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New pump track opens for bicyclists and other non-motorized wheel enthusiasts



The Stockbridge pump track includes banks and rollers to challenge riders of all ages. Photo credit Mary Jo David

by Mary Jo David

A crowd assembled on July 8, at Veterans Memorial Park in Stockbridge, to participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the community's new pump track, which was financed through funds provided by the Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority (SDDA).

Readers may be asking themselves, "What's a pump track, and why here?"

According to bermstyle.com, "A pump track is a continuous circuit of banked turns interspaced by rollers and other features that can be ridden

on a bike without pedaling. ... riders create momentum via up and down body movements called pumping."

"We were looking at what to do about our older skateboard ramps, when I first heard about pump tracks," explained Stockbridge Village Council member Molly Howlett, who shared the idea with Geri Uihlein and Mellisa Powers-Taylor to get the SDDA involved. Howlett added, "This just seemed like a great way to attract kids and adults in the community and to, hopefully, bring more interest to our businesses in Stockbridge."

Powers-Taylor, vice chair of the SDDA, mentioned the pump track's proximity to the trailhead for the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail in Stockbridge and even the DTE Energy Foundation Trail (for mountain bikes) in Waterloo.

See Pump track on page 10.

Check it out: Every day is a fun day at Veterans Memorial Park



On Tuesday, July 18, Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Stockbridge was a beehive of activity for Playtime in the Park, sponsored by the Village of Stockbridge, the Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition (SAWC) and the 5 Healthy Towns Foundation (5HT). Although every day is a good day for playtime in Veterans Park, the Playtime in the Park event on July 18 was held to boost awareness of all that is new and improved in the park over the past year.

Folks assembled from many different organizations to see the fruits of their hard work—be it applying for or reviewing grants, overseeing purchases, installing equipment, and so much more. Others stopped by just to see what is new in the park. And there was plenty to see.

The park, located at 200 North Wood St., has been the recent recipient of a number of generous grants and donations from organizations like Ingham County Trails and Park Millage Grant, Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority (SDDA), SAWC through 5HT, local businesses, and the Stockbridge Lions Club.

See Veterans Memorial Park on page 19.

Judge Susan L. Reck photograph by Stockbridge resident unveiled in courthouse

by Mary Jo David

By their very nature, photographers are happy to remain behind the camera, focusing their attention on the subject in front of the lens. That's exactly what Suzi Greenway was doing when she photographed Judge Susan L. Reck back in 1989 as part of a class project Greenway was working on. At that time, Reck was serving as judge of the Probate Court in Livingston County, a position she had been elected to the previous year.

See Greenway on page 21.



Photographer Suzi Greenway (left), retired Judge Susan L. Reck (center) and Livingston County Clerk Elizabeth Hundley (right) are pictured below Greenway's photograph of Judge Reck. Photo provided by Suzi Greenway

Stockbridge resident records first hole-in-one

News and photo by Clyde Whitaker

Stockbridge resident A.C. Allen recorded his first hole-in-one on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at Gauss's Green Valley Golf Course in Jackson.

He aced the 14th hole—a par 3 at 150 yards. His golfing accomplishment was witnessed by golfing buddies Clyde Whitaker and Jacob Sawyer. Congratulations to A.C. Allen!

To view additional photos of A.C.'s hole-in-one,



A.C. Allen hit his first hole-in-one on a par 3.

visit stockbridgecommunitynews.com.

Rural Perspectives: Common milkweed attracts and feeds butterflies, bees

by Diane Constable



Diane Gray Constable

Our native common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) gets the first part of its scientific name from Asklepios, the Greek god of healing and medicine, as the plant was known to have many medicinal uses. We can see it growing along roadsides, farm field edges, and in naturalized gardens to attract and feed butterflies and bees.

Milkweed can be 2 feet to 6 feet tall, with thick large leaves and a fibrous stem. It has a white, thick, bad-tasting sap that can be seen when a leaf or stem is broken. The plant has beautiful "balls" of flowers, with mixed colors of light to dark shades of mauve and pink. In the fall, when the seeds are ripe, the 3 – to 5-inch-long seed pods pop open. Then the small seeds with silk-like fibers are carried off and dispersed by the wind. A plant can live up to 25 years.

The plant has many uses. Seed silk has been collected and used for early lifejackets and pillow stuffing, and to produce a type of rubber. The stems have been used to make cords and paper, and although the sap can be poisonous, some of its properties have been used to create various heart medications. Also, Native Americans prepared the plant properly so it could be used for food, medicines, rope fiber and fibers for cloth making.



Common milkweed grows along roadsides, farm field edges and in naturalized gardens. Photo credit Diane Constable

Fun Fact: Milkweed has a very important role in the life of the beautiful monarch butterfly, as it is the only host plant for its caterpillars. The butterfly lays her eggs on the underside of the leaves and the caterpillars feed on the plant, safely ingesting and absorbing the poisonous sap, which gives it a bad taste to protect it from predators. This protection stays with it, even after it becomes a butterfly.

Diane Constable is an avid photographer. She serves on the Unadilla Township Planning Commission and is a member of the township's Parks and Recreation Committee. Diane also enjoys her dogs and gardening.

Bicyclists take well-deserved break in Gregory on cross-state trek



Lewis (left) and Phil, along with Willie the sock monkey, stop at the Gregory trailhead of the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail to take in the Fourth of July Parade before continuing on Route 1 of The Great Lake-to-Lake Trails. Photo credit Mary Jo David

by Mary Jo David

Shade trees are in short supply on the route for the Gregory Fourth of July Parade. But seated in a prime, shady spot on M-36 near the corner of Main Street were two gentlemen who had traveled farther than most. Arriving from the Gregory trailhead of Michigan's Mike Levine Lakelands Trail, the bicyclists happened upon the crowd assembling for the parade. The two then decided to take a break from their bicycle trek across the state to take in Gregory's annual Fourth of July celebration.

See Bicyclists on page 21.

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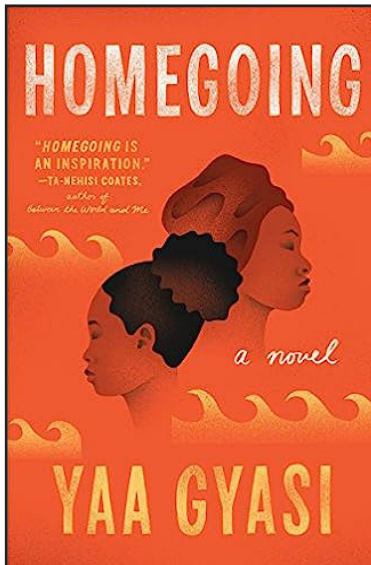


Shuyler Clark

Reading Between the Lines Separated half sisters forge different futures in this historical novel

by Shuyler Clark

In 1700s Ghana, half sisters Effia and Esi live in ignorance of each other. While Effia is gifted as a bride to an English governor, Esi is sold as a slave and shipped to America. Author Yaa Gyasi's debut novel "Homegoing" follows the sisters' descendants across centuries of conflict and heartbreak on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, through colonialism, wars, and the not-quite-abolishment of slavery.



Author Yaa Gyasi's debut novel follows the descendants of two fictional half sisters who lived in ignorance of each other's existence. Photo credit Amazon.com

Each chapter of Gyasi's novel follows a new character, alternating between Effia's and Esi's descendants. Although older characters appear in later chapters, their individual stories are wrapped up well in their own segments. Most chapters have a degree of romance given the importance of the family tree, but it takes a backseat to the focus on the slave trade and the systemic racism that spawned from it. Instances of rape are handled as best as such scenes can be, avoiding graphic depictions for readers who are easily disturbed by such topics.

While sexual violence is less graphically portrayed, Gyasi does not shy away from brutally honest depictions of life for black people in America and Ghana (also referred to as Asanteland). The plot delves deeper into the horrors of peoples' lives than is typically taught in schools, especially impressive given how the plot spans 2 1/2 centuries in 300 pages. In particular, the novel demonstrates how colonialism harmed Asante society beyond the slave trade and how so many of today's societal injustices in the United States are founded on racism.

Although the events following Esi's bloodline may strike Western audiences harder given they are close to home, Gyasi devotes equal attention to the Asantes as well as the Fantes people of Ghana. Events, such as the war over the Asante empire's Golden Stool, are significant when trying to understand the current political and economic climate and are a strong foundation to the personal conflicts of Esi's descendants.

More than being the sum of their circumstances, the characters are all deeply human. Their actions and inner conflicts reflect the realities they endure, but they also pursue their own hopes when they can. Gyasi's use of symbolism throughout the plot also contributes to each character's story. The recurrence of fire in Effia's bloodline and water in Esi's consistently demonstrates how the two families have faced different circumstances. This symbolism reaches a satisfying and optimistic conclusion in the final chapter.

"Homegoing" is an unvarnished depiction of how black people were and continue to be affected by events of centuries past. Readers wanting a heartfelt tale without a Eurocentric slant will find it within this novel's pages.

Shuyler Clark is a graduate of Stockbridge High School and Lansing Community College. When she is not reading or writing, she can be found snuggling with her birds.



Brian Friddle

From the superintendent's desk School improvement goals set for upcoming school year

Hello Stockbridge families. In a few weeks, students will be returning to school for the 2023-2024 school year. We have great anticipation for the new school year and the implementation of the preparations we have made for the students. This past year, we made a lot of progress and we are excited to take the next step in meeting the needs of our students. We have established the following school improvement goals to address student needs for the 2023-2024 school year.

Goal 1: All K-12 students will be proficient in literacy. To address this goal, we will have many strategies, but one major initiative will be to use tutors for one-on-one instruction to help students achieve the goal of reading at grade level. In addition to classroom instruction, we will work with Beyond Basics to implement the Orton-Gillingham program to meet the literacy needs of students.

Goal 2: All K-12 students will be proficient in mathematics. To address this goal, we will work with students and teachers to implement tier one (classroom level) and tier two (small group) math interventions that will promote the mastery of basic math skills.

Goal 3: All students will develop healthy relationships and a sense of belonging in a safe school environment. To address this goal, we will work to develop consistency across the grade levels and use Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to set expectations and supports for students in the district.

Goal 4: All students will reach proficiency in all content areas and specials through implementation of best assessment practices. To address this goal, we will work with staff to use research-based best practices to assess students in their work. An emphasis on formative assessment will provide students with a more consistent picture of how they are doing and will inform staff members on how they should adjust their curriculum and instruction.

School safety is an ongoing focus and priority for our school district.

In August, we will provide ALICE training for our staff. This training provides detailed instruction on how to respond to an active intruder in the building. ALICE training explores various types of responses that can be tailored to any given situation as needed. These skills are transferable to all aspects of life. We are addressing school safety in many ways and the following is a list of the initiatives that we are working on to promote school safety: 1) Staff training on threat assessment, 2) Crisis team meetings, 3) Building-level drills: including fire drills, tornado drills, and emergency response drills, 4) Installation of vape detectors and additional cameras, 5) Expansion of our mental health services, 6) Annual bus evacuation drills, 7) Revision of the emergency operations plan, 8) The addition of a school resource officer.

See Superintendent's Desk on page 18.

Clyde's Corner

Hardworking and caring, my dad was the best!

by Clyde Whitaker

Hello again everyone! I just want to thank those who tell me how much you enjoy reading my stories. It is very humbling, and I really appreciate the feedback. I am so lucky to be able to write a monthly column for the Stockbridge Community News and share some of my memories with you. If you get bored, just let me know!



Clyde Whitaker

My dad, Jim Whitaker, was a major influence in my life. He demonstrated for me what a work ethic was: up early every morning, never taking a sick day off, never complaining, and teaching me how to treat others fairly and with respect. He was born July 22, 1914, in Alger, Ohio, to Morgan and Molly Whitaker.

I was lucky in my youth to be able to work with my dad every day on the farm in the summertime, usually until the start of the new school year in September. There are many, many stories I could share about my dad, but the one that comes to mind right now occurred in 1973 during my varsity basketball season.

Dad worked long hours on the Krummrey Farm, usually 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, with a half day on Saturday. With those hours, my dad was not able to see me participate in sports very often—really only a couple of times—but he always encouraged me and told me to play my best.

One winter night in 1973, Stockbridge played Perry at Perry in a league basketball game. Driving up on the bus, I must have become carsick, because my stomach felt upset and I was nauseous. This feeling persisted even after arriving at Perry and warming up on the court.

I went to Coach Hora and told him I felt sick. He instructed me to sit at the end of the bench, which I did. The game started, and it was quite physical. Immediately Tom Kennedy and Pete Mikelonis got into foul trouble in the first quarter. Coach Hora looked down at me and said, "Whitaker!" Well, I sprang off that bench and reported into the game, no longer feeling sick at all.

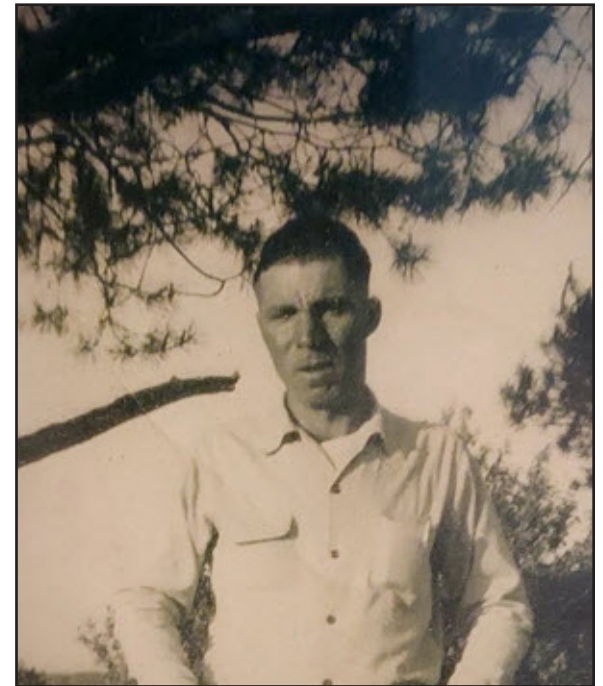
I don't know what it was, it was almost magical, but every shot I took went in, and every rebound was mine. When I fouled out in the fourth quarter, my stats were 28 points and 24 rebounds! Coach Hora told me to be sick more often (LOL!). As we headed back to the locker room after the game, I glanced up into the stands and there he stood. My dad! I never even knew he was at the game!

I flashed a smile and gave him a wave; he smiled and waved back at me. I still remember that moment we shared 50 years ago, my dad and I. His presence must have been why that game felt magical, as though something was in the air.

Thank you, Dad, for always being there for advice and showing me how to be a man. He's been gone since 2003, and not a day goes by that I don't think about my dad. The last time I saw him, his last words to me were, "You're a pretty good boy," and I responded with, "You're a pretty good dad."

Clyde Whitaker is a 1973 Stockbridge graduate. He and his wife, Mary, raised four children in Stockbridge, and they still reside in the Stockbridge area.

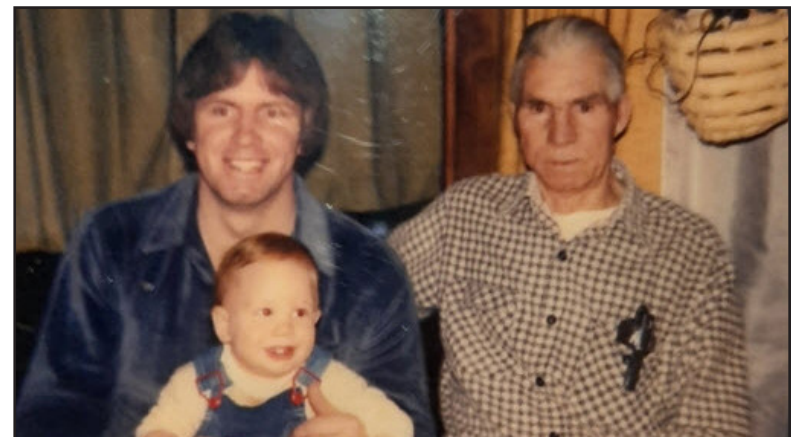
All photos provided by Clyde Whitaker.



Jim Whitaker, father of columnist Clyde Whitaker, during his younger years.

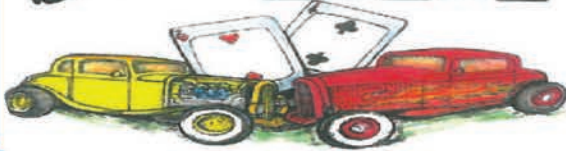


Clyde Whitaker, right, with his dad Jim Whitaker.



Three generations of Whitakers: A younger Clyde Whitaker, holding his son Aaron, with Clyde's dad Jim, seated at right.

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Published in Uncaged, April 2023

Special projects lab experiment with aquaponics

by Elizabeth Vliet, *Uncaged* Business Manager

This article is being published as it appeared in the April 2023 edition of Uncaged Student News.

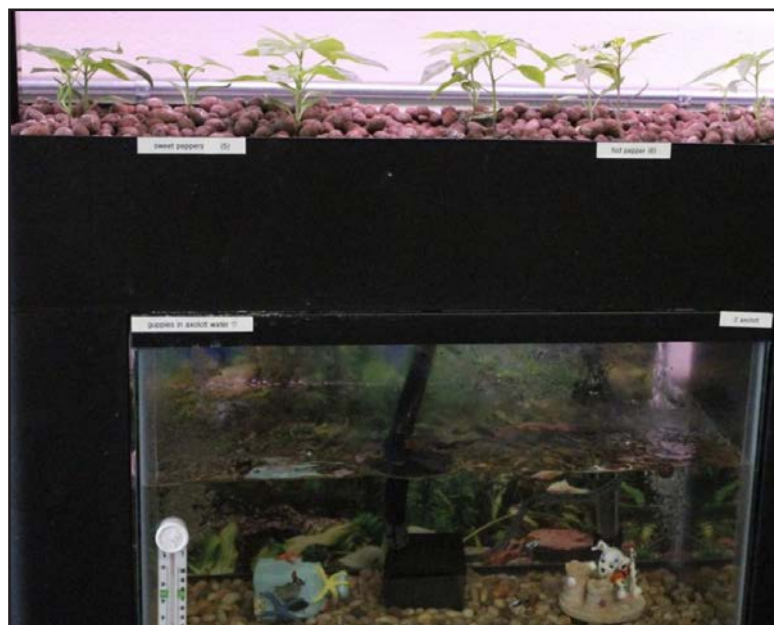
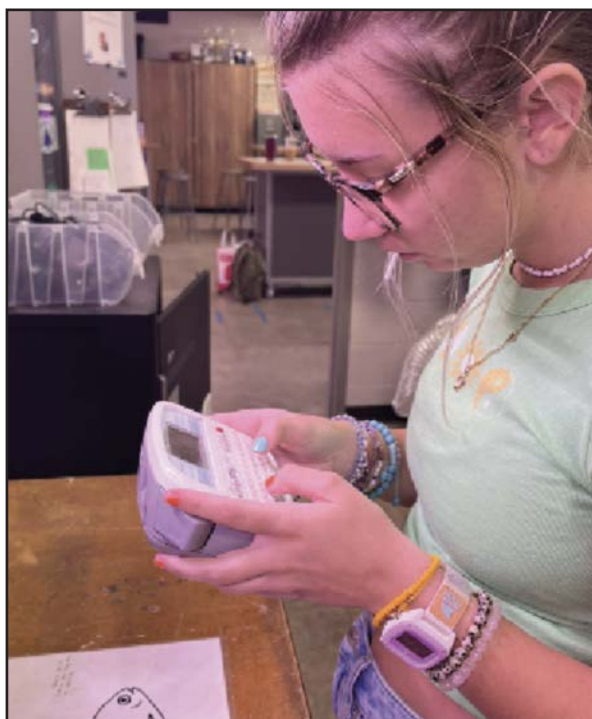
The Special Projects Lab is working on an aquaponics system. This system grows plants using the waste produced by fish.

They are growing basil, tomato, different types of peppers, bok choy and poppy flowers in advisor Robert Richard's room. Their hope is to educate people on alternative ways to raise plants.

The aquaponics system is beneficial to plants because the fertilizer is more direct which gives them a consistent and endless supply of the nutrients they need.

Their goal is to present their project to the American Geophysical Union next year in San Francisco. The AGU is a place where people can go to present their findings and learn about other people's projects and their results.

"The project idea came from a group of students who were maintaining the aquariums and looking to take it to the next step to combine plant growth with maintaining the aquariums," Richards said. "We have also applied for another grant to do Salmon in the classroom."



For more information about Stockbridge's award-winning student newspaper, go to <https://uncagednews.com>.

Uncaged articles are sponsored by The Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation. SAEF is currently looking for new board members. For more information on SAEF, visit [www.panethernet.net/our district](http://www.panethernet.net/our%20district).



Photos provided by Uncaged Student News.

From CADL Stockbridge

Turn to the library for some late-summer fun

by Head Librarian Sherri McConnell

While it might feel like summer is drawing to a close, there still is plenty of time to enjoy the beautiful weather. If you're looking for inspiration, the Stockbridge Branch has some suggestions! For CADL cardholders who are 18 years old or older, we have two bicycles to loan. You can check one out for the day or return it our next open day on a first-come, first-served basis with your library card and a valid ID. Safety kits with a helmet and front and rear lights also are available to check out. Find more details about CADL Pedalers at cadl.org/things.



Bicycles are available for checkout to cardholders 18 years old or older this summer. Photo provided by CADL

If you want to travel but not on two wheels, try the Michigan Activity Pass. With a library card, you can explore Michigan, near and far, at state parks, campgrounds, historical sites and cultural attractions. Here are some activity pass benefits for local attractions within 25 miles: free admission for a family of four at the Howell Nature Center; one free vehicle pass to Dexter-Huron Metropark; a discount at Skydive Tecumseh; or a discount on tickets for the Michigan History Museum in Lansing. Go to miactivitypass.org to see what you can do, or stop by the CADL Stockbridge Branch for details.

The Capital Area District Libraries' Stockbridge Branch is located at 200 Wood St. For more information, call 517-851-7810 or visit cadl.org.

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Founded in 2016, the Stockbridge Community News is a Michigan nonprofit organization, IRS-licensed to operate as a 501(c)(4) organization (# C4-4001565).

An unpaid, volunteer board of directors oversees all SCN operations.

Our monthly, printed newspaper is free and mailed at no-cost to members of the local community. Complementary printed copies are also made available at strategic locations in the community. Print subscriptions are available for a fee to those outside SCN's postal distribution boundaries.

Articles are posted online throughout the month and are available to view for free at stockbridgecommunitynews.com

Our Mission

To promote the common good and shared well-being of residents in the greater Stockbridge area through the collection and publication of local news and useful community information.

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Stockbridge Community News depends on our team of talented, local writers who regularly volunteer their time to ensure we deliver newsworthy content each month. Writer names are reflected in the bylines that appear with each story.

Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

Patrice Johnson, an SCN founder and first editor-in-chief (2016-2021)

We would love to hear from you!

Please share any article ideas or community events you think SCN readers would be interested in. You are also encouraged to contact us with your advertising questions or for information about volunteering.

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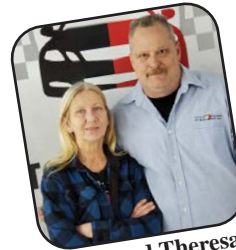
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John and Theresa Kightlinger

Ask an Expert: Your vehicle's a total loss...now what?

by John and Theresa Kightlinger

Let's face it; the only time anyone even thinks about being involved in an auto accident is when they buy insurance! Even then, they don't think "total loss"!

All too often, when a consumer's vehicle has been deemed to be a total loss, he or she hasn't a clue as to what to do or how to go about determining what a true and fair replacement value is, let alone how to go about collecting it.

The following tips are offered to help you navigate through the process, help protect you economically and reduce emotional stress and frustration.

Tip No. 1: Never take advice on how to collect money owed to you from those who owe it to you! Simply stated, some insurers are in it for the money and want to pay out as little as possible in claims. Some insurers also make greater profits by retaining dollars they owe than from their investments!

Tip No. 2: An insurer's first offer is rarely, if ever, the company's best offer! It's not uncommon for an insurer's initial settlement offer to be 10% to 15% less than what they owe. Why do they do this? Because it works; often people merely accept it!

Here are some tips to help you receive fair compensation for your total loss:

1. Do your own research as to what it will cost to purchase an exact replacement vehicle from sellers in a 50-mile radius (go to 100 or more if needed). Determine what your vehicle would have sold for just before the loss. This will help you to establish your vehicle's "actual cash value (ACV)", "fair market value (FMV)" or "replacement cost."

2. Request (demand) the insurer provide you copies of all research they undertook and compiled to determine their settlement offer (including comparables, book values, etc., and the parties they contacted).

3. If they base their offer on the findings of a third-party total-loss value research company (for example, CCC Value Scope, etc.), call the dealers listed within the report and let them know what's going on and if they would accept the insurer's determined value for their vehicle(s). Keep notes of the call. If they will...go and inspect the vehicle to ensure it meets with your approval and is comparable to yours, and have the dealer provide you a CarFax or AutoCheck Vehicle History report. (Note: Not all accidents are recorded, so visually check the car out thoroughly!) My Body Shop and others offer a Pre-Purchase Inspection service for free. We will visually inspect for previous accidents. Pre-Purchase Inspections save you money and stress! Note: Keep in mind that you need not purchase an exact replacement; the goal is to get an exact replacement value and settlement.

See Ask an Expert on page 16.



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John Robinson

Rock 'n' Roll Trivia Original 'Daydream Believer' had unusual opening

by John Robinson

Q: I was told that the Monkees' song "Daydream Believer" was originally recorded by the Kingston Trio.

A: Not true. I'll explain in a bit. The original 1967 single version of the Monkees' "Daydream Believer" kicks off with producer Chip Douglas mentioning the take of the song: "7-A." Then Davy Jones asks, "What number is this, Chip?" to which Chip and the other Monkees impatiently shout, "7-A!" Davy then answers with "OK, I mean, don't get excited, man. It's just 'cause I'm short, I know." (Davy didn't really care for the song and was becoming more and more annoyed with all the takes.) Chip put that little exchange at the beginning of the single just for a laugh; it's rare to find that original opening on any Monkees' "greatest hits" or "best of" packages.

As for your query, the song was written by former Kingston Trio member John Stewart, but that group didn't record it first. Stewart's original lyric in the second verse was "You once thought of me as a white knight on a steed, now you know how funky I can be." The Monkees changed the word "funky" to "happy." If they hadn't, the song wouldn't have held up as well as it does to this day. Monkees member Peter Tork came up with the arrangement for the song and plays piano throughout. Originally, the song "Love Is Only Sleeping" was to have been released as the next Monkees' single, but master tapes didn't arrive in time for the scheduled single release. In its place, they put out "Daydream Believer," which went to No. 1 for four weeks around Christmastime 1967. It became their second largest hit, behind "I'm A Believer." Nineteen years later, in 1986, when three of the Monkees — Micky Dolenz, Jones and Tork — went on a reunion tour, Arista Records re-released "Daydream Believer" as a single follow-up to another 1986 Monkees' single, "That Was Then, This Is Now." It was remixed with a different drum track and made the lower end of the Hot 100 singles chart.

More "Daydream Believer" info

- 1) All Monkees play on the song: along with Davy Jones' lead vocals, Micky Dolenz is on backing vocals, Mike Nesmith on lead guitar and Peter Tork arranged the song and performs the wonderful piano riffs.
- 2) "Daydream Believer" was being promoted before it was even released and prematurely called "Cheer Up, Sleepy Jean."
- 3) The song was recorded while the group was working on their fourth album, "Pisces, Aquarius, Capricorn & Jones Ltd." but it did not appear on that one. It was released as a single in late 1967 and finally appeared in album form on their next LP, "The Birds, The Bees and The Monkees."
- 4) "Daydream Believer" was the Monkees' last No. 1 single, peaking around the Christmas/New Year holidays in 1967. It was remixed and re-released as a single in 1986, reaching No. 79.

Q: I was watching an old episode of "Happy Days" and it got me thinking about The Crew Cuts, who did the song "Sh-Boom." Was that the only song they did?

A: You'd think so, but no. "Sh-Boom" was a hit for The Crew Cuts in 1954, a remake of the R&B version by The Chords that same year. (Written by The Chords, it was made up on the spot as they improvised in the studio. It was originally the B side to their version of Patti Page's "Cross Over The Bridge.") "Sh-Boom" also made the charts twice more in 1954 with versions by Stan Freberg and The Billy Williams Quartet. The Crew Cuts' version is considered to be the first rock 'n' roll hit, and the first to reach No. 1. They went on to have 11 more chart singles, with 10 of them in the Top 40 from 1955-1957. (Their version of "Earth Angel" charted higher than the recording by The Penguins, even though oldies stations usually play The Penguins' version.) The Crew Cuts were from Toronto and formed in 1952, calling themselves The Canadaires. In 1954, they changed their name to The Crew Cuts.

Q: Why did so many rock stars trash their hotel rooms?

A: Because they could get away with it—what did they have to lose? They busted things up to let off steam and because they knew they had enough money to cover all damages. Plus, if they needed lawyers, they had enough for them, too. And if they were taken to court, managers or other staff members appeared for them; so basically, they could trash hotel rooms and not have to worry about any repercussions. Many stars of the '60s and '70s were notorious for hotel antics, like The Who, Led Zeppelin, Alice Cooper and others. But sometimes it backfired! Ray Davies of The Kinks began to smash up his hotel room by throwing a beer bottle against the wall, but it bounced back, hit him in the head, and knocked him out.

Q: Did the Carpenters start right off having hits? Were they in some other group like the Christy Minstrels or something like that before they made it big?

A: Karen and Richard Carpenter were never members of The New Christy Minstrels or any other commercially successful group before they started having hits as "The Carpenters."

See Rock 'n' Roll on page 22.

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'This I Believe'

For the past several years, Stockbridge High School and the Stockbridge Friends of the Library have collaborated to offer an essay-writing contest in order to engage Stockbridge High School students in an exploration of the core beliefs that guide their daily lives. Held twice a year, the contest is based on NPR's four-year-running and now defunct "This I Believe" program.

Winners of the semiannual "This I Believe" contest are in, and the third – and second-place winners would like to remain anonymous, but we are happy to still be able to publish their essays. The first-place winner is Sydney Walker.

SCN is pleased to publish the second-place winner's essay below in the student's words, usually with no edits made by SCN editors. Be sure to check out last month's issue for the third-place essay, and next month's issue for the first-place winning essay.

Second-place winning essay

I woke up in the middle of a cool summer night, the wind chimes singing, and the breeze breathing through the crack of my window. I hear someone's cries and screams echo through the house, I open my bedroom door to peer at what was making the echoes, my door squeaking like a mouse caught in a mouse trap.

My mom shouted at my dad with tears going down her face, "I think we need to end things, for the best of our kids."

The tears rolled down my face like an avalanche, my parents were unfortunately splitting up. I sat there crying for what seemed like years, watching my parents yell, scream, and occasionally hit each other. Their screaming rang through my ears like an alarm, they must have heard me at the very top of our brand new staircase we just replaced.

They both said my name in unison, their eyes were blood red, and the number of tears they had made them look like waterfalls.

I ran away out of fear and locked the bathroom door, it felt like generations until I had built up the courage to look out the window hearing both of them outside. Suddenly I saw a siren emerge out of the misty night, instantly brightening the night sky. I saw police taking my mom away, I attempted to go outside to stop them but my grandpa was a stone wall, he wouldn't let me pass. I heard more shouting, more screaming, and eventually the cop car pulled out of my freshly paved driveway.

My father took my own mother away from me, I loved her dearly and after that day I was no better than an inanimate object. I wouldn't speak to people, not my dad, grandma, grandpa, or anyone. I did this because I had the fear that everyone would be taken from me, just like my mom was. It was the longest two months ever and it felt like two years, but eventually, I finally got to see my mom again, we moved somewhere different not long after and I still had no friends to talk to. Our situation was always pretty hard at first, she was just a single mom with no job at the moment, for another good year or two we were still barely passing by until the spring of 2021, covid had struck and was at its peak, which made our situation worse. But in that same spring, my mom met my future step-father. He was caring, happy, cheerful, and treated me as one of his own, he was basically a human unicorn.

He took our lives from a depressing tale to an ecstatic Disney tale, he improved our lives so much, and even better, he gave me another brother to have a year later with my mom. My baby brother is now 15 months old, basically just a sweet little baby potato. But before he turned his current age, it was always a repeating cycle of no sleep for me.

"Wah Wah," He screams, "Rattle Rattle," His crib went.

With the addition of my baby brother to my family, our money was also starting to slightly improve and my mom started buying new and better things, and she eventually started looking for a new place to live, and she eventually found a new home here in Stockbridge.

Even with these good new changes I still didn't have one thing, some good friends. I was still too afraid and not confident of the way I looked, the way I sounded, or if I was too annoying to be around. Then my mom finally made the move here to Stockbridge which made me even more scared, I knew nobody here and I was even more afraid to be myself or make some friends.

See *This I Believe* on page 18.



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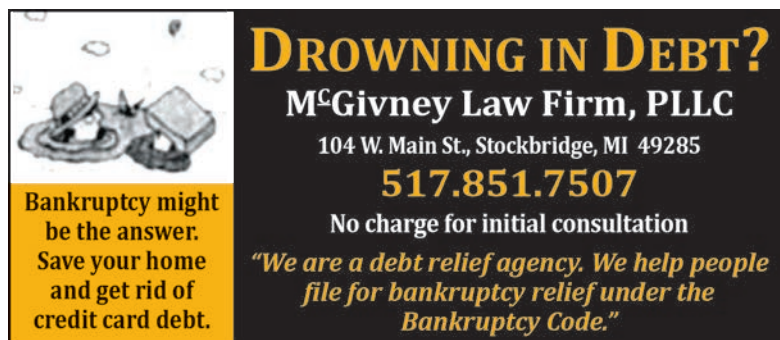
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Pump track page 1



Members of the Stockbridge DDA worked with representatives of the Village of Stockbridge to bring to fruition the pump track at Veterans Memorial Park. Pictured here (l-r): Hunter Lega (SDDA), Daryl Anderson (SDDA), Mellisa Powers-Taylor (SDDA), Jason Stevens (SDDA), Jill Ogden (Village of Stockbridge), Molly Howlett (Village of Stockbridge), Jennifer Conant (SDDA), Jon Fillmore (SDDA), and Geri Uihlein (formerly SDDA). Photo credit Mary Jo David

She explained that the combination of nearby trails and the pump track is helping to increase the allure of this area for bicycle enthusiasts.

The Stockbridge pump track was designed by VeloSolutions, a company that specializes in designing and building pump tracks and bike parks. The blacktop paving of the track in Stockbridge makes it even more functional than an unpaved pump track, as those riding bikes, skateboards, scooters, skates, balance bikes and longboards can participate. (Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the pump track.)

Dan Closser is a bicycling enthusiast from Chelsea. He and his wife Nikki, as well as their sons Van and Dre were on hand for the ribbon cutting and were among the first to try out the track.

"I love that I'm 40, and I can have fun riding this track along with my young sons who are 7 and 5 years old," Closser said. Familiar with pump track designs, Closser added, "VeloSolutions designed this track with turns for gaining speed and maximizing the space. The blacktop is good for bikes, skateboards—anything with wheels—and I'm thinking it should require minimal maintenance."

The day commenced with fits and starts of rain, but riders as young as 5 years old and others old enough to grow full beards took turns riding the "rollers," as the rain held off for the SDDA's pump track grand opening.

Jeff Caskey Brad Caskey

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Obituaries

Thomas L. Heeney



Thomas L. Heeney
Oct. 15, 1940 to July 2, 2023

Thomas L. Heeney, age 82, of Stockbridge, MI, passed away on July 2, 2023 at his home surrounded by family. He was born on October 15, 1940 in Jackson, MI to Lawton and Marcelline (Beck) Heeney.

Tom was a life-long resident and farmer in the Stockbridge community. He was a member of Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian Catholic Church, where he served as sexton of the church cemetery for many years. He also drove truck for 30 years for Wyeth in Mason, MI. Tom raised dairy cows in his youth and pigs later in life. He also served as a 4-H leader for many years. He was also a member of MMPA. Tom loved farm life. He enjoyed taking care of the land and his many animals. He loved old tractors, all makes and models, and he also enjoyed going to the casino and the horse and dog tracks.

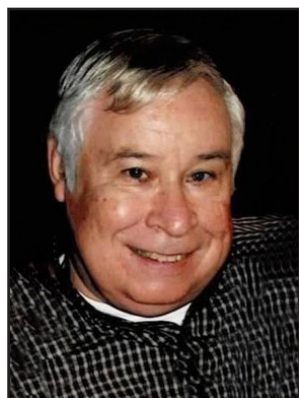
On September 17, 1960, he married Judy A. (Pahl) in Jackson, MI, and she survives. Also surviving are five children, Caroline Ransom of Stockbridge, Roseanne (Jeff) Adams of Pinckney, Barbara Webb of Stockbridge, Tommie (Shawn) Heeney of Munith, and Mark (Mary) Heeney of Orlando, FL; 19 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; a brother, Pat Heeney of Stockbridge; sisters, Mary Ellen Mosson of Jackson, Ann (Willis) Jackson of Stockbridge, sisters-in-law, Gloria Heeney and Juanita Heeney, both of Stockbridge, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a son, Joseph Heeney, in 1988, and two brothers, William Heeney and Gerald Heeney, brother-in-law, Mike Mosson, sister-in-law, Karen Heeney.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 11:00 a.m. at Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian Catholic Church in Bunker Hill Twp. Burial was at the church cemetery, followed by a luncheon at the church hall.

Visitation was held at the Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge on Monday, July 10, 2023 from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., with Rosary at 7:00 p.m. The family also received friends at the church on Tuesday, from 10-11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers the family would like contributions to be made to the Joe Heeney Scholarship c/o Stockbridge Community Schools. Arrangements by Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home.

Paul E. Prater



Paul E. Prater
Aug. 27, 1935 to June 25, 2023

Paul E. Prater, age 87, of Jackson, MI, passed away on June 25, 2023 at University of Michigan Medicine Hospital in Ann Arbor, MI.

Paul was born on August 27, 1935 in Alger, Ohio to Toy and Agie (Watson) Prater. He grew up and attended school in Stockbridge, MI. Paul had lived in the Jackson area for over 50 years. He proudly served in the United States Army including a deployment to Korea. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Karen (Merle) Prater. Paul retired from Consumers Energy after 37 years of employment. Paul enjoyed bowling, hunting, fishing, flying airplanes, golfing, MSU Basketball and traveling to all 50 states.

Family was the most important part of Paul's life.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two children, Judy (Pete) Thomas of Stratford, Ontario, and Daryl Prater of Kalamazoo; three grandchildren, Ryan, Sophie, and Hailey; two sisters, Joan (Don) Herbst of Brighton, and Karen (Jerry) Keirnan of Howell; and cousin Ruth Craft. He was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother, Robert (Nadji) Prater.

Per his wishes, private family services were held. The family wishes to thank Dr. Sami Malek for his 18 years of exceptional care and the University of Michigan Medicine Hospital ICU staff for their compassionate and dedicated service.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Rogel Cancer Center/Cancer Research Fund – Malek 327549 at Michigan Medicine, disAbility Connections in Jackson, MI, or the organization of your choice.

Arrangements by Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge, MI.

Marilyn Ann Katz



Marilyn Ann Katz
Nov. 15, 1938 to July 11, 2023

Marilyn Ann Katz at the age of 84 went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. She passed in peace on her family farm the evening of Tuesday, July 11, 2023. She was the daughter of Elmer and Elizabeth (Graf) Lytle, born on November 15, 1938.

Marilyn was raised in the Millville area until moving to Munith with her parents in early 1950s. Marilyn graduated from Stockbridge High School in the class of 1957. She married the love of her life, Dean Katz on June 26, 1960, and they were blessed to spend 59 loving years together. Marilyn worked for Farmers State Bank of Munith for over 46 years. She took great pride in running the family farm with her husband, working endless hours, raising calves, milking cows, record keeping, and keeping her farmers in check. Marilyn was known for her love of mowing lawn, flower gardens, her family, and her faith.

She is survived by her children, Deborah (Patrick) Feeney of Dansville, MI and Michael (Michelle) Katz of Munith, MI, and sister-in-law, Sue (Bailey) Lytle. Marilyn was blessed with six grandchildren, Richard (Jennifer) Hitchcock, Jordan (Amanda) Hitchcock, Matthew (Jackie) Katz, Ryan (Caitlin) Hitchcock, Courtnee (Kyle) Knepley, and Jeffrey (Madison) Katz. She was then blessed with 16 great-grandchildren who she adored. She is preceded in death by her husband, parents, and brother, Jerry Lytle.

Visitation was held Friday, July 14, 2023 from 5-8 p.m. at Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge, MI.

Funeral services took place on Saturday, July 15, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at Jeruel Baptist Church in Munith, with Pastor Josh Swieringa officiating. Burial services followed at the Munith Cemetery. The family received friends at the church on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until time of service.

Donations in honor of Marilyn can be made to Jeruel Baptist Church or Munith United Methodist Church, both of Munith, MI.

Arrangement made by Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home.

Richard F. Bachman



Richard F. Bachman
April 14, 1946 to July 3, 2023

Richard F. Bachman, age 77, of Munith, MI, passed away on July 3, 2023 at his home. Richard was born on April 14, 1946 in Manchester, England, the son of Meril and Edith Bachman.

He had lived in the Munith area for the past 26 years, moving from Scio Twp. His family owned a dairy farm in Milan, MI, and he spent many years milking cows and taking care of the farm. He worked for Thetford as a Supervisor, retiring in 2010. He enjoyed antiquing and going to Las Vegas. For two years, he played soccer for Manchester United Football Club.

Richard is survived by his loving companion of 28 years, Charlene Fletcher, and two daughters, Jennifer Taylor Bachman of Ypsilanti, and Leslie (John) Reasoner of Munith; two grandchildren, Lyle Reasoner, and Rheagan (Jacob) Frey; and three great-grandchildren, Kennedy, Clayton, and Everleigh Frey; twin nieces, Rebecca and Sarah Moreton. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Norah Marie Callan on July 3, 2018, a sister, Sharon J. Moreton.

Visitation was held at the Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home in Chelsea on Sunday, July 9, 2023 from 3-6 p.m.

A Memorial Service was held at the Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home on Monday, July 10, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Eric Stricklin officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Stockbridge Area Emergency Services Authority (SAESA).

Active Aging

Let's be friends and live a happy, healthy life



Strong friendships may be key to protecting the brain in later life. Pictured (l-r): Betti Wetherell, Laura Russell, Helen Kraft, Mark Blakeman and Richard Long. Photo provided by Dana Blaszkowski

by Dana Blaszkowski

Strong friendships may be key to protecting the brain in later life. Researchers at Northwestern University (NU) found that people who maintain close friendships during their twilight years have a stronger memory and show slower cognitive decline than those who live quieter, less social lives.

Friends care about each other's well-being, they keep us accountable. Friends encourage us to show up for that fitness class when we're entertaining thoughts of sleeping in or when we get stuck in the recliner watching the news. Our friends help us find motivation to push a little harder to strive for our personal best.

Laura Russell, a member of the Stockbridge Area Senior Center (SASC), can speak to the value of socializing. According to Russell, "The Drumming and the Yoga

at SASC are my favorites. Our heart rate gets going and that's good for us. The outside activities, movies, plays and extra activities are fun, too! We even get together when the center isn't open, for breakfast and things."

Friends also remind us of what needs to be done to stay healthy, like getting hearing or vision checks if they have noticed a change we've been ignoring. Just knowing our friends have our backs can make us feel better overall. We know that social isolation is bad for our health. It increases the risk of heart disease and stroke, and it accelerates cognitive decline. It's so important to take steps to connect with others.

Another SASC member, Anne Gray, said this about friendships made, "As a new member who is a transplant from Texas, I've found a new home. Everyone is friendly and welcoming from the minute I walk in the door. It beats being at home. At home, you end up getting depressed and not wanting to do anything. Coming here has changed all that for me. I feel like I've made some real friends."

Consider finding and taking a new class in something you have always wanted to learn. Join a book discussion club or maybe a sewing group to start connecting with folks who have similar interests. Finding a volunteer opportunity that helps others and gets you connected to your community is a win-win. Have some fun with a game or card night with friends.

When asked what he enjoys about SASC, one of our members, Jim Pietila, said, "I've made new friends here. There's a lot of humor and a lot of smiles."

Having friends is clearly linked with a greater sense of happiness and well-being. They lift us up when we're feeling down. They share in our enthusiasm when we have good news. They help soothe our souls when we're feeling stressed. Our friends check in on us and celebrate life's ups and downs. Friends surely improve our overall satisfaction in life.

Joyce Dickinson shared what she enjoys about her time at SASC, "It's a friendly place to come and socialize with other people. The activities and exercises are good for us."



It's no wonder we value our friendships even more as we age. Friends help us stay healthy and happy!

Dana Blaszkowski is the director of the Stockbridge Area Senior Center (SASC), a great place to spend time. Visit stockbridgeareaseniors.org or call 517-480-0353 for information.

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When it comes to bicycle crashes, helmets are the most effective piece of safety equipment for all bicyclists. Photo credit Mark Stosberg at unsplash.com



This helmet may have saved its owner from a traumatic brain injury. Geoff Kempter, a Michigan cyclist who has traveled the country participating in multiday biking events, was back home in Grand Rapids, cycling to an appointment, when he was hit by a car. Photo credit Geoff Kempter

Bridge to Wellness

Be a 'roll' model: Wear your bike helmet to protect against serious injury

by Patti Bihn, BSN, RN

Bicycling is good for your health, your wallet, and the environment. But according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), more children ages 5-14 go to the emergency room for bicycle-related injuries than any other activity, and many of them are head injuries.

Like car crashes, bicycle crashes can happen at any time, involving not only children, but adults, many of whom are skilled riders. In fact, middle-aged adults represent the average age of bicycle riders who are injured or killed in these incidents.

When it comes to bicycle crashes, helmets are the most effective piece of safety equipment for all bicyclists. As you get the family bicycles out for the season, here are

some important reminders to ensure all riders are properly protected.

- **Get the right fit from the start.** Helmets come in various sizes, which can vary between manufacturers. Visit this Fitting Your Bike Helmet guide and follow the steps to fit a helmet properly: <https://bit.ly/3oebTaF>.

- **Replacing a helmet.** If you've been in a crash, damage to your helmet won't necessarily be visible. Always replace a helmet that's been in a crash, even if it appears to be intact. Never purchase a used helmet, since you can't be sure of its history.

- **Your bike helmet should fit today.** When shopping for a new bike helmet, purchase one that fits now. A bike helmet is not something you "grow into." If the helmet is too large, it won't provide protection. With each ride, readjust the helmet as needed.

- **Cover your forehead.** Adjust the helmet fitting based on your helmet being in the correct position — level on your head and low on your forehead.

- **Adjust straps until snug.** You'll find chin straps and side straps on your helmet. Both should be snug before starting your ride.

- **Avoid helmet rocking.** Your helmet should not rock more than an inch forward or backward, or side to side on your head. If the helmet is loose or rocking, readjust it accordingly.

- **Love your helmet.** If you love your helmet, you'll wear it. This means it must fit comfortably and, let's face it, must be aesthetically pleasing. It's true for kids and adults alike — if you like the way your helmet looks and feels, you'll be more willing to wear it.

- **Be a good "roll" model.** Both adults and children should wear a bike helmet each time they ride. Wearing a helmet will set a good example and encourage smart choices for others.

References:

- Trinity Health IHA Medical Group
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

This column is sponsored by the Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition (SAWC). Patti Bihn is the Faith Community Nurse Liaison and Diabetes Prevention Program Lifestyle Coach at Chelsea Hospital.



2023-2024
School year starts
August 21st
2023

Open Houses are scheduled for August 16, 2023

*We strongly encourage students and their families to come in,
meet their teachers, and learn about the new school year.*

Extracurricular opportunities are starting soon. Everyone is invited to join in the fun and engage with our school community.

The Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation and Stockbridge Community Schools wish all our children and families a great year. We invite you to get involved and make the most of the time that you spend in our school community. Please contact your building principal to find out how you can specifically become more intimately involved as a part of our Panther family.

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Class of 1988 35-Year Reunion



The Stockbridge Class of 1988 had its 35-year Class Reunion at Hankerd Hills recently. Thirty-six classmates got together and reminisced about times past. Classmates came in from Georgia, North Carolina, New Mexico and Arizona just for the event. Class members who attended were Josh Decker, Mike Williamson, William Lantis, Thor Lounsberry, John Lytle, John Peters, Debbie Cool, Ben Barber, Carl Baxter, Lynda Lewis-Peters, Brad Zoner, Todd Snay, Patrice Howard-Maier, Karen Hurd-Jeffers, Marcus Argenta, Kris Helmboldt-Hurd, Tina Osborne, John Howard, Joanne Majerus, Chris Saylor, Kirk Ford, Ken Paulowicz, Robin Lowe-Fletcher, Joann Sweet-Brooks, Sharon Crisp-Kaiser, Dave Toupin, Allison Chritz-Clark, Patty Cole-Orweller, Heather Gauthier-Mills, Don Brussow, Dan Drew, Kim Powers and Judy Fullerton-Esper. Also present, but not in the picture were Doug Drew, Darin Mayer and Jason Porter.

Photo provided by Mike Williamson

STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

'Play Ball': Kids of all ages take to the ball diamond while school is out



Bryson Khozouie pitches during U-12 Baseball game. *Photo by Amber Nichole*



Coach Scott Taylor talks to his U-12 Baseball team. *Photo by Amber Nichole*



Henry Whitaker, U-10 Baseball. *Photo by Steve Doran*

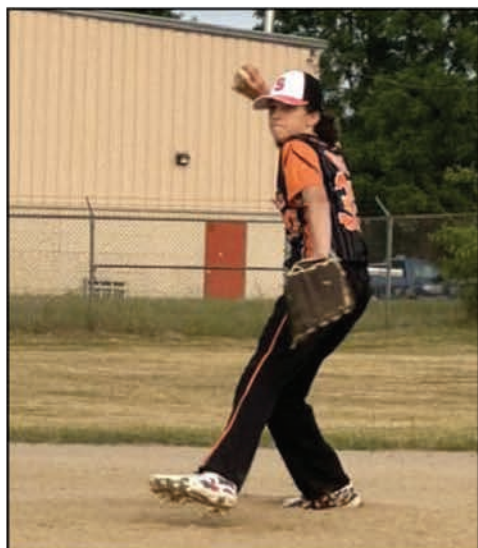


Sam McPherson bats while playing T-ball. *Photo by Melissa McPherson*



John McPherson plays in the Farm League. *Photo by Melissa McPherson*

STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS



Kipp Vogel, U-12 Baseball
Photo by Kelly Vogel



Reese Sadler, U-12 Softball
Photo by Double D Image Creations



Lucas Osborne, U-10 Baseball
Photo by Steve Doran



Parker Sommer, U-10 Blue Baseball
Photo by Steve Doran



Mikey Marks, T-Ball
Photo by Double D Image Creations



Coach Clyde Whitaker instructs his U-10 Baseball team. *Photo by Steve Doran*



Holly Humrich, U-10 Softball
Photo by Becky Humrich



Lucas Salla, T-Ball
Photo by Double D Image Creations



The U-12 Bronze Softball Team won the Mason League D3 tournament beating Fowlerville 9-7. Team members included Alexa Wilhelm, Amaura Breese, Ari Bickey-Ford, Bailey Schroeder, Claire Reifschneider, Emma Marshall, Karrigan Smith, Katelyn Rusnock, Makayla Williamson, Emma Houk and Reese Sadler. The team was coached by Joe Marshall and Mike Williamson.



The U-14 Baseball Team finished its season with a 7-7-2 record. Back row, left to right: Assistant Coach Chris Salyer, Colton Romero, Aidan Bradley, Aiden Harris, Assistant Coach Jeff Hayes, Owen House, Coach Mike Stoffer. Middle row, left to right: Ethan Salyer, Caydin Stoffer, Jason Porzio, Koen Griffith, John Fox. Front row, left to right: Jayden Wilson, Emmitt Huhman, Drew Hayes, Landen Allen. *Photo by Stephanie Salyer*



Coach Erin Smith and her Stockbridge T-ball team.
Photo by Amber Seger Gerwick



Real Estate News & Views

For sale by owner: Is it the right solution for you?

by Jackie Scheller



Jackie Scheller

You may have noticed more "for sale by owner" signs popping up in your neighborhood than ever before. I can tell you why and if it is a good idea.

Research indicates that available home inventory is at an all-time low. Home prices continue to be pegged at the top. Interest rates remain stable but higher than we are accustomed to. With buyers struggling to find homes, sellers seem to think that they can get an easy catch for a buyer and save the fees associated with marketing and closing through a licensed Realtor.

Truth be told, selling by owner if you are an attorney or Realtor can make sense, though even then there are frauds and scams vying for the seller's attention at every turn. Less experienced individuals can find themselves in trouble and even in legal hot water.

Sellers have legal responsibilities set forth by the state for marketing their homes. There are documents that must be completed and shared with any and all interested buyers. If a seller is offering financing (land contract), this, too, requires a specific set of documents, timing and legal handling of private financial information. One of the greatest concerns, though, should be that you have no idea who you are granting access to your home. Safety first!

Licensed Realtors can help you sell your home at a fair price, so the cost of such services makes sense. Realtors do much more than bring buyers and sellers together. A Realtor will follow the transaction through the inspection process and closing. Realtors also pre-screen all potential buyers. At your request, a Realtor can require proof of funds or a lender pre-approval prior to showing your home.

One other thing: Buyers often avoid seeing "for sale by owner" posted homes because they are uncomfortable with the seller tagging along and don't want to offend the seller with a lower offer.

If you have a place to go, now is a very good time to sell. Buyers are waiting.

Sales are up in May and June with average home "sold" prices at or slightly above last year. The number of days on the market is about 25% longer than last year. Inventory is slowly inching up, and this will follow the basic economic equation of supply and demand over time. The crazy days of paying 20% over asking price seem to be over, yet the market is getting sellers' top prices, even with interest rates where they are. I also am seeing a lot of cash buyers.

We are fortunate to have local Realtors in our community who you can count on. You don't need to go it alone. Schedule a no-obligation appointment to discuss your situation.

Jackie Scheller is a licensed Realtor/real estate broker, local business owner, entrepreneur, and retired business teacher. She holds a master's degree in education from Wayne State and a bachelor of arts from Eastern Michigan University.

Ask an Expert page 6

4. If your loss involves an at-fault driver, make a claim against them to see what the other insurer offers you for your vehicle and settle accordingly.

Note: Be cautious if the at-fault party's insurer wants to have you sign a "Release." You may wish to seek legal counsel before doing so, especially if the possibility of an injury claim exists.

5. Once a replacement amount is agreed upon, don't forget to add sales tax and tag and title transfer fees as applicable in your state.

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The KITCHEN CABINET

(©. 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

The world is all dark or the world is all bright,
Just as we choose to make it;
Our burden is heavy, our burden is light,
Just as we happen to take it;
And people who grumble and people who groan
At the world and at every proposal
Would grumble and groan if the world were their own
With sun, moon and stars at disposal.

—Harriet Swift.

WHAT TO EAT

Crumb Muffins.—Take one cupful of fine bread crumbs, one-half cupful of flour, one egg, one cupful of milk, three teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one tablespoonful of sugar and two tablespoonfuls of melted lard. Mix well and pour into heated muffin pans and bake about twenty minutes.

Nellie Maxwell

Stockbridge Brief-Sun • August 2, 1923

For all you Nellie wannabes out there: Try this Crumb Muffin recipe, but take the liberty of adding a bit more sugar to the recipe and include some chopped nuts. Serving them warm with butter and jam is the real game changer.



Woah Nellie!

Crumb Muffins are light on 'sugar and spice,' but they still can be nice

by Mary Jo David

This month I went in search of a simple recipe from Nellie Maxwell's trove of 100-year-old recipes that were published in August 1923 editions of the Stockbridge Brief-Sun. After all, who wants to be stuck in the kitchen in the height of summer? During my search, it occurred to me that even the indomitable Nellie may have been suffering from the heat. I noticed a few of her August recipes were missing important instructions, leaving key ingredients out entirely. (See "The Mystery of the Missing Ingredients" sidebar.)

I've always considered muffins to be one of the easier bakes to undertake. Muffin ingredients are generally items you have on hand, and making them is usually a one-bowl effort. For those reasons, I've never really understood why people bother to buy muffin mixes. This month's Crumb Muffins from Nellie are a perfect case in point: the only ingredient I needed to shop for was the lard, and her recipe process was very simple (see recipe clipping). In place of the lard, I was tempted to use the Crisco I had on hand, but I decided I needed to stay true to Nellie's original recipe, so I went shopping.

The ingredients were a cinch to mix together, but I was a bit concerned that the mixture looked too liquidy. However, it thickened right before my eyes as I waited for the muffin tin to preheat in the oven. The recipe calls for only one tablespoon of sugar. I was very tempted to add more sugar, and even some nuts and/or raisins, but again, I stayed true to the recipe and held off on these additions.

For me, the only tough question to tackle when baking muffins is whether to line the tin with paper liners. I generally prefer to skip the liners in lieu of greasing the muffin tin, and then I hold my breath as I attempt to get the muffins out of the pan without sticking. Nellie doesn't suggest liners or

greasing the pan; instead, she recommends heating the muffin tin before filling them. This method did work, but next time, to be safe, I'd probably grease the muffin tin.

The recipe yielded enough to fill nine of the muffin cups in the tin. Not surprisingly, Nellie doesn't give an oven temperature, so I went with a 350-degree oven, and I baked them for 21 minutes. The finished muffins looked appealing enough, but the question of taste had yet to be answered.

Initially, I had my husband try a plain muffin, warm from the oven. He was not impressed, so I mentioned that I thought maybe the recipe needed more sugar. He responded with, "No, but maybe some strawberry jam." (Do I tell him now or later that strawberry jam is mostly sugar?!) While they were still warm, I lightly buttered another muffin and added some strawberry jam. Both he and I agreed, this was just the ticket! The muffin was actually quite delicious with these additions.

My recommendation for all of you Nellie wannabes is to try this Crumb Muffin recipe, but do take the liberty of adding a bit more sugar to the recipe, and include some chopped nuts. I don't think you'll be disappointed.

Current photos by Mary Jo David

The Mystery of the Missing Ingredients

This month's featured recipe from Nellie Maxwell is from 1923, seven years before Carolyn Keane's Nancy Drew was introduced. If the popular teenage sleuth had come on the scene a few years earlier, she might have helped Nellie avoid some omissions in the columnist's other August 1923 recipes.



The Case of the Missing Cabbage

After shredding and boiling the cabbage, Nellie leaves it out of the casserole entirely! And what are "scrumbs"?!
—

Escaloped Cabbage.

Shred and boil cabbage as for hot slaw. Prepare a white sauce. Butter a casserole and put in a layer of white sauce, sprinkle with buttered scrums and cheese; repeat, finishing the top with buttered crumbs. Season with salt and pepper and bake twenty minutes in a moderate oven. The white sauce if prepared with thin cream will make a dish most nutritious as well as delicious.

The Marshmallow Pudding Mystery

After directing readers to quarter the marshmallows, they are never added to the pudding!
—

Marshmallow Pudding.

Cut half a cupful of walnut meats into bits, quarter a half-pound of marshmallow and cut into bits one-fourth of a cupful of maraschino cherries. Beat one cupful of heavy cream, fold in two tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar, one-half teaspoonful of vanilla, and a pinch of salt. Now add the nuts and cherries, mold and pack in ice.

Outreach in Action

Cindy Ashley devotes time to two passions: Stockbridge Community Outreach and Celebrate Recovery

by Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall

Cindy Ashley, a retired General Motors machinist after 32 years, loves a lot: God, her family and friends, horses, donkeys, dogs, sweets, and much more. Two passions, in particular, keep her fulfilled and grounded: volunteering at Stockbridge Community Outreach and volunteering with Celebrate Recovery.

Mondays find Cindy at Outreach, where she organizes the food pantry and assists clients with their monthly shopping. Known to fellow Outreach volunteers as the “meat queen,” she carefully keeps meats as well as dry goods inventoried, up to date, and easy to find.

On Wednesdays, Cindy returns to Outreach for its “Pop-Up” operation, where she helps sort, pack and hand out bags of food from the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

If Outreach receives items that don’t fit the needs of the pantry or its clients (an oversized bag of parsley, for example), Cindy is quick to find a way to use it for the dinners she makes each week for Celebrate Recovery.

Faith and service are the threads that connect Cindy to both Outreach and Celebrate Recovery. Outreach works to meet the physical and social needs of its clients, while Celebrate Recovery tends to its clients’ emotional and spiritual needs.

Celebrate Recovery helps people “looking for healing from their hurts, hang-ups, and habits.” The program, founded in 1991, follows a 12-step Scripture-based structure offering eight principles based on the Beatitudes. This Bible-inspired approach helps bring solace, hope, sobriety, and healing to participants suffering from grief, addictions or other types of pain.

The local Celebrate Recovery group meets at 7 p.m. on Thursdays at Crossroads Community Church and offers pre-meeting dinners for \$3 per person. Doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner is served at 6:15. All are welcome. If you go, keep an eye out for Cindy, who will likely be there with a delicious dinner, ready to serve.

For more information about the local Celebrate Recovery, contact Mike Glair at mikeglair@yahoo.com. For nationwide info: <https://www.celebraterecovery.com/about/history>

This column is sponsored by Stockbridge Community Outreach, our local food pantry, crisis, and referral center located in the Stockbridge Activity Center (old middle school) near Cherry and Elm streets in Stockbridge. Office hours are 1-3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and by appointment. Outreach49285@gmail.com, 517-851-7285, or find us on Facebook.

Superintendent's Desk page 3

We will continue to further develop and refine all of these programs as needed.

We are looking forward to having the students and staff return in the fall to a safe and productive learning environment. We will continue to write grants and bring resources into the district to better meet the needs of the students and staff and to further these goals and initiatives.

We do ask for your help in creating structure for your students.

Please encourage them to get engaged in the learning process and in the extracurricular activities that are provided in school and in our community. Limiting screen time and encouraging reading are great places to start.

Another goal we have is to get our families more involved in the educational process.

You will notice in our communications and in the structure of our activities that there will be a focus on getting parents and families more involved in the educational process. Please take advantage of these opportunities and engage in your students' learning. We look forward to working with you in the fall to engage your students in opportunities that will positively impact their future.

Go Panthers!

Brian Friddle

Superintendent of Schools



Outreach volunteer Cindy Ashley is busy stocking shelves and breaking down boxes during a recent Pop-Up Distribution. Photo credit Paul Crandall



Cindy Ashley has plenty of love to go around, shown here with granddaughter Hannah and Priscilla the horse. Photo credit Becky King

'This I Believe' page 9

"This was the year I was going to change," I kept repeating in my head.

At the start of the school year, I still didn't have many friends, not until the beginning of 2023 that I actually started to develop friendships with people and they didn't avoid me like the plague. It took a while but eventually, I grew out of the many fears of having friendships working out, hanging out with real people, and losing 50 pounds. When I had dropped all of my fear I had started becoming what I had always wanted to be.

I didn't know that the one thing holding me back from being me, was me and that I let my fear of people judging me and my fear in general control me. That is why I believe that you should never let fear hold you back, fear is used as a tool by many, to intimidate you, to bring you down, or to make you quit everything in general. But you should never let anyone or anything stop you from being you and the best way to start is to just always be you, don't be afraid to do what you want to do, don't let others bring you down, use that as a way to bring yourself up. You should never let people use fear against you or use fear against yourself. You should always just be you.

Veterans Memorial Park page 1



Representatives were on hand from some of the organizations responsible for organizing, funding, and installing many of the park features that were spotlighted at the Playtime in the Park event on July 18. Pictured here (l-r): Cady Bauer (SAWC), Anna Webber (SRSLY), Suzi Greenway (SAWC), Emily Stewart (SRSLY), Jo Mayer (SAWC), Jill Ogden (Village of Stockbridge), Tim Morgan (Ingham County), Matt Pegouskie (5HT) and Molly Howlett (Village of Stockbridge). Photos provided by Judy Williams and Mary Jo David



Stockbridge Lions Club members assisted with exercise equipment installation. Equipment was purchased through the Ingham County Trails & Park Millage Grant. Pictured here (left to right): Lions Club members Andy Shaw, Richard Mullins and Bill Stickney.



Thanks to new pickleball line markings, the park's tennis courts now serve two purposes. Pickleball rackets and portable nets are available to borrow at the Stockbridge Library.

The generosity of these organizations is evident—not just in the new equipment and facilities, but also by a spike in the number of people who are using the park and all it has to offer.

Below is a list of many of the park features and the organizations that have helped to finance and install the recent improvements.

New and refurbished park features:

- New pump track (SDDA)
- Outdoor exercise area (INGHAM COUNTY, STOCKBRIDGE LIONS CLUB)
- New Gaga Ball Pit (SAWC/5HT, POSITIVELY CHIROPRACTIC, ADISKA CONTRACTING, SDDA)
- Hunter Lega, outdoor recreation coordinator (hleaga@stockbridgedda.org) (SAWC/5HT)
- Refurbished sand volleyball court (SAWC/5HT)
- Pickleball court markings on existing tennis courts (SDDA, INGHAM COUNTY)
- Pickleball and other equipment park use (SAWC/5HT)
- Skate park equipment upgrades (INGHAM COUNTY)
- Outdoor bike repair station (INGHAM COUNTY)
- Story Walk (CADL STOCKBRIDGE)
- Cart for moving equipment (SAWC/5HT)

Coming in 2023-24:

- Bathroom renovations (INGHAM COUNTY)
- New storage facility (SAWC/5HT, THE STATE BANK, STOCKBRIDGE LIONS CLUB, HOWLETT TREE FARM)
- New bike racks (5HT)
- ADA-compliant picnic tables and benches (INGHAM COUNTY)
- Paved connection between jr/sr high school and park (INGHAM COUNTY)

Information provided by Jo Mayer and sponsoring organizations.

Veterans Memorial Park, Stockbridge

Featured activities for August 2023

- **Tuesdays (through Aug. 15):** Early On Parent/Child Playgroup through the Ingham ISD. Play groups are free for families with children ages birth to 5 years old. Times: Two groups to choose from: 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. OR 11 a.m. to noon. For safety reasons, play groups are limited to 10 to 15 children. Families are required to register on the Ingham ISD website, <https://www.inghamisd.org/>
- **Tuesdays (through Aug. 15):** Youth Basketball. Ages 8 to 12 years old. 2 to 4 p.m. Instructor: Hunter Lega.
- **Tuesdays:** Pickleball, all ages, beginning to intermediate levels, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- **Fridays:** Coed competitive volleyball. 6 p.m. Coordinator: Cyndi Eibler
- **TBD:** Tennis lessons

For more info, contact Hunter Lega at hleaga@stockbridgedda.org.



Youngsters enjoy the Gaga Ball Pit, but don't be fooled, older "kids" have also been spotted playing in the pit, which was sponsored by SAWC/5HT, Positively Chiropractic, Adiska Contracting and the SDDA.

Horses and more receive a second chance at local rescue

by Shuyler Clark

When Laura Hauenstein's co-workers from her old "day job" grew tired of receiving emails at 3 a.m., they pestered her to take up a hobby. Hauenstein soon followed their advice; her lack of experience with horses wouldn't stop her from pursuing her love of the equine, and in 2008, she adopted the retired racing horse Reality's Place.

What started as a hobby gradually escalated into a large-scale effort to assist other horses. Founded in 2010 before becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2014, Reality's Chance Rescue and Sanctuary rehabilitates abused, neglected, and surrendered horses. The nearly 30 acres on the corner of Berry and Meridian roads in Pleasant Lake is home to over 20 horses and myriad other creatures. Hauenstein drew inspiration from Reality's Place and chose to honor his memory by helping other beings, particularly horses, in need.

Speaking on Hauenstein's behalf, longtime volunteer Lori Connell reflected on the sanctuary's humble beginnings.

"People who noticed the place would reach out, and so over time [Laura] gained a couple more horses and realized, 'There might be something here.'"

Through the years, the sanctuary has grown from open fields to a full-fledged farm. When planning for Michigan's rough winters, Hauenstein commissioned local construction group Axtion Builders to create the sanctuary's arena. Kevin Hehl, the company's president, went on to become Hauenstein's partner. He has continued crafting a variety of buildings and landscapes, the majority of which he donated the materials and labor for as he share's Hauenstein's love of animals.

"Kevin's whole mantra was, 'People don't want to come to an ugly rescue. They want to come to someplace that looks nice and clean,'" Connell said. "And we all just go, 'OK.' We just let Kevin be Kevin and appreciate everything he does for us."

Hehl also has contributed to the farm's animal population, adopting goats, donkeys, and a variety of birds, including chickens, ducks, turkeys, guinea hens, and a pair of peacocks. The constant chatter of the rescue's residents accompanies visitors around the many paddocks and gardens.

See *Reality's Chance* on page 23.



In addition to horses, the farm's animal population includes adopted goats, donkeys, and a variety of birds. Pictured here are Little Dude (left) and Buttercup.



Laura Hauenstein's mustang gelding, Eleos, likes to keep tabs on what's happening at Reality's Chance. Photos by Shuyler Clark

In Remembrance

Stockbridge Community News publishes death notices and obituaries on our website, Facebook page and Twitter feed as soon as we receive notice. This way, friends and loved ones will learn of your loved one's passing right away, so they won't inadvertently miss funeral and memorial services. All too often weekly publications circulate after services are held.

Obituaries include a color photo, print and online publication for these low prices:

- Print and online, \$110 (up to ¼ page, 300 words or less)
- Print and online with photo, \$135
- Online only \$85

We publish death notices at no charge as a public service.



SCN's print edition circulates free of charge to every household in the local, 125-square-mile area. We print 8,900 or more copies each month, so 21,000-plus local residents receive each edition.

More than 20,000 people each month view our news and information online. It's not uncommon for an obituary to attract up to 2,000 views and receive dozens of online expressions of sympathy and remembrance.

In contrast, the former local paper no longer circulates within Ingham County, and only a small percentage of residents in the area subscribe to or read daily papers from Jackson and Lansing.

When the time comes, please send, or ask your funeral director to send, your loved one's obituary to stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com

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Greenway page 1

Fast forward to 2023, when Livingston County Clerk Elizabeth Hundley began her hunt for a special photograph of Judge Reck, the first female judge in Livingston County and the last judge to preside in the historical Livingston County Courthouse. During her tenure, Reck also was appointed chief judge of the 44th Circuit Court. She retired from the bench in 2006.

Hundley had found a perfect spot in the historical courthouse for Reck's portrait but was challenged to find just the right photo from Judge Reck's time on the bench. As Hundley undertook the photo search, Reck's husband, attorney J. David Reck, recalled the photo shoot Greenway had done many years before. In fact, over many years, he had kept on his desk one of the photos of his wife from that project. This prompted him to reach out to Greenway to ask if she still had negatives from the shoot.

"It took me all of five minutes to find those negatives," Greenway recalled, as she talked about the honor of having one of her photographs hanging in the courthouse.

More than the honor, though, Greenway is sentimental about the nearly 40-year friendship she has maintained with Judge Reck and her family.

"Susan and David, along with their sons, are very special to me. Initially, I worked for the family and catered some of Susan's campaign events, but soon we all became fast friends," Greenway said. She laughed as she remembered Judge Reck officiating at two of Greenway's weddings, even going so far as to ride up the aisle on a motorcycle at one of them.

Once Greenway produced the negatives from her class project photo shoot, the perfect photo was selected and reproduced and is now hanging in a place of honor in the historical Livingston County Courthouse.

"It's a classic shot that speaks to Susan's competence and compassion during her time on the bench," Greenway noted about the photograph that was ultimately selected.

Unbeknownst to Judge Reck, an unveiling of the portrait was planned for July 12, 2023, at the courthouse. Reck's family, along with Greenway and Hundley, were among the guests in attendance as Judge Susan Reck saw, for the first time, her portrait hanging prominently in the distinguished halls of the historical courthouse.

Although the day-to-day activities of the Livingston courts have moved to a new building, the historical Livingston County Courthouse, built in 1890 at 200 East Grand River in Howell, Mich., continues to be used for some county business as well as tours and special events. This imposing yet attractive structure has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1976.

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Spadafore's Sweet Shop, 1920s-1990s: Stockbridge, Michigan



A young Paul Spadafore Sr., in 1928. Photo provided by 99wfmk.com courtesy of Frank and Connie Spadafore

by John Robinson

This article is being reprinted with permission from 99wfmk.com.

Where did all the kids usually go after school? And even sometimes before school? Well, heck, even when there wasn't any school, like summers and night time?

Movies?

Friend's house?

Boyfriend or girlfriend rendezvous?

Ball park?

Or even (egad).....home?

No, man...none of those places make it. We all went and hung out at Spadafore's party store. Before it became a party store in the 60s, it was the Sweet Shop, with a soda fountain, counter stools, and homemade ice cream treats and soda pop made with real soda syrup and carbonated water.

When the fountain, countertop, and stools were removed, the store was revamped into a place that became even more of a teen hangout. It wasn't intentional – it just turned out that way.

See Spadafore on page 22.

Bicyclists page 2

"We expect to put in almost 300 miles this week," explained Phil Zimmerman of Owosso, who, with his friend Lewis, was cycling Route 1 of The Great Lake-to-Lake Trails.

Weather permitting, the cyclists were averaging about 60 miles per day on their journey, which began in South Haven, Mich., and would end in Port Huron on the morning of Friday, July 7. Asked to estimate how much of Route 1 of the Lake-to-Lake Trail is completed, Lewis guessed it is at about 75%.

This is not their first long-distance bicycle trip; on previous years they've biked other routes around the state. Zimmerman explained that as he and Lewis have grown a little older, they're more focused on the experience and less intent on breaking speed records.

"That's what the BOSS on my shirt stands for," Zimmerman explained. "Bicycling on Slow Speed!"

Although he had a prime spot for the bicycle trip, riding on Lewis' handlebars, sock-monkey mascot Willie declined to comment!

Spadafore page 21

Spadafore's – or "Spat's" as we nicknamed it – had literally everything kids and teens wanted and needed back in the day.

A Wide Variety of Candy

Chips & Snacks

Comic Books

Current hit singles

Monster Magazines

Novelties

Vinyl Rock 'n Roll Record Albums

Teen and Music Magazines

The soda pop they kept in stock were names we can't find anymore: Nehi, Teem, NuGrape, Mason's Root Beer, Hi-Klas, Bubble Up, Kickapoo Joy Juice, Tab, Diet-Rite and many others.

And balls of bubble gum: Sour Grape, Sour Apple, Sputnik...all enclosed, each one unwrapped inside a box. That's how it was...we just grabbed what we wanted, paid a penny for it, and popped it into our mouth.

Forget the wrapper....wrappers were for wimps and suckers.

One of the hot snack items was cheese corn...EVERY kid seemed to be munching on those throughout town. We hung out in front of the store eyeing the opposite sex, paperboys would get their bundles in front of the store, and it was an easy place to meet. To see and be seen at Spadafore's was what it was all about.

Paul Spadafore came to America from Italy in the early 1920s and settled in Michigan. After a few other business efforts, he journeyed to Stockbridge and found the perfect building for a business – right downtown on Clinton Street.

The shop opened in 1928 as a produce store; it wasn't until around 1940 when Paul put in a soda fountain, countertop, and stools and turned it into the Sweet Shop. Paul and his wife Jenny lived in the apartment above the shop and finally bought their own house on S. Woods Street in 1942.

Paul and his sons Paul Jr. and Frank ran the shop until it finally closed in the 1990s. That great memorable laugh of Paul Sr. has been missed ever since. He passed away in 2000 at the age of 95.

The sad part is – there will never be another place like Spadafore's. The ever-changing times and cultural atmosphere have seen to that. But for those of us who had the good fortune to grow up in Stockbridge during that time when Spadafore's shop helped mold even the shakiest kid, we will retain the good memories, friendships and love that bloomed just inside and outside that front door.

Rock 'n' Roll page 7

Richard Carpenter began playing piano when he was 9 years old; in 1965, sister Karen joined Richard and bassist Wes Jacobs in a local group in Downey, California. The group evolved into a band titled Spectrum until Richard and Karen left in 1969 to become a duo. They signed with A&M Records and their hits began with a version of The Beatles' "Ticket To Ride" in 1970.

Q: I have been trying and trying to find out who did the song "Give Me Just A Little More Time."

A: That was the Chairmen Of The Board, who formed in Detroit in 1969, and that's the song they're most remembered for. "Give Me Just A Little More Time" was their first and biggest hit in early 1970, with lead vocals by former vocalist for the Showmen, General Johnson. Songwriting credits are listed as "Ronald Dunbar and Edythe Wayne," which were pseudonyms for Motown writers/producers Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier and Eddie Holland. They had to use aliases because of litigation with their former Motown bosses. The three had left Motown and started their own record label, Invictus Records, and were still involved in a lawsuit with Motown; so they had to release that song (and others) under pseudonyms. The song sounds like a classic Motown tune and even features backing instrumentation by Motown's studio band, The Funk Brothers. "Give Me Just A Little More Time" peaked at No. 3 and the group went on to have six hit singles, with a total of four making the Top 40 in the early '70s.

John Robinson grew up in Stockbridge and graduated from Stockbridge High School in 1969. He's been an author, TV host, columnist, actor, producer, emcee and radio broadcaster. Robinson's favorite music of all time includes surf, psychedelia, garage bands, Motown and just plain ol' good-time rock 'n' roll. To read more rock 'n' roll trivia, "Paranormal Michigan" stories, and lots more, check out Robinson's books on his author page at facebook.com/johnrobinsonauthor.

All You Can Eat Country Breakfast



First Presbyterian Church
of Stockbridge
Sun., Sept. 17 ~ 8 to Noon

homemade biscuits &
gravy, eggs, waffles,
French toast sticks,
hashbrowns, bacon and
sausage patties

———— CASH ONLY ————

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Adults | \$15 |
| Children 5-10 yrs | \$8 |
| Under 5 yrs | Free |

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NOTICE: Public Hearing scheduled for August 15, 2023

The Waterloo Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Waterloo Township Offices located at 9773 Mt. Hope Road, Munith, MI 49259. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public comment on a requested Zoning

Change on Parcel 000-05-17-451-001-00 from A1 to A2. The Parcel is located at 11681 Waterloo-Munith Road, Munith, MI 49259 and is owned by Mark Zweifler. A copy of the application and supporting documents may be viewed at the Township Offices during normal business hours.

Written comments should be mailed to: Waterloo Township Offices, 9773 Mt. Hope Rd, Munith, MI 49259 or dropped off at the offices during regular business hours prior to August 14, 2023.

Individuals with special needs requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Waterloo Township Board by writing or calling the Clerk's Office, 9773 Mt. Hope Rd, Munith, MI 49259. Phone: 517-596-8400.

Ralph Schumacher
Planning Commission Secretary

Reality's Chance page 20

Since its founding, Reality's Chance has rescued and rehomed hundreds of horses. While Hauenstein takes part in rescue operations in the area, many of the equine residents come from visitors who hear of the sanctuary and surrender horses they can no longer care for. Hauenstein then determines if the horse can be put up for adoption or if it will stay as a sanctuary resident because of age or medical reasons.

Although she is willing to take on any horse in need, Hauenstein has taken particular interest in the American mustang. Such horses account for over half of the sanctuary's current equine population, ranging from retired Jackson County police mount Gus to Hauenstein's own horse, Eleos. In 2016, the sanctuary also took part in the rescue of the Hallelujah Horses, a group of 907 mustangs seized from a neglectful sanctuary in South Dakota (according to the ISPMB). Many of those mustangs remain as sanctuary horses at Reality's Chance.

Given the immense cost of rehabilitating horses, Reality's Chance is constantly employing different fundraising efforts. The sanctuary recently hosted its third annual Barn Street Fair, an effort by local vendors to sell crafts, baked goods, and other items for the animals' benefit. In addition, the sanctuary frequently hosts smaller events like concerts, riding lessons, and yoga classes. Several buildings on the property, including a yurt and a treehouse, are available to rent through Airbnb.

Public tours are available on the second Saturday and fourth Sunday of every month. Visitors also can schedule private tours at any time or rent the venue for parties or group visits. Those who are interested in being more involved also can apply to volunteer; regardless of the potential volunteer's capabilities, the sanctuary is willing to train newcomers and find a task befitting that person.

If interested readers cannot spare time or money for the sanctuary's cause, Connell said spreading the word is equally as valuable.

"I always tell people, if you can't do anything else, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, react to our posts, share our posts. That's huge because the more people who do that, the more reach we get."

Ultimately, Connell praises the sanctuary as a place to visit for the sake of visiting.

"You really have to see it to believe it," she said. "What [Laura] and Kevin have built here is incredible and it's doing such good things for our area."

Search for "Reality's Chance" in Google to locate links to the website and Facebook page for this rescue and sanctuary.

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Questions? Call 248-250-9304

Or scan to apply!



READING TUTORS

Stockbridge Community Schools



ABOUT BEYOND BASICS

Founded in 2002, Beyond Basics is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working to eradicate illiteracy. Our one-on-one, multisensory tutoring program helps students achieve grade-level movement in reading in an average of six weeks.

 **THE JOB**

- Reading tutors must be available M-F during school hours.
- We offer competitive pay starting at \$20 an hour.
- Professionals with varied backgrounds are encouraged to apply.



Gregory Fourth of July: A little town makes a big splash

by Mary Jo David

Every year the little town of Gregory pulls out all the stops for its Fourth of July celebration. This year, for its 48th official celebration, onlookers came from far and near to take in the local parade. Two of the onlookers stopped to view the parade while passing through on their Lake-to-Lake Trail bicycle trek from South Haven to Port Huron! This year's Parade Grand Marshals were Gregory's Bob and Teresa Wallo and their son Greg. Following along in the parade were kids on decorated bikes, a Brownie troop, Stockbridge Softball, 30+ tractors of all shapes and sizes, vintage cars, just plain "cool" cars, the Mount Rockmore Band, and area emergency vehicles—to name a few.

The parade is really just the start. During and after, attendees support the Unadilla Township Fire Department by buying hot dogs and other refreshments, including a bake sale. Throughout the entire day, and in the evening leading up to the fireworks, crowds assemble over at the local playground across from the Unadilla Township Hall and in the ballfield where activities and refreshment trucks are set up.

The Gregory Fourth of July Committee sponsors activities all year long, including on the day of the event, to raise money to help pay for the festivities. Boyer the Magic Guy entertained the kids and sent many off with balloon animals. And this year, the Stockbridge Community Schools Support Staff joined in the day's fun by sponsoring a watermelon-eating contest for the kids.

Later in the day, as cars assembled in the ballfield in anticipation of the celebratory fireworks, the playground continued to fill up with little ones enjoying the new playscape. Others were content to mingle with one another and enjoy some rock 'n' roll complements of the Leaky Tikis Band under the big tent. When the fireworks ended, attendees headed home; some after spending the whole day in Gregory, enjoying their time in a little town that made a big splash!

All photos by Mary Jo David



Emcee Gordie Kinzelman keeps the crowd entertained while waiting for the parade to start.



First wave of veterans from American Legion Post 510 in Stockbridge.



Competitors see who can eat down to the rind first in the watermelon-eating contest!



More than 30 tractors were in this year's parade.



The Putnam Township Tanker reporting for duty.



Gregory's 2023 Grand Marshals (left to right): Bob Wallo, Teresa Wallo, and Greg Wallo.



The crowd always appreciates the vintage cars.



Refreshments sold at the firehouse with all proceeds going to the Unadilla Township Fire Department.



This float garnered a lot of attention from the crowd who appreciated the beautiful team of horses.



The crowd under the big tent, on the playground, and in the park enjoyed rock 'n' roll thanks to the Leaky Tikis.



Fireworks commence!