward in my faith journey to seek a deeper and more intimate relationship with Jesus.

I spent some time thinking about people that I have admired and in many ways, tried to imitate the way they lived their lives.

When I was a young teen hanging out with a group of young men who were traveling on the road that leads to destruction, one of the men in my neighborhood picked me out of the group and began to spend time with me. He offered me something I had not experienced before in life. Real friendship. He quietly gave me instructions on how to live so I could become a person of good character. He taught me the meaning of being a man of my word. Because I liked him and because he was someone I respected, I tried to live by the example he set for me.

Some of the other people whom I've tried to imitate were God-loving Christians who were role models for me during the beginning of my faith journey. I remember a gentleman who befriended me at one of the lowest points in my life. He was a quiet man who never seemed to get excited about anything. He had the best self-control of anyone I have ever known. He had all the characteristics that Paul talks about in Galatians 5: gentleness, patience, kindness, etc.

I loved being around him and listening to him as he shared the gospel with me through his actions and lifestyle. He was the kind of person I wanted to be. Over the years, he became my best friend and mentor.

There were others who helped to mold me into the person I am today. There were so many; in fact, I believe that God placed them in my life. I had nothing in common with any of them. Our lives should never have crossed. But they did, and because they did, I am forever grateful to them.

Voluntarily or involuntarily, we're all going to imitate someone because it is our human nature to do so. I choose to imitate Christ as much as it is within my power to do because Christ is a perfect example of how I am to live if I want to please God.

Imitating Christ is not easy, and it cannot be accomplished without the aid of His Holy Spirit.

"Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God" (3 John 1:11). Who are you imitating?

Fowlerville High School Art II Class students paint chairs for German class

Mrs. Hoffman, the high school German teacher wanted her dull, white, folding chairs painted! She thought of the Fowlerville High School Art Classes to do it!

Mrs. Hesch took over the project. She asked her Art II students to choose an artist they wanted to learn more about. They did a short research inquiry on that artist and replicated a painting on the chair. The students loved painting it and couldn't wait to get to work. They finally finished them last week and delivered them to the German room.

Samantha Hahn and her chair, "Starry Night" by Van Gogh.

Fowlerville High School Art II students, from left, Abagail Oakley, Conner Barr, Dallas Martineau, Shea DeVries, Ethan Adam, Rachael Simkins, Brandon Ward and Samantha Hahn show off their 'painted' chairs. Not pictured but creating a chair from the "online" class Lacie Acosta, Sarah Cain, Elizabeth Odle, Cayden Ronning, Charles Rosplochowski, Jolie Potter, Kaitlyn Render, Lilli Taucher, Tanya Schultz, Morgan Rydel and Christoper Schmaltz.

George W. Lee Civil War Round Table holding meeting May 19

The George W. Lee Civil War Round Table is holding a meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Howell High School parking lot. The High School parking lot is across from the Howell Fire Hall on Grand River – there is also a traffic light at the entrance. Bring a chair/umbrella, and if you need a drink or snack you will need to bring your own. There will not be a speaker. Questions are welcome and, if you wish, bring articles or something to show.

For more information, email: rickbigham52@gmail.com or call 517-672-6215.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOWLERVILLE DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021-2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 the Fowlerville District Library Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing to consider the Library's proposed July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 fiscal year budget. This hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Library located at 130 South Grand Avenue, Fowlerville, Michigan.

The Library may not adopt its proposed 2021-2022 budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection on the Library's website https://www.fowlervillelibrary.net and at the Library during business hours.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

(5-16 & 5-23-21 FNV)

Smith Elementary School News

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

* * *

IMPORTANT DATES:
May 17-24- Cereal Box Donations
May 25- Wear Red
May 26-Wear White
May 27-Wear Blue
May 31 – No School Memorial Day
June 7- Field Day (no spectators allowed)
June 8 - K-5th Gd Full Day, 6-11th ½ Day of School
June 9 – K-11th Gd ½ Day of School (Elementary Dismissal Time 12:02 pm)
June 10 – K-11th Gd, ½ Day of School (Elementary Dismissal Time 12:02 pm)
June 11 – K-11th Virtual Day For All Students

* * *

June 11- This is our last day of school for the year and it is a virtual day! Teachers will be zooming with their students LIVE according to the following schedule: Kindergarten 9:00am; First Grade 10:00am; Second Grade 11:00.

* * *

Memorial Day Celebration- A wonderful veteran donated flags to our student body and they will be distributed to the students on May 27 as we conclude learning the significance of Memorial Day. Prizes for the coloring contest were donated by the local American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you to all the Veterans in our community!

* * *

Cereal Drive- We are collecting unopened, non-expired cereal boxes for The Family Impact Center from May 17 through 24. Our goal is 25 boxes per class. Thank you in advance for your donations!

* * *

Kindergarten Round Up - If your child turns 5 by September 1, 2021, it is time to start thinking about registering him/her for school! We are requesting that parents complete the Pre-Registration process found on the FCS website. Go to fowlervilleschools.org and click on the Kindergarten Enrollment link and enter your child's pre-enrollment information**. Please call 517-223-6430 to make an appointment to come in to the H.T. Smith office to complete the registration process. Appointments are available every Friday from 8:00 to 2:15.**

The required items that you need to bring to your appointment are: your child's original birth certificate, current immunization record, vision screening (after 3 years of age) and proof of residency (this includes your driver's license and at least one other item, i.e., a piece of mail, purchase or rental agreement, voter's registration card, etc).

We are holding a Virtual Round Up this year and that information has been posted to Fowlerville School's main webpage and also on H.T. Smith's link for you to access and learn more about our wonderful programs! We look forward to meeting the Class of 2034!

* * *

Spirit Wear Fundraiser – This fundraiser goes until the end of the school year. You can order online anytime at www.BrideausApparel.com/fundraisers FREE SHIPPING IS INCLUDED! Ships directly to you! Help support H.T. Smith Elementary and get some great spirit wear for the family!

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Ingham County Comments

By: Randy Schafer, District 13 Commissioner

***Stockbridge Medical, Mental, and Public Health Support Project:**

Virginia Rezmierski is an amazing person. She is a retired "professor of public policy" and a psychologist. She is a resident of Washtenaw County.

Nine months ago, she contacted me for assistance concerning an initiative that she considered absolutely vital to the well being of the citizens of Stockbridge and surrounding areas. After the first 10 minutes of conversation, I was baffled, surprised and grateful to meet her.

At an age when most would be sitting in a rocker; Viginia did extensive research on underserved populations for Medical, Mental and Public Health Services. The conclusion and research all pointed to the reality that rural areas are ignored. And, it is very difficult to bring in the resources that are enjoyed in more urban areas.

I shared with her the facts that Ingham County operated Health Clinics in Webberville, Stockbridge, Leslie and Mason. All were closed. The resources were reallocated to the urban area in the county.

Viginia organized a working committee in the Stockbridge area consisting of school board personnel, ministers, business people, elected officials and others reflecting the community.

In 2019, the Stockbridge faith and other community leaders (FOCL) began meeting regularly to determine the health needs in the community and surrounding area.

As part of the process, the FOCL conducted an incredible amount research. It strongly supports the need. In the process, contact and feedback has been received from many sources and an official designation by the Federal Government may be coming soon.

The dedication, sense of purpose and unselfish commitment has been perhaps one of the most impressive in my experiences. Think of it: six townships, a Village, support from neighboring counties, etc. is simply remarkable.

The FOCL has started to make the county think about the total county and needs and equity. This is wonderful, especially when one considers 11 of the 14 Commissioners represent an urban setting.

Throughout life, there are encounters with wonderful people. This is such a case. The focus is on a "can do attitude" and a "relentless pursuit" to accomplish the mission.

* * *

***Montgomery Drain/Drain Office:**

The Drain construction is taking place by the Frandor area, Michigan Avenue, Clippert Street, and Saginaw Street on the border of Lansing, East Lansing and Lansing Township.

The Drain office arranged a tour for Commissioner Maiville and me. We are on the Board of Determination.

It is an amazing project; replacing a drain installed in 1906. One can only imagine the changes in need and emphasis. The number of pollutants entering the Red Cedar because of the failure and increase demand was unacceptable.

The innovation and inter-governmental cooperation is impressive.

The Ingham County Drain Commission has virtually every drain accessible to the public that exists in the county on its' website. Few people realize there are 650 drains in the county. Some are open, many are underground. Without them, the County would be mostly a swamp. As a matter of fact, the Red Cedar River was dredged as a drain in the 1800's.

The goal is to retain water to replenish the aquifer, reduce pollutants and prevent flooding.

Letter to the Editor

Last week's 'letter to the editor' from a Fowlerville woman regarding the huge loss suffered by Trump in 2020 is very sad.

The writer obviously, like Trump, has no grasp of reality. This is complicated by her being lost in a fairy tale, and her inability to add numbers.

These deficits appear to be shared by several others in this community as demonstrated by the number of the loser's banners still on homes & flagpoles.

It will hurt these folks to recall that Trump even lost the 2016 election by millions of popular votes. These deniers can have their opinions, but we must share actual facts.

Mike Miller
Fowlerville

Farmers Market in Williamston holding Opening Day this Sunday, May 16

The Eastern Ingham Farmers Market in Williamston will hold their Opening Day this Sunday, May 16, in McCormick Park's parking lot. This week's theme is, *"Bring a Friend to the Market."*

There will be a more than 25 farmers and artisans selling native plants for gardens, cheese, eggs, pastries, coffee, kettle corn, doll clothes, cookies, honey, maple syrup, salsas, sauces and pickles, bread, cut flowers, beef, pork, poultry, soap, fudge, and crafts, BBQ, grape leaves and baklava, to name a few. Come see the returning and many new vendors! The Market layout will promote one-way pedestrian traffic to minimize congestion, and there will not be live entertainment or special activities for children until later in the season.

City of Williamston Mayor Tammy Gilroy will open the Market with a brief ceremony at 10am.

The Farmers Market is again accepting payments from the various food assistance programs: SNAP, Double-up Food Bucks and Senior Fresh.

The Manager of the Farmers Market, Tom Cary, said, "The Board of Directors of our parent organization, Sowing Growth, have been planning all off-season for this Opening Day, and working to keep the Market safe and vibrant. I look forward to seeing friends from the Williamston area community on Sundays and providing you a great Market with locally produced food, crafts and goods. This year our newest vendors will be bringing pies, muffins & cupcakes, tea blends, beeswax products, handmade stationery and BBQ. Come between 10am to 2pm, to McCormick Park to support local farms and businesses. We will be here through Sunday, October 10th."

These vendors will be at the Market in Williamston on Sunday, May 16th:

Better Finds LLC (Native plants)
Bloom Farms (Beef in any cut)
C & S Family Farms (Veggies, plants and sugar cookies)
Chickadee Goat Milk Soap (Goatmilk soap and goatmilk fudge)
Circle F Ranch (Pork, brats, rabbit, eggs)
Dawn's Creative Design (Doll clothes and more)
English Flower Farm (Cut flowers) - NEW
Five Wire Farm (Eggs)
For the Love of Grain (Bread & more)
Grand Traverse Hot Sauce (Hot to mild sauces)
Have a Hoot Designs (Cookies) - NEW
James' Dustee Acres (Bedding and flowering plants)
Lee-nT's Sweets-n-Treats (Pies to donuts) - NEW
Lou & Harrys (Grape leaves to baklava)
Love Bug Boutique & Co (Handmade stationery) - NEW
Mama C's LLC (Salsas, pickles and sauces)
McAvoys Fresh Produce (Veggies and plants)
Rayla House Beeswax Essentials (Beeswax products) - NEW
Runabout Coffee (Coffee!!)
S & S Crafts (Crafts for the yard and home)
Smokeshow BBQ (BBQ to go) - NEW
Sowing Growth (Plant sale!)
Specialty Kettle Corn (Kettle corn, lemonade and more)
The Cheese People of Grand Rapids (Cheeses young and old)
Vermillion Creek Honey Company (Honey and bodycare products)
Wild Dawn Farm (Homemade/grown teas and more) – NEW
Williamston Rotary (non-profit)

For more information, to be added to the newsletter email list, to volunteer on Sundays or to donate to the Market, visit the Market website www.EasternInghamFarmersMarket.org, visit the Facebook page or contact Market Manager Tom Cary (616-916-9823 or EasternInghamFM@gmail.com).

Spring Plant Sale benefits Eastern Ingham Farmers Market in Williamston

For the month of May, Sowing Growth, the non-profit organization that operates the Eastern Ingham Farmers Market in Williamston, is selling beautiful flowering plants to benefit the Market.

Order online or by phone any Friday in May before 5pm and come pick up your purchase at the Market the following Sunday between 10am and 2pm. See the details at www.EasternInghamFarmersMarket.org > shop which are also in their brochure or call Carol Grainger to place your order at 517-449-7832.

Letter to the Editor

'The Emperor Has No Clothes" is a wonderful story, a long-time favorite of mine, dealing with vanity, self promotion, and deception. That story became personified to me with the advent on the political scene of Donald Trump.

In a recent (FNV) letter it appears that there is some confusion about whom that story applies to. Certainly not to the modest and decent man, Joseph Biden, who was recently victorious in the most thoroughly reviewed election process in American history.

Respectfully,

Thomas F. Higby
Fowlerville

Michigan DNR Fishing Tips—

Taking great catch-and-release photos

Are you an avid catch-and-release angler? Do you like to take photos of the fish you catch, prior to returning them to the water? Do you know the safest way to take these photos so you ensure the fish can live to be caught another day?

1. Wet your hands before you handle the fish – that way you won't remove any of the protective mucus (aka slime) the fish has coating their body.
2. Remember a fish can not breathe out of water, so they will become uncomfortable rather quickly. Keep the fish in the water until your camera is ready to take the shot.
3. Take the photo with the fish close to the water, that way if it squirms out of your hands it will land in the water – not on a hard surface.
4. While holding a fish do not pinch or squeeze it and do not stick your fingers in its gills.
5. Be mindful of the different kinds of fish that have teeth and/or spines that could stick you.

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Music at the Park
Tuesday, May 18th at 7pm
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at the Fowlerville Centennial Park Pavilion
(next to the Fire Hall)
Bring a lawn chair or a blanket & enjoy the music.
The Fowlerville Downtown Development Authority is presenting the Summer Concert Series, Music at the Park.
Other performances are scheduled for
June 24th, July 13th &
August 12th.
Sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority

Letter to the Editor

I read the May 9th Letter to the Editor from Sandy Helzerman and was appalled that you would print such a load of BS. Everyone from Trump's former AG (Barr), to his former acting AG (Rosen) to his top cyber expert Chris Krebs and over 60 Court cases all said there was NO substantial fraud. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Steve Jenkins
Fowlerville

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Webberville Report

WES Boosters created an awesome hallway display praising the staff for their student impact and hard work.

'Teacher Appreciation Week' celebrated at Webberville Elementary

Webberville Elementary School has some of the best educators in Michigan. Our little 'gem' of a school shines brightly! The dedicated staff here truly cares about each student and their needs. Our TEAM—the teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, food service personnel, custodians, secretary, social worker, speech therapist, occupational therapist, psychologist, health care staff, superintendent, and principal—all know and care deeply about our students and their families. They have given our students their ALL!

Our WES Boosters, Jr. Garden Club, community members and parents support the school through programs and great family activities all year long. These individuals go ABOVE AND BEYOND in this area, and their efforts are greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

This has been a difficult, and at times, disappointing year for everyone, but Webberville Elementary School teachers and staff have persevered and proven that they are ALL-STARS! Our Webberville STARS are our greatest joy, and we're so proud of them.

THANK YOU to our dedicated STAFF ~ Mr. Friddle, Mrs. Kiernan, Mrs. Snyder, Ms. Petty, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Gorkowski, Miss Goodman, Mrs. Feeney, Ms. Brown, Mrs. Lloyd, Mr. Elzerman, Mr. DePue, Mr.Nelson, Mr. Garcia, Mrs. Preadmore, Mrs. Schullar, Mrs. Garcia, Mrs. Breningstall, Mrs. Berger, Mr. Ellul, Mrs. Fairfield, Miss Schlicker, Miss Leathem, Mrs. Brownell, Mrs. Matiyow, Mr. Boschma, Mr. Michalski, Mrs. Peterson, Mrs. Marshall, Miss Reese, Mrs. Estep, Mrs. Kemler, Mrs. Coffey, Mrs. Derian, Mrs. Marble, Mrs. Soderberg, Mrs. Zettel, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Vogel, Mrs. Burtle, Mrs. Mayes, Mr. Kubiak, Mrs. Cloudman, Ms. Pake and Mr. Lockwood.

NIESA Fire Report (Northeast Ingham Emergency Service Authority)

On Wednesday May 5, 2021 NIESA responded to one call in Williamstown Township, and another in Locke Township.

Thursday May 6, 2021 NIESA responded to four calls. All were emergency medical calls with one in Locke Township, three in Williamstown Township.

On Friday May 7, 2021 NIESA had eight emergency medical responses. Three responses were in the City of Williamston, three were in Williamstown Township, and two responses were in the Village of Webberville.

Saturday May 8, 2021, NIESA responded to three calls. Two were emergency medical calls, with one occurring in the City of Williamston, and the second was an assist to Meridian Township. NIESA also responded to a fire alarm activation in Williamstown Township, which was a false alarm.

On Sunday May 9, 2021 NIESA responded to three calls. One response was for a residential structure fire in Williamstown Township. NIESA was on the scene for several hours and received assistance from numerous fire departments. The other two calls were emergency medical responses within the City of Williamston.

Monday May 10, 2021 NIESA responded to five calls. Four responses were emergency medical calls with three occurring in Leroy Township, and one in the City of Williamston. The fifth response was an assist to Ingham Township Fire Department on a vehicle accident at Columbia and Meridian Rd.

On Tuesday May 11, 2021 NIESA had seven calls. One was a vehicle accident in Wheatfield Township. The remaining calls were emergency medical calls. Two requests were assists to Meridian Township. The remaining four calls were in Locke Township, Leroy Township, the City of Williamston, and the Village of Webberville.

Senior Spotlight—Holden Schullar

By Shea Cassity

"It's okay to struggle, as long as you push through, do your best, and accomplish your goals," said this week's featured senior spotlight Holden Schullar.

Schullar is the son of Anthony and Ashley Schullar.

"They have always pushed me to do my best and have always supported me in everything I have accomplished. They are always in my corner no matter if I pass or fail," said Schullar.

Along with a supportive family Schullar also has supportive friends including senior Brendan Peckens.

"Holden is a great friend. He's quiet to most people but if you get to know him, he's really awesome," said Peckens "He motivates me to become a better person and he's always been a good listener."

Schullar is inspired by his science teacher and now principal Steve Vowles.

"Mr. Vowles always made class time enjoyable and fun. He is just a very down to earth teacher and is welcoming to everyone," said Schullar.

Webberville has affected his career path by inspiring him to work towards his goals.

"It has taught me to make sure that whatever career I choose, it is something I enjoy doing and not to settle for less," he explained.

Many people believe he will have a promising career based on his determination.

"Holden is a great kid with a very bright future," said school guidance counselor Ben Bachman. "I see him being able to accomplish anything that he sets his mind to because he has the strength, work ethic, and determination to accomplish great things."

Schullar has always been interested in writing and plans to pursue a career in the writing industry by taking classes at Lansing Community College this upcoming Fall.

Webberville Memorial Day Run planned on May 31, starting at 9 a.m.

The Webberville Memorial Day Run is back after the 2020 hiatus! Register now and reserve your spot for the race on Monday, May 31. The 5K race/walk and 10K is $25/participant, with a discount to families of four or more at $20/participant. Start time for the run 9:00 AM and follows the Memorial Day parade, which begins at 8:00 AM. Those interested in participating must register online and can find more information at www.webbervilleschools.org/district/spartan-center.

Questions can be emailed to Tammy Grossbauer at tgrossbauer@webbervilleschools.org or call 517-521-3422 x7906. The race is chip timed by the Michigan Running Foundation. Results are posted during the race and on the web at Playmakers.com.

Webberville High School holding graduation ceremony this Thursday

Webberville High School is holding its graduation ceremony this Thursday, May 20, at the football field. The event begins at 7 p.m. with 47 members of the Class of 2021 expected to receive their diplomas.

Greg Glover, a retired teacher and now a coach at the high school, is the guest speaker. As is tradition, the valedictorian, Dana Gorski, and the salutatorian, Daxton Driver, will also give speeches.

The Class color is maroon, the Class flower is the sunflower, the Class motto is "I wish there was a way to know you're in the good old days before you've actually left them." – Andy Bernard, The Office, and the Class song is "Good Riddance" by Green Day.

Webberville High School announces Top 10 Seniors

Dana Gorski--Valedictorian

Parents: Treva and Richard Gorski

Academic Achievements/Honors: NHS, English Department Award, Academic Award (GPA of 4.0), FFA State Degree, FFA Outstanding Junior, FFA academic excellence, FFA proficiency award, Class President 2021, National FFA finalist

Activities: National Honor Society, Journalism, Student Council, Volleyball (Senior Captain), Softball, Cheerleading, FFA (President), Ingham County fair

Community Service/Hobbies: Operation Christmas Cheer, FFA Community Garden, NHS Blood Drive, Community Clean Up, Hanging out with my friends

Who inspires you: My parents, Sasha Glover, My coaches, My Teachers, My Friends

Life's Philosophy/Motto: Life is what you make it

Favorite Quote: "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." - Albert Einstein

Favorite Book: The Longest Ride- Nicholas Sparks

Why Webberville? Webberville Schools has….changed my life for the better, growing up in this small community-oriented town has been such a blessing.

Daxton Driver--Salutatorian

Parents: Todd and Josi Driver

Academic Achievements/Honors: All A's Honor Roll in high school

Who Inspires you: I am inspired most by my family

Life's Philosophy/Motto: Tomorrow is a new day.

Favorite Quote: "As long as you're going to be thinking anyway, think big." -Donald Trump

Future Plans: Become an apprentice lineman in the trades and work my way up.

Thomas Fairfield

Parents: Edward and Melinda Fairfield

Academic Achievements/Honors: Honor Roll all semesters, National Honor Society Officer

Who Inspires you: My parents, my siblings, and the coaches and teachers I have had throughout the years.

Life's Philosophy/Motto: Nothing will get you further than hard work and practice.

Favorite Quote: "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right." - Henry Ford

Future Plans: To attend Ferris State University and study the field of Information Technology.

Claire Weber

Parents: Gennifer and Jonathan Weber

Academic Achievements/Honors: All A honor roll

Who Inspires you: I get inspired by everything around me.

Life's Philosophy/Motto: Just give it a few weeks.

Favorite Quote: "Maybe I made a mistake yesterday, but yesterday's me is still me." -anonymous

Future Plans: I plan to get a job in IT (Information Technology) soon after graduating High School and as of now I don't plan on going to college.

Katarina Haynes

Parents: Lynn & Tracy Haynes

Academic Achievements/Honors: NHS, Academic Award (GPA of 3.5+), Silver FFA State Degree, D.A.R Good Citizenship Award, Honor Roll Student, LCC Dual Enrollment.

Activities: National Honor Society, Journalism, Student Council, Competitive Cheerleading, Golf (senior captain), Sideline cheer, FFA (Vice President)

Community Service: Operation Christmas Cheer; FFA Community Garden; NHS Blood Drive and Community Clean Up, Michigan State Fair.

Who Inspires Me? My parents, my siblings, Cameron and his family as well as my FFA, Golf and cheer coaches.

Life Philosophy: "Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, and hasty shortcuts lead to poverty." Proverbs 21:5

Favorite Quote: "Being negative only makes a journey more difficult. You may be given a cactus, but you don't have to sit on it." -Joyce Meyer

Future Plans: Attend Michigan State University to study Animal Science and then find a job either working with animals or in animal nutrition and health.

Sydney Piper

Parents: Dean & Jamie Piper

Who Inspires you: My family

Life's Philosophy/Motto: The meaning of life is what I make it

Favorite Quote: "We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorns have roses." -Alphonse Karr

Future Plans: Go to Lansing Community College and take their Vet Tech program

Peyton Branch

Parents: Danielle and Richard Branch

Siblings: Dylan and Keegan Branch

Academic Accomplishments: Honor Roll Student

Activities: Basketball

Hobbies: Playing video games, hanging out with friends and family, and watching tv.

Who inspires you: My parents

Favorite Quote: "You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take" -Wayne Gretzky

Favorite Movie: Harry Potter

Plans after High School: Attend Kettering University to major in mechanical engineering

Saraphine Spalding

Parents: Rich and Belinda Spalding

Academic Achievements/Honors: NHSSA, All-State Academics, XC State-Runner Up

Inspiration: My church community, parents, and family members

Life's Motto: Act now, don't wait till tomorrow

Favorite Quote: "Believe you can and you're halfway there" -Teddy Roosevelt

Future Plans: Attending University of South Alabama and running on a Cross Country/Track Scholarship, and pursuing a major in Communications

Ella Smyth

Parents: Krista Bauby and Tom Smyth

Academic Achievements: Academic Excellence 9-12th, Honor Roll 9-12, Math excellence award 10th, Spanish Excellence award 10th

Who inspires you: My family and friends

Life Motto: Surround yourself with people who inspire you, including yourself.

Favorite Quote: "Don't forget, while you're busy doubting yourself, someone else is admiring your strength." -Kristen Butler

Future Plans: To further my education in STEM

Lucas Bliesner

Parents: Patricia and Aaron Bliesner

Academic Achievements/Honors: National Honors Society, All A's Honor Roll, 3.6 GPA

Future Plans: Attend Lansing Community College and Ferris State University to pursue a nursing degree

Advice For Students: There's no traffic if you create your own lane. Focus on what matters.

Favorite Quote: "The less you care, the happier you'll be" ~ Levi Ackerman

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Livingston County Comments

By: Doug Helzerman, District 4 Commissioner

Each year there are some property taxes not paid in a timely manner. To make sure that no school, local township, or municipalities suffer from this shortfall, the Livingston County Board of Commissioners has historically utilized Delinquent Revolving Tax Fund financing to settle delinquent tax accounts with involved governmental entities. This allows these tax-funded entities to be able to better plan and provide for necessary expenditures. This year $8,497,738.80 in taxes were late. Since March the 2nd $2,493,170.09 of that amount has been paid to the county leaving $6,035,734.71 to be transferred from existing Delinquent Tax Fund balances. The democrat party officials have complained that the county holds too much of a reserve, but that generous reserve has saved the county countless amount of dollars in interest payments that would otherwise have to be paid.

* * *

As chairman of the personnel committee, I have taken a closer look at the appointment process for the various committees that require approval by the Commission as a whole. There are many committees and each is authorized by either a state law or by resolution of the board itself at some time in the past. Each process has its own history and its own way of picking candidates for consideration. The only thing that they all have in common is that they must receive the approval of a majority of the Commissioners to finalize the process.

Every other action that comes to us for consideration have documentation (which is available on the County website before each meeting), giving the critical details so we can make an informed decision. In the past four years that I have been commissioner, nominations for these committees have come with only one name per position. We generally received no other information about the candidates.

I have asked that the commissioners be given contact information for candidates so that those who cared to know more could at least have the opportunity for an introductory phone conversation. On Wednesday, April 21st the Personnel Committee was given one resolution with six names to fill seats on three different committees. In discussing this resolution, our chairman pointed out that by law the jury board could not be all of one political party. Given these ground rules, it made sense to him in a 3-person committee that two should be Republican. This sentiment he expressed to the nominating judge to no avail.

The resolution was unexpectedly tabled (I voted against tabling) after a long discussion about the process by which the candidate for the planning commission was narrowed to one. The objection was that only one of the 23 original applicants was brought to the board for an up or down vote. Because tabling meant that none of these 6 seats could be filled at our Monday, April 26th full board meeting, I called for a special Monday (4:30) meeting where we could divide the question and fill as many of the seats as possible. In that meeting, we passed all nominations so the full board could weigh in at our 5:30 meeting. This delay from Wednesday to Monday allowed us the time to give each commissioner contact information for each person. I reached out to all six and was able to have brief introductory conversations with 5. One had served many years on the Solid Waste Management Board. He said I was the first commissioner to talk to him about his position. In another conversation with the long-term Democratic Party representative on the Jury Board, I discovered that the work of this committee/board has changed from a time-consuming process to a once-a-year meeting. Now a court employee follows a computer program to make this list. When Nancy Sauvage was first on the Jury board, each objection was weighed and voted on by this 3- person panel. I had to agree with her that these important decisions should rightfully be in the hands of several normal citizens, not be delegated to one employee and a computer.

At the 5:30 meeting, in separate resolutions, we filled the Planning Commission's empty seat and reappointed the members of the Solid Waste Board. When it came to the appointment of the Jury Board, we voted on those candidates one at a time. Bill Green's (Republican) nomination was moved, supported, and passed. The same happened with Nancy Sauvage (Democrat). There was no motion or support to vote on Dane Morris (Democrat). This process has two steps and is a two-way conversation between the court and the commission. We have given our citizens a functioning committee. Though in some ways this is regrettable, it is a normal part of the process. If the judge thinks three are necessary, he can rejoin the conversation and give us another name. One commissioner suggested to the judge the name of a retired, long-term court employee very familiar with this process, whom I would favor because of the positive relationship with the commission over the years.

* * *

In other county business, this Wednesday, the board needed to take quick action because one of the County's ambulances, that was at the end of expected mileage life, blew an engine. Our EMS director, David Feldpausch, said, "If we do not get one of the few available chassis, we may be looking at 12 months to get another and build a new ambulance."

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Michigan Senate Report

By Lana Theis, 22nd District

After multiple requests for information relating to the state Department of Health and Human Services handling of COVID-19 in nursing homes and other long-term facilities, the Senate Oversight Committee on Thursday moved to subpoena the department, said Sen. Lana Theis.

"The Whitmer administration has throughout its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic proclaimed and defended its reliance on science and data as driving forces for decisions made in response to the coronavirus," said Theis. "Yet after multiple requests to DHHS over several months for information about those decisions and what informed them, the department has been less than forthcoming, to say the least. It is unfortunate that a subpoena is necessary for the people of Michigan to obtain information about a government it funds — and that supposedly works for them."

The Senate Oversight Committee voted to authorize the committee chair to issue, and have served, the subpoena to DHHS related to its COVID-19 response, including those involving long-term, congregate care facilities.

Under the subpoena, the department is ordered to produce the requested documents and communication no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 27. A failure to comply with the subpoena may be punished as contempt of the Legislature, in addition to any other remedy available by law.

In part, the subpoena orders DHHS to turn over the following:

- All documents and communications related to the U.S. Department of Justice request for information to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer dated Aug. 26, 2020, including, without limitation, all documents and communications provided to the Executive Office of the Governor related to such a request;
- All written communications to or from former Director Robert Gordon, current Director Elizabeth Hertel, department employees Sarah Esty, Jonathan Warsh, and Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun between Feb. 1, 2020, and March 2, 2021, related to skilled nursing facilities, homes for the aged, adult foster care facilities, assistant living facilities, residential care facilities, and/or congregate care facilities; and
- All communications from or to former Director Robert Gordon, current Director Elizabeth Hertel, department employees Sarah Esty, Jonathan Warsh, and/or Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun, related to Gov. Whitmer's executive orders related to temporary restrictions on entry into and enhanced protections for residents of health care facilities, residential care facilities, congregate care facilities, and juvenile justice facilities.

The subpoena comes after numerous requests from lawmakers and the committee to the department have gone unanswered.

In February, Theis and colleagues submitted a formal request that Attorney General Dana Nessel and acting U.S. Attorney General Monty Wilkinson conduct full state and federal investigations into the Whitmer administration's handling of the coronavirus pandemic and its relation to its COVID-19 nursing home policies. The requests were denied.

In March, the committee issued a formal documents request to DHHS, seeking intradepartmental communications between department officials related to the Whitmer administration's policies that placed people infected with COVID-19 into the state's nursing homes, adult foster care facilities and long-term care facilities. After phone calls and a structured timeline of deliverables, the department has yet to fulfill the request.

In April, the committee sent a follow-up letter to the department relating to specifics of the aforementioned DOJ request; held a conference call with DHHS staff regarding requested documents to be received by April 19; and sent another letter to the department about the since-passed deadline. The department did not produce the material and no follow up was provided.

To date, no documents have been produced in response to either of the committee's March 3 or April 8 document requests.

"Over a third of people who died from COVID-19 in our state were long-term care facility residents and workers," Theis said. "The tragic loss of our fellow Michiganders could have been prevented. Their grieving families, and the people of this state, demand answers. We deserve to know what decisions led the Whitmer administration to implement, maintain and publicly defend its tragic policy.

"It is unfortunate that we have come to the point of needing a subpoena. But for the sake of the families who lost loved ones to the virus in these facilities, the administration must be fully transparent, and a full investigation must be conducted to determine whether any wrongdoing occurred and, if it did, to ensure justice is delivered."

Letter to the Editor

If we live in dangerous times, is it not we who are responsible? If we own guns or sell guns, should they not remain outside the hands of violence? If we do not like our elected officials, do we assault truth with reckless claims? If we cannot tolerate "illegal" entry into our nation, can we not support legal methods of entry? And if there is not bread enough for all, do we hoard our own supply, refusing to share?

How many times will we preface change with statements like: "Not until something else (or someone else) does this or that will I consider getting involved?"

Too often I hear and read references to the intentions of our founding fathers. Although brave and well intended men, they were products of their own fraught world of war and inequity and could never have imagined the troubles 21st century America would face. Provisions for women, for the impoverished, for people of color, for those who were different (in any way) and for newcomers were not addressed. Many of these men were deists who, by definition, believed in God the Creator but also in God the Indifferent. Their context was so unlike our own. And that is significant.

Christians often complicate things with our own spin on what the Bible says or means. In simplest terms, we are not commanded to approve. We are not commanded to understand or to judge. What is right means what is right for each believer. What offends or does not offend does not inform the question of whom we feed, or clothe, or nurse. We are not "doing God's work" by issuing judgement. God sorts what must be sorted. "Man" is in the business of love.

Yes. These are tough times. Welcome to the real world. Welcome to the history of "man." Which age was not problematic? We have many to look back on. If we were Neanderthals, would we refuse to hunt mastodon together? If this were the Enlightenment, would we reject the writings of Erasmus or refuse to marvel at the works of DaVinci? Shakespeare's plays transcend time and place for one reason: They are as relatable today as they were 400 years ago. And that is because people never change. Greatness is not a singular quality. It transcends time.

We live, we die, we love, we hurt, we disappoint, and we enthrall. Even the world—all the world—remains a stage. And we, its players, are its only variable. As such, great expression, great support, great leadership, great kindness and every other desirable quality is down to us. It's just that simple.

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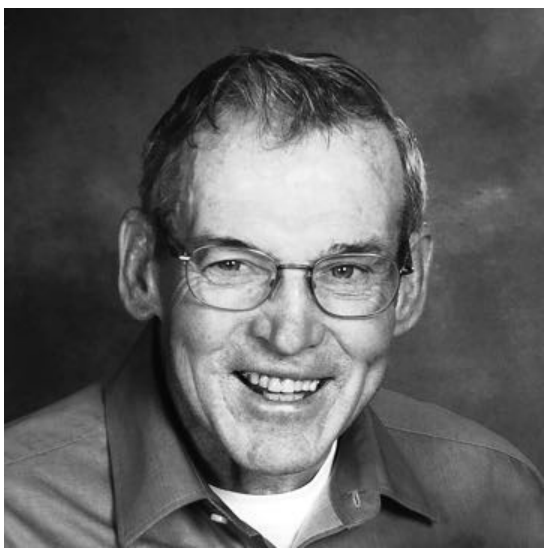

Richard William Hamlin

Richard William Hamlin went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at the age of 75 at Stoneleigh Hospice Residence in Lansing.

Richard was born in Perry on June 20, 1945, to Elmer and Lorraine (Sommer) Hamlin. He graduated from Webberville High School in 1963 and served as the Region IV State Vice President for the Michigan FFA Association from 1963-1964. Rich developed Hamlin Mobile Home Park after an accident that altered his life. He married Roberta M. Gray on May 12, 1979.

Richard was a member of Family Life Wesleyan Church, the Masonic Lodge, and the Lions Club. Rich loved to make people laugh. He frequented the local coffee shops and enjoyed playing euchre and sports. Richard liked to say he was, "born in a car and loved to travel." He also loved time with family and friends, especially his children and grandchildren. The grandchildren knew where Grandpa's tin of cookies was and that he would always be ready to share one with them.

Richard is survived by his wife, Roberta; son, Mark (Megan); daughter Laura (Ramey) Lunceford; and grandchildren: Luke, Benjamin, Olivia, Eleanor, Ella, Beau, and Samuel. He is also survived by his brother, Ronald Hamlin, and sister, Ruth Ann Matthews. Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Lorraine; his brother, Robert Hamlin; and his daughter-in-law, Nicole Hamlin.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. James LaBerge and the staff at Hospice of Lansing and Stoneleigh Residence.

Visitation is scheduled for Sunday, May 16, 2021, from 2-6 pm at Family Life Wesleyan Church, 3720 Rowley Rd., Williamston, MI. A funeral service celebrating Richard's life will be held Monday, May 17, 2021 at 11 am, also at Family Life Wesleyan Church. The family will begin receiving guests one hour prior to the service. A luncheon will follow. Condolences and memories can be shared in Richard's online guest book at www.VickersFuneralHomes.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be directed to Family Life Wesleyan Church or St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Arrangements entrusted to Vickers Funeral Home, 109 N. Church St./P.O. Box 503, Leslie, MI 49251. 517-878-6600.

Michigan House Report

By Bob Bezotte,
47nd District

This past week was National Police Officers Week! A huge THANK YOU to our law enforcement in Livingston County and the whole state of Michigan!! On Friday, I stopped by the police departments in the district with lunch for the officers. I deeply appreciate all that you do and for protecting our community.

* * *

In March, MIOSHA quietly submitted a proposal to make their emergency COVID-19 pandemic workplace rules permanent. These rules were issued to stop the spread of the virus and keep workers safe during the COVID-19 emergency last October and were initially issued as executive orders from the governor last April. It makes no sense that they would continue after we've gotten control of the virus.

Under the proposed permanent rules, employers would still have to adhere to many directives like requiring their employees wear masks at all times, social distancing be enforced and employers create a policy prohibiting in-person work to the extent that work can be feasibly completed remotely, among others. Additionally, the department could keep these directives in place after the state's emergency orders have been rescinded.

If you believe these rules are an overreach and will hurt already struggling Michigan businesses, make your voice heard. The information you provide on the website will be sent directly to the department on your behalf as a public comment. Visit our website at www.gophouse.org/posts/whitmeremergency to submit your public comment and make your voice heard. Comments must be submitted by May 26 at 5 p.m.

* * *

This week, we voted on our budget proposal for the fiscal year starting Oct 1. I am fighting to deliver more temporary help for people still struggling with the pandemic—including food assistance, rent and utility relief, and help for local communities. I also support ongoing initiatives that help Michigan families every single day, every single year through our plan for the budget year that starts Oct. 1.

* * *

On May 21, I will be hosting a virtual coffee hour for the month of May. I will have Livingston County Undersheriff, Jeff Warder, joining me to discuss mental health issues. With the pandemic going on for over a year, mental health has become a serious issue in our country. You can register for this meeting on my website www.RepBezotte.com or visit my Facebook page "State Representative Bob Bezotte" for the registration link.

* * *

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.

Fowlerville Varsity Softball Team wins pair of games against St. Johns

The Fowlerville Varsity Softball Team won a pair of games against St. Johns last week, mercying them 11-0 in five innings in the first game and holding on to edge them 8-7 in eight innings in the second contest.

In the opener, the Gladiators strung together 12 hits in the first game while defeating St. John's 11-0 in 5 innings. Raelynn Haan had 1 double and Emmalee Felver had 2 doubles. Tori Briggs went 3 for 3 with a triple and Parker Douglass was 2 for 2 with a triple.

Halle Dargie picked up her 5th win of the season with 6 strikeouts and only 1 walk.

The nightcap had a lot more action with each team putting up ten hits. The Gladiators were up 7-3 going into the bottom of the 7th inning when St. John's battled back to tie the game at 7. With Carlie Atcheson on 2nd base in the 8th inning, Heather Gendron laid down a bunt to move Atcheson to third. She then scored the eventual game winning run on a pass ball. The Gladiator defense played tough in the 8th inning to hold St. John's scoreless. Carlie Atcheson improved to 4-3 on the mound with this big win.

Fowlerville is now 10-5 (6-0 CAAC) and were scheduled to play Lansing Catholic this past Thursday.

WOW! What a Weekend for young Fowlerville Wrestlers

By Dan Coon

Despite Covid times and not having areas to practice this past weekend May 7 and 8, Fowlerville wrestling had one of their best outings in recent history. Seven athletes attended the state tournament held at Mundy Sportsplex in Mundy (just outside Grand Blanc) and we walked away with 8 medals in Freestyle and Greco.

Greco was Friday night and Freestyle was Saturday. This state tournament was open to Michigan residents and divided into 2 year age groups from 6u to 16u. There was a high school division and a veterans division (30 and older). The tournaments had a few of this past year's state placers and from the talent level there, it would be a good bet many of next year MHSAA state placers were getting their start on their dominance for next year. We did not have many in the kids division basically because we did not have a central place to practice.

Jim Buurma wrestled a tough couple of tournaments. He wrestled at 152 lbs in the high school tournament. He started out the tournament losing to Curtis in Greco and finished the tournament in third after with a score of 10-0 over the same Curtis that had beat him the first round. Freestyle, he wrestled tough but could not get his feet moving and ended up one match away from placement. With his performance, he is now qualified for the National Team tournament with Team Michigan and most likely will qualify for the National Tournament in Fargo in July.

Jon Davis, wrestled at 160 in the high school division. Jon chose to wrestle only the Freestyle division. By sharing time with the track team, devoting most of his time there and practicing outside the Fowlerville room with a folkstyle oriented room, it left him little time to practice Greco. Jon had one of the largest brackets of the day and came up a little short in placement. There are some tricks that work really well with Freestyle but don't score any points in Folkstyle (High School style). Jon is a young man to be proud of. His devotion to high

Continued on page 18

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WOW!, continued

school sports and wrestling is hard to duplicate.

Maggie Buurma wrestled to a championship in the girls 14u division. She won the first two in the best of three series for the finals. She dominated in a 8-6 win and then a 16-9 victory to end the series. She also had the courage to wrestle with the boys in Greco and Freestyle. She finished 2nd in Greco and 3rd in the Freestyle. She wrestled tough throughout the year and showed potential of setting some high school records over the next few years. She had moments at the state tournament where she looked awesome and then lost the faith. As she gains confidence in herself, she is going to turn some heads.

Waylon Lamkin wrestled the 16u division with the 152 lbers. He did not look like the 8th grader he is. He is matched up with freshmen and some of the younger sophomores. The high schoolers have the advantage because they have had the opportunity to practice five days a week and they have been "sharpened" with the tougher high school tournaments. Waylon finished 2nd in the Greco and came back the next day and took 2nd again in the freestyle. It's been a long time since we had an eighth grader do this. Waylon qualified for 16u Team Michigan that will be wrestling the best teams in the nation June 9-13. Hopefully, in July, we will also see him at the National tournament. Great Job!! Waylon

Joey Buurma, our youngest Fowlerville competitor, decided he would compete without practice for the year. As long as his older brother and older sister are wrestling, he might as well wrestle rather than just sit around and watch. Joe wrestled at 120 in the 10u division. He finished 2nd in both styles. His highlight of the weekend may have been when he pinned Landen in Freestyle. This Landen was a wrestler that he faced all year, and had not beaten until the state meet.

Richard Davis wrestled in the freestyle tournament at 160 lbs. His first match, he was trailing at the break but came back to beat one of the tougher wrestlers in the tournament. He showed in this match he can compete with anyone when he wants to. His next match he lost to the eventual champ of the weight class and his next match he lost to the third place finisher. He came up one match short of placing but showed he can compete when he wants to and can be a leader for next year's High School team. Richard is also a dual sport athlete in the spring. He is on the track team as well.

Aiden Bradbury wrestled in the freestyle tournament at 138 lbs. Aiden runs track as his number 1 sport in the spring. And after just two freestyle practices went toe to toe with some of the best in the state. He stacked the deck against himself when he took the opportunity to spend time with a brother the two weeks of practice leading up to the state championship and moving up to 138 lbs. Some will remember he wrestled at 125 in the high school season. Aiden showed some great quickness and poise in his wins and losses in his matches, but the lack of Freestyle technique got the best of him. With a couple of

Continued on next page

Do the right thing

By Jace Arledge

Let's have a show of hands of those who TRULY love themselves?

This is a question that I think is hard to answer, at least for me it is. Growing up, it was thought that if you were like everyone else and conformed to society you would be accepted and loved. In all actuality, it wasn't like that. People would always find SOMETHING about you that made you odd. The clothes you wore, your hairstyle, the music you listen to, or the people you hung around. And if it made your family look bad, you were expected to change so that you weren't "talked about" and you wouldn't hear the whispers.

In today's society, it is even harder for people to really be their true selves. Social media has made it that way. Cameras are always at the ready, recordings are being made everywhere you look, and it is so much harder to hide what "flaws" you possess.

When someone was "different," when I was growing up, you made a conscious decision to either befriend them or not, to accept them for whom or what they were or totally avoid them. Always in the back of your mind, you would be thinking of how it would affect your family status.

What a way to have to live your life. If you were the one who was different it was even harder.

I was teased when I was younger for being a chubby little kid that would eat the kids school lunches (plus my own) if they didn't like something, or because my hair was messy or anything else others would find "different," I would go home crying to my mom and I still remember her words: "Don't let them know it bothers you. If they see you are not affected, they will stop because there isn't a reaction." Though that worked in the 70's, I fear that it may not be such good advice in times like these.

I have worked with kids from K-12 and have seen it on a daily basis. It breaks my heart. I try to find words to guide those who are being ridiculed and "yes," I return to those ancient words of my mother (after all it worked for me… for awhile). But we didn't' have the social media like today.

Scripture points us to many ways that Jesus dealt with "bullies." Usually, he called them out on their behavior, would toss words back at them to make them think about what they were doing, like the scripture of the "scorned" woman where Jesus asked "he without sin cast the first stone." Jesus was a true radical and protestor. Here's some examples:

Jesus made public proclamations and tried to change social sentiment through talks, teachings, and speeches — because Jesus was a protester (Matt. 5-7)

Jesus empathized and advocated for the oppressed, hurt, abused, downtrodden, abandoned, alienated, and victimized — because Jesus was a protester (Luke 7)

Jesus went to places he wasn't supposed to go and talked to people he wasn't supposed to talk to — because Jesus was a protester (John 4)

I look at my life and what I try to teach my children and anyone who I come in contact with. If we don't speak up for those who are different, we truly aren't following our Christian teachings. Now this doesn't just pertain to Christians, oh not at all, this is for everyone who breaths and has a heartbeat. You don't have to proclaim being a Christian to "do the right thing."

So, the next time you come face to face with indifference or injustice, racism, hate and bigotry, remember these 4 letters: W.W.J.D (What Would Jesus Do)? Be BOLD, be BRAVE and always BE KIND!! Till next time….

—Area Deaths—

Darrell Dean Hughes

On Thursday, May 6, 2021, Darrell Dean Hughes passed away after a short respite in the hospital. He is survived by his wife Elaine (Covell) Hughes, his two children Barry Kevin Hughes and Holly Anne (Hughes) Pressel, son-in-law Aaron Thomas Pressel, stepchildren Ronald and Kathleen, brother Morris (Judy), grandchildren Jeremy, Michelle, Kayla, Brianna, Rylee, Emma, and Aiden as well as several great grandchildren.

Darrell was born to Lewis Edward Hughes and Lydia Ella (Hunholz) Hughes in Springfield, Missouri on January 31, 1938. Darrell moved to Dearborn, Michigan when he was a young boy and graduated from Edsel Ford High School. Later, Darrell attended Lipscomb University to pursue a degree in Lutheran ministry. Realizing that the ministry was not his true calling, Darrell began working for the City of Dearborn in the early 1960's and found his true love in land surveying. He worked for the City of Dearborn for many years before moving out to Fowlerville and starting his own business in 1978.

After 43 wonderful years of marriage, his wife Beverly Ann (Montavon) Hughes passed, and Darrell found love and happiness again with Elaine. Elaine and Darrell were married on January 13, 2012 and were able to spend many years laughing and enjoying life together.

Fowlerville was a big part of Darrell's life and he was very involved in the community. He owned his own business, Darrell Hughes and Associates Land Surveying for 32 years. Darrell was a familiar face at the Fowlerville Fair each summer and the Fly In Breakfast in the fall. Darrell was an active member of the Rotary and Downtown Development Authority for many years.

It was Darrell's wishes that there not be a service or memorial. If you wish to honor Darrell, in lieu of flowers, have a shot and a beer and donate to a charity of your choosing. To those of you whom knew him personally, thank you for being a part of his life.

Arrangements entrusted to Herrmann Funeral Home. Online condolences may be expressed at pjherrmannfuneralhome.com.

Travers 'Travis' James Pariseau

Travers 'Travis' James Pariseau unexpectedly passed away on April 27, 2021, at the age of 39 at his home in Fowlerville, Michigan.

Travis was born on July 5, 1981, in Traverse City, Michigan. Travis is survived by mother, Carrolyn Taylor; sisters, Wendy Taylor and Keely Pariseau; brothers, Brian Pariseau, Tyler Pariseau, and Garrett Pariseau; and many aunts, uncles and cousins. He also had an older brother, Kenneth Taylor, who tragically passed away in May of 2016. Even though he never had any children of his own, he embraced the joys of being an uncle to nephews, Kenny and Bryan, and nieces, Brianna and Emma.

Although typically reserved when meeting new people, once he became comfortable, his effortless ability to spark an uproar of laughter would cause even a stranger to feel like an old friend. In his free time, he enjoyed playing video games, collecting baseball cards and supporting his favorite sports teams including the Detroit Tigers, Red Wings and Detroit Lions. Blessing those he loved with experiencing the true definition of a family man, he always prioritized the wellbeing and needs of his family.

Travis will be remembered as a kind and gentle man. With a peaceful presence and a heart of gold, he will continue to inspire each person that knew him to live a life led by the desire to make everyone smile.

Funeral services were held on May 4, 2021, at Place of Refuge Ministries. Viewing started at 4pm followed by the service at 6pm. Arrangements were entrusted to Herrmann Funeral Home. Online condolences may be expressed at pjherrmannfuneralhome.com.

WOW!, continued

weekends practicing with the national teams (he qualified for this), he will be much better and I would not be surprised to see him place at the Central Regional on May 22 and 23, or the national tournament in July.

A great weekend for the Super 7 and the future looks good for the high school team knowing that 6 of these wrestlers will be with the team next year.

Fowlerville High School CTE Student of the Week

Photo by Nina Herrst Photography

Samantha Armstrong

Congratulations to this week's Career Technical Education Student of the Week at Fowlerville High School, Samantha Armstrong! Samantha is being recognized for her efforts in the Agriscience program through Livingston Career & Technical Education. Fowlerville High School hosts the program which brings in students from around Livingston county. Subjects studied include agriculture, food, natural resources, and veterinary medicine. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the high school's local FFA chapter.

For two years in a row Samantha has participated in the Leadership Contest through FFA. The format for this contest both years was that of a job interview. In eleventh grade Samantha won at the district level interviewing for the position of Veterinary Ultrasound Technician. She then moved on to the regional contest! In the near future, Samantha and three other students will be competing in the Skills Contest through FFA. Here they will be tested on such things as veterinary terminology, breed and parasite identification, and medical equipment knowledge!

As part of the Agriscience program, Samantha also participated in two six-week work-based studies/internships. The first work-based study was with the Animal Rehabilitation Facility located in Dexter, while her second was at the Animal Clinic of Pinckney. Samantha was able to expand her knowledge and gain valuable experience through these opportunities. She also currently holds a permanent position with the Animal Clinic of Pinckney.

When asked about her favorite part about the class, Samantha stated, "Being a part of FFA and getting to do a lot of hands-on work. I also enjoyed spending time outside in our greenhouse." Samantha and other students have maintained the greenhouse by picking weeds, rotating and watering plants, along with restaining the facility. When asked about some specific things she has learned in class; plant anatomy, veterinary medicine, and caring for and working with honey bees were a few things Samantha shared.

Samantha plans to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Veterinary Nursing from Michigan State University. She feels this class has helped prepare her for her future career by teaching her all sorts of information relevant in the veterinary medical field. Samantha stated, "This class taught me a lot of the information I needed to help get my job at the local vet clinic. Things like breed identification for many different species, and different types of diseases and parasites, etc. Without working there I wouldn't have known I wanted to go to school for it and make it a full time career."

To those considering this program, Samantha had the following to say, "I would totally recommend this class to anyone who enjoys hands-on activities, making new friends, working with people and animals, or enjoys the outdoors. While taking this class don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone when it comes to things like contests, class projects, events, etc. I truly believe you get out what you put in when it comes to this class." Congratulations once again to Samantha Armstrong!

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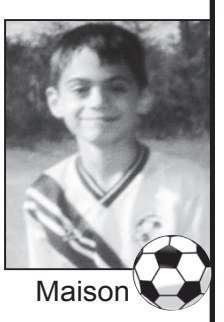

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The Edmund Fitzgerald, carrying a load of iron ore, went down in Lake Superior in 1975 and became the most famous Great Lakes shipwreck thanks to a song by Gordon Lightfoot.

Folk songs preserve memories of Great Lakes shipwrecks

By Eric Freedman
Capital News Service

"The legend lives on from the Chippewa on down of the big lake they called Gitche Gumee," singer Gordon Lightfoot wrote of Lake Superior. "The lake, it is said, never gives up her dead."

Her dead includes the 29-member crew of the Edmund Fitzgerald, victims of a vicious storm that sank the doomed freighter on route from Superior, Wisconsin, to a steel mill near Detroit in November 1975.

The wind in the wires made a tattle-tale sound
And a wave broke over the railing
And every man knew, as the captain did too
T'was the witch of November come stealin'
The dawn came late and the breakfast had to wait
When the gales of November came slashin'

Lightfoot's musical homage to the disaster a year later became an international hit, making the Edmund Fitzgerald, lost near Whitefish Point, the best-known shipwreck in Great Lakes history.

"The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" also provides evidence of what researchers at Michigan Technological University and the nonprofit Center for Maritime and Underwater Resource Management in Leslie say: "The relationship between shipwrecks and folk tradition, as represented in folk music, has served to preserve memory of the events."

Famous as it is now, the Edmund Fitzgerald is by no means the only vessel lost by collision, storm or fire on the Great Lakes. That toll is more than 6,000, according to the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum in Sault Ste. Marie.

Few others have spawned lasting musical memorials and "served to preserve memory of the events," as researchers Misty Jackson and Kenneth Vrana wrote in a study of memory, preservation and the folk music tradition of Great Lakes shipwrecks. It appeared in the *Journal of Maritime Archaeology.*

The study focuses on songs about the Edmund Fitzgerald and three other well-known wrecks:

The Lady Elgin, a side-wheel steamer that sank in an 1860 collision in Lake Michigan near Chicago, taking with it at least 380 passengers and crew. The disaster, widely reported in newspapers of the day, inspired the song "Lost on the Lady Elgin" the same year.

The Eastland, a twin-screw steamer overloaded with more than 2,600 passengers and crew, capsized in 1915 while docked on the Chicago River. Seventy-one years later, a song titled "The Eastland" paid tribute to its 844 victims.

The Rouse Simmons, a three-masted schooner, was carrying thousands of Christmas trees from the Upper Peninsula to Chicago when it sank in Lake Michigan during a 1912 blizzard and ice storm. Seventeen crew died, and decades later it became musically memorialized as "the Christmas ship."

The researchers selected those disasters because they attracted press attention, drew national and even international attention and inspired folk songs.

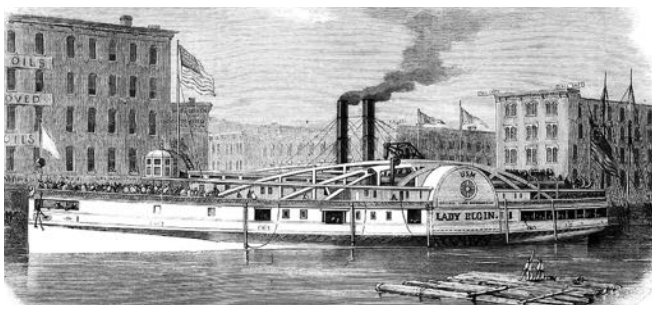
To assess how folk music may influence public knowledge of shipwrecks and attitudes toward preserving them, the study surveyed tourists at the Tall Ship Celebration in Bay City and members of the Ten Pound Fiddle, a folk music organization in East Lansing.

The survey found that exposure to traditional maritime music may influence listeners to support shipwreck preservation.

Historic preservationists may be able to use the survey results as part of efforts to prevent illegal looting of shipwrecks and to widen public awareness of maritime cultural resources it said.

"It is our position that folk music and other forms of popular media enhance the awareness and memory of Great Lakes maritime casualties," it said.

Study coauthor Jackson, the president of the Center for Maritime and Underwater Resource Management, said, "Shipwrecks are sort of time capsules," she said. "It's a kind of step back in the past. You can see an old house driving the street



The Lady Elgin, on route from Chicago to Milwaukee, sank after a collision in 1860, taking at least 380 lives.

but you don't see a ship every day."

She said, "It kind of belongs to all of us. If it's down there, why shouldn't we preserve it?"

And unlike shipwrecks buffeted by currents in the ocean, some in the Great Lakes rest on the lake bottom with their masts still sticking up, she said. "That's intriguing – if it didn't break up, that glimpse of something from the past is just sitting there. You can explore. It's not off limits."

Illinois folk musician Lee Murdock, who specializes in songs of the Great Lakes, said people are drawn to maritime songs, partly because "sailors historically had this culture of their own. The seafaring existence is so substantially different from what you find on land."

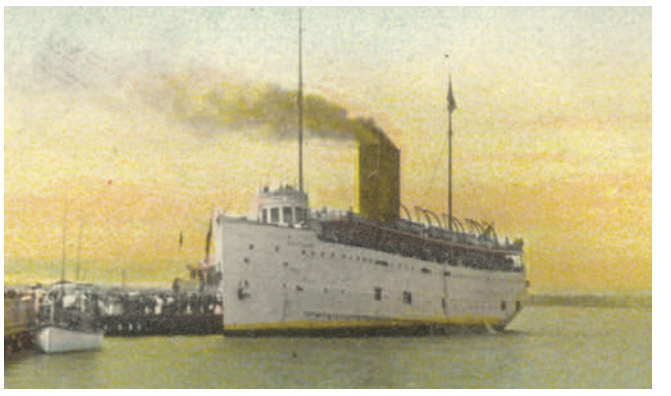
Murdock has composed many shipwreck songs, including "The Christmas Ship" about the Rouse Simmons, and he's found interest in Great Lakes shipwrecks among audiences as distant as California and Texas.

"You can get some of the inspiration in what is driving the interest in these shipwrecks – the connection with people out there and dealing with that. The mortality of existence on open waters," he said. "That speaks to people across all different walks of life."

The study said, "Electronic media have undoubtedly enlarged awareness and memory by making historical songs, stories, images and book and video productions more readily available to the public." Sources including streaming services like Pandora, folk music shows on public radio and computer games.

"How long is an event remembered or relevant? Folk music from hundreds of years past is still heard today, along with new compositions about Great Lakes tragedies," it said.

The Rouse Simmons, loaded with Christmas trees, sank in 1912 in Lake Michigan.



The capsized Eastland in the Chicago River cost 844 lives in 1915.

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Family Impact Centers

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