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## Counselor Leslie Cummings wins Helen B. Mitteer Employee of the Year Award



Leslie Cummings (holding flowers) is joined on stage by (l-r) Jeff Trapp; Cummings' husband Dwight; her sons Evan, Ian, and Eric; Kim Killinger and Superintendent Brian Friddle. Photo by Judy Williams  
by Brian Friddle and Mary Jo David

As has become custom at the Welcome Back Staff Breakfast, the winner of the Helen B. Mitteer Employee of the Year award is announced. This year, that special award went to Leslie Cummings, guidance counselor at Stockbridge Junior/Senior High School.

The Mitteer award is managed by the Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation (SAEF) and is accompanied by \$1,500 that the winner can put toward any educational pursuit.

In the lead-up to the award, Superintendent Brian Friddle shared the history of the SAEF and their support of the Helen B. Mitteer Employee of the Year recognition. The award is a great way to showcase employees who exemplify the highest qualities. Cummings is one of these employees; she is described as an amazing individual and an asset to the school district.

See *Employee of the Year* on page 14.

## Salyer wins first-place award for page design in 2023 NFPW national contest



SCN Managing Editor Hope Salyer received a first-place national award from NFPW.

by Agnes Geiger

Hope Salyer, Stockbridge Community News managing editor, received a 2023 first-place national award for newspaper page design in the National Federation of Press Women's Communications Contest.

Salyer, who also works as a reporter and page designer for SCN, received the honor for "2022 Top Ten Seniors" on pages 30-31 in SCN's June 2022 edition. The layout featured photos and information on the top members of the Stockbridge High School Class of 2022.

"I was honored to receive the NFPW first-place award for page design," Salyer said. "Without our great community, and

the awesome SCN staff and volunteers, we couldn't have an award-winning paper. It truly is a team effort, and I'm looking forward to continuing the growth of SCN."

See *NFPW* on page 10.

## Local artist showcased in ArtPrize 2023 in Grand Rapids

by Andrea Stickney

Less than two hours from Stockbridge, ArtPrize—the world's most attended public art event—will celebrate its 15th year in the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan, from Sept. 14 to Oct. 1.

More than \$600,000 will be awarded to select artists through public and juried votes. One of the artists with the privilege of vying for a prize is our own Stockbridge Community News graphic designer Carol Berger.

Berger has entered



Carol Berger has successfully entered her work in ArtPrize previously and is sought after for private pet portraits. Photo credit Andrea Stickney

the prestigious group of worldwide artists represented in ArtPrize with "Lucindas East of Eden," a portrait of her beloved Morgan that evokes the beauty of nature seen in Classicism and Romantic art.

See *ArtPrize* on page 12.

## Vanlife in Europe: Adventures continue for Kyle and Madie

by Madie Gee-Montgomery

I'm a firm believer that when you push yourself outside your comfort zone, that's when you experience the most internal growth.

For some people, hopping on a plane and having no idea what you're doing or where you're going when you get there is out of their comfort zone.

See *Vanlife* on page 23.



Madie and Kyle purchased a 2008 Chevy Express 1500 cargo van for \$5,800. Photo provided by Madie Gee-Montgomery and Kyle Lilley



## Rural Perspectives: It's a bird ... no, it's a bug ... oh, it's a hummingbird moth

by Diane Constable



Diane Gray Constable

If you see what you think is a small hummingbird in your garden, you might want to look closer—it could be the hummingbird clearwing moth. Its scientific name is *Hemaris thysbe*.

This moth gets its name because of the resemblance to hummingbirds in both looks and actions. Unlike most moths, it is out and about in the daytime feeding on the nectar of various plants, particularly those plants that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. The hummingbird moth prefers pink-to-red flowers such as the phlox,



The hummingbird clearwing moth (*Hemaris thysbe*) has see-through wings that span 1.5 inches and can flap up to 70 beats per second. Photo credit Diane Constable

pictured here, dianthus, and bee balm. It is a good pollinator, particularly for wildflowers and garden flowers.

This moth has see-through wings that span 1.5 inches and can flap up to 70 beats a second; its wings enable the moth to fly up to 12 mph. It has a 1.5-inch-long, plump body, like a bumblebee, and its back wings are much shorter than its forward wings. The moth's coloring makes it hard for its predators to find it.

They lay their tiny green eggs in the spring on viburnum, honeysuckle, hawthorn and cherry trees and will hatch in seven days. After about four weeks, the caterpillars drop to the ground and burrow in to form a chrysalis, emerging as an adult in the spring. They will live about seven months.

**Fun Fact:** Although about half the size of the adult hummingbird, this moth has a similar body shape. Much like the bird, it can fly in different directions, hover above a plant as it feeds, flap its wings nearly as quickly and in the same figure-eight pattern, and create a similar humming sound.

*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.*

## GRIT: Four simple letters speak volumes this school year



Meghan Kunzelman, Heritage principal, and Amy Hodgson, director of curriculum and instruction, are enthusiastic about the launch of this year's SCS districtwide theme of GRIT. Photo credit Judy Williams

by Mary Jo David

To inspire teachers to inspire their students, this year, Stockbridge Community Schools has adopted the districtwide theme of GRIT.

Amy Hodgson, the district's director of curriculum and instruction, shared some powerful words used to define GRIT—words such as determination, perseverance, fortitude, tenacity and courage. All are concepts that will serve teachers and students well during the 2023-24 school year.

See *GRIT* on page 20.

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Shuyler Clark

## Reading Between the Lines

### Social media users must decide hostage fates in this suspense novel

by Shuyler Clark

This novel is set in the near future, with automated vehicles dominating the roadways in many countries, replacing most driver-controlled cars. Although this development is touted as the safer alternative, many are skeptical of the reliance on artificial intelligence (AI). Their suspicions are confirmed when eight vehicles in England are hacked and the passengers' plights are broadcast on television. With two and a half hours and an ultimatum to save only one of the passengers, a jury, assisted by the voices of social media, must make a decision, thus revealing the biases within each other.

John Marrs' suspense novel "The Passengers" serves as a commentary on many issues, including the ethics of relying on AI, the ways in which anonymity on the internet unmask people's true feelings, and how we determine who is most valuable to society. In executing this, Marrs presents the perspectives of six of the eight passengers as well as that of Libby Dixon, one of the jurors determining the passengers' fates.

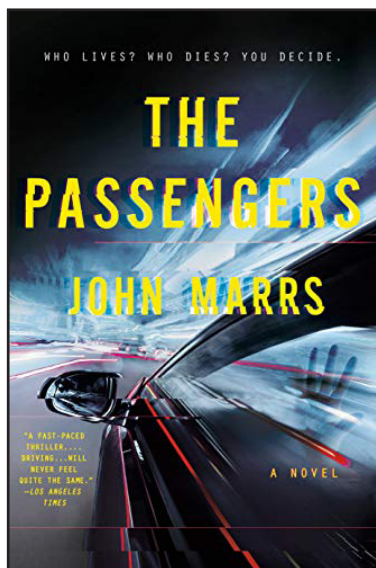
Although the initial focus seems to be on the passengers, a large chunk of the book follows Libby in her attempts to save as many passengers as possible. Most of the passengers are hiding past wrongdoings, something the vehicle hackers use to sway the populace into voting against them. The swapping between Libby's perspective and that of the passengers provides a nuanced look into the morally gray area of the passengers' actions, contrasting with how the public views them despite minimal context. As a result, the focus on Libby's perspective provides a realistic look at how most people would make judgments in similar situations, and that focus does not overly dominate the passengers' perspectives.

That said, Marrs' commentary tends to wander between his points. While the initial setup suggests the book will focus mostly on whether or not society should rely on automation, it soon veers into how social media users are quick to target and harass individuals while reveling in the chaos. Adjusting the balance between these ideas would make a more well-rounded story and could provoke more consideration of how society might integrate automation in real life.

In relation to this commentary, some of the story beats outright contradict each other. For instance, Marrs establishes that in this future, a company dedicated to matching soul mates has almost completely eradicated bigotry by using genetics to match people of different races and genders. However, this development is almost immediately undermined by the choice of which passenger the populace chooses to eliminate first. While sadly predictable, it seems out of place with the society Marrs has established, further confusing his criticisms.

Regardless of these flaws, "The Passengers" delivers a suspenseful narrative that offers readers an opportunity to reflect on the ideas Marrs presents. Fans of moral grayness and high-stakes conflict will enjoy this novel.

*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.*



This suspense novel explores the ethics of artificial intelligence, online anonymity masking people's true feelings, and determining who is most valuable to society.

Photo credit Amazon.com



Brian Friddle

## From the Superintendent's Desk

### School safety a priority for Stockbridge Community School District

Hello Stockbridge Families,

School safety is an ongoing focus for our school district. Student and staff safety is a priority. In August, we provided ALICE Training for our staff. This training provides detailed information on how to respond to an intruder in the building. It explores various types of responses that can be tailored to any given situation as needed. These skills are transferable to all aspects of life. ALICE stands for: Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the district leadership team was trained on a new threat assessment tool. This program was designed by the U.S. Secret Service and Michigan State Police provided the training. This process is an expanded look at the many aspects of an individual's participation in school and brings multiple individuals that know the students to the team to provide input on how to best respond to the situation.

Each building in the district has a crisis team that will provide guidance when a crisis arises. This team will develop a response for the situation and figure out how to best meet the needs of students, staff and our families. The team also will discuss how to communicate with all of the vested stakeholders.

Throughout the year, each building is required to engage in multiple building level drills; including fire drills, tornado drills, and emergency response drills. We are required to report our annual drill information to the state of Michigan after they are completed.

The board approved the implementation of vape detectors at the secondary building. We know that the use of vaping devices is an ongoing problem throughout our society and these vape detectors will help to keep these devices and their harmful effects out of our schools.

The mental health team meets regularly to discuss student needs and to develop plans for implementation throughout the district. Additional mental health workers have been added over the past two years, including additional counselors and social work support.

The transportation team conducts annual bus evacuation drills with students that include exit drills from both the front and rear of the bus. Our fleet has undergone a makeover with exterior lighting that will provide better visibility. We also have implemented a new communication plan to quickly communicate with families when we know that students are likely to be more than 15 minutes late arriving home. This plan was initiated from parent input and their desire to know more quickly when their students will be arriving late.

Each year the district administration discusses and updates our Emergency Operations Plan. This year we have SEC, a school safety company coming into the district to evaluate our programs and make recommendations on how we can improve.

*See Superintendent's Desk on page 19.*





Clyde Whitaker

## Clyde's Corner Changing times now 50 years ago: Graduation Day, June 7, 1973

by Clyde Whitaker

It was a treat to see Stockbridge Community News share all the grad photos for this year's Stockbridge High School Class of 2023. Not surprisingly, it caused me to have a flashback to June 7, 1973—more than 50 years ago—to Graduation Day for me and 112 of my fellow Stockbridge Panthers.

It was a hot and sticky Thursday night in our gym, with no air conditioning. The robes and hats we wore were attractive, but not very comfortable to wear that night.

I recall that as we milled around in the hallway, waiting for the ceremony to start, we were all looking at each other, with anxious expressions of both happy and sad, realizing that our times together were soon coming to an end.

No more walking in the hallways together in our grand old high school. No more rushing to the next class we had, trying to beat the bell. No more sport practices or goofing around in our stinky old locker room. No more words of advice from our teachers and coaches. No more participating in sports with our friends. No more dances in the gym on a Friday night, usually after a big basketball win. No more of that "family feeling" we all felt with each other.

People always say "Man, where did the years go? They flew by." Well, they did come and go, but we made sure to live them—they were not wasted. Most of us chose how we lived those years, although in a few cases, fate decided them for us.

Gas prices in June 1973 were less than 50 cents per gallon—actually closer to 39 cents per gallon.

The No. 1 song in June of 1973 was "My Love" by Paul McCartney and Wings. A great song, still played today on classic rock stations.

President Richard Nixon canceled the draft in early 1973. The Vietnam War was on the minds of all of us, and we were relieved to hear we would not have to fight in this conflict.

Bell-bottom pants, frayed blue jeans, midi skirts, tie-dye shirts, long hair, big hair and afros were all in style in 1973.

Looking back, I wish I could talk to each one of my former teachers and coaches, telling them how much I truly appreciated the time they took to help me become a better person, and preparing me for life after high school. I didn't realize it so much in 1973, but I do now, with each passing day.

What a ride it's been, but it's important to remind ourselves, it's not over yet!

*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.*



Clyde Whitaker's 1973 class ring.



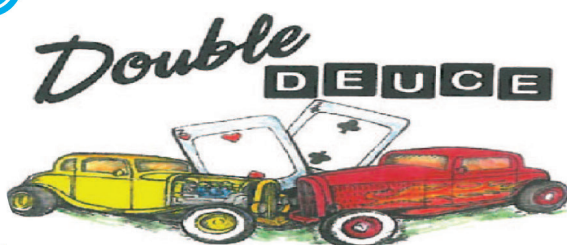
The mid-to-late 1960s was the era for the "muscle car." The '67 Chevelle was a sign of those times.



Class picture for Stockbridge High School Class of 1973.



Stockbridge High School in 1973. It's been converted for other community uses now.



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Published in Uncaged, April 2023  
**Junior Jason Gruber to intern with NASA**

by Macy Cipta, *Uncaged* Reporter

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

Junior Jason Gruber recently got accepted for the SAAS NASA Internship, where he will be partnering with NASA and University of Texas to conduct Earth and space research. The internship will include interpreting NASA satellite data while working alongside scientists and engineers. Gruber is the first student to be working at NASA from Stockbridge as a high schooler.

"It's an honor to be working at NASA as a junior in high school," junior Jason Gruber said. "I cannot wait to see how many doors it will open for me in the future."

Gruber has previously been a part of several stem projects such as FTC/FRC robotics, special projects lab, Qualcomm Thinkabit lab U of M, AGU and Small Sat conference Kennedy space center. These projects have set him apart from other candidates, giving him a higher chance of receiving this internship.

"I think it's pretty amazing," teacher Robert Richards said. "I'm proud of him for getting accepted, but I knew he would."

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 district).

**Antique Tractor, Truck and Farm Equipment Show appealed to a variety of interests**

by Arlene Kaiser

The Antique Tractor Show at the Waterloo Farm Museum was held Aug. 12 and 13. It was a great time for folks with a variety of interests to visit with old friends and make new ones.



This Rumely oil pull was one of many farm implements featured at the Antique Tractor, Truck and Farm Equipment Show. Photo provided by Arlene Kaiser

Kegan Ousley, of Munith, summed up the day perfectly. "I took a few things to the Waterloo Antique Tractor Show and am sure glad I did. Got to see some old friends and talked to quite a few people. But what really made my day were the kids and how much they enjoyed the old stuff. It's pretty awesome to see their gears turning in those untainted heads, watching all the flywheels and gears and moving parts."

A good crowd of visitors enjoyed the equipment and also enjoyed the Farmhouse Tour and Antique and Vintage Quilt Exhibit. More than 40 quilts and eight woven coverlets were on display, ranging in age from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s. Velvets, silks, and cottons were featured, and there was even a Wedding Ring quilt from Feed Sacks prints.

Thank you to all who participated and to Steiner Tractor Parts for sponsoring the tractor races. We had visitors from quilting guilds and clubs and people who were passing the time of day. Some who thought they only "came to see the tractors," stayed in the farmhouse for more than hour enjoying the history of the farm and this special house.

See Tractor Show on page 24.

From CADL Stockbridge

**All Stockbridge students have a library card**

by Head Librarian Sherri McConnell



Back-to-school lists always include notebooks, pens, and pencils but something that is often forgotten is a library card. Fortunately, all currently enrolled Stockbridge students have one no matter what county they live in through our Student Success Initiative! Ask your students if they know they have a library card. They just add "stk" to the front of their Chromebook username, a physical card is not required.

All Stockbridge students have a free library card, no matter where they live. With these special CADL cards, students have access to many services through the Capital Area District Libraries. Photo provided by CADL

With these special CADL cards, students can check out up to five books at a time, use student hot spots, use public computers in the library, borrow books from any branch in the CADL system and have access to digital resources provided by CADL and the Library of Michigan. These include Bookflix, an audio and visual resource for young readers; age-appropriate online encyclopedias from World Book and Britannica; a collection of fiction and nonfiction eBooks; Explora, a database of images and magazine and encyclopedia articles at age-appropriate levels; and Tutor.com, an online tutoring service where students can get help with homework and test prep from a live tutor. There are too many resources to list!

Go to [cadl.org/success](http://cadl.org/success) to learn more about the card with easy guides and short informational videos. For questions about the card and what students can do with it, call CADL Stockbridge at 517-851-7810 or stop by the library.

Capital Area District Libraries' Stockbridge Branch is located at 200 Wood St. For more information, call 517-851-7810 or visit [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).

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### Who We Are

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](http://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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### Our Writers

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!

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John and Theresa Kightlinger

## Ask an Expert: Are modern cars with driver-assistance systems really safer?

by John and Theresa Kightlinger

Advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS) have taken the automotive industry by storm, promising to make driving safer and more comfortable. But are modern cars with ADAS really safer? Let's dive in and find out.

**What are ADAS?** ADAS refer to a collection of technologies that aim to assist drivers in the driving process. These systems use sensors, cameras and other technologies to identify hazards and provide warnings or interventions to prevent or reduce accidents. ADAS are not new concepts, but the technology has evolved significantly in recent years, with manufacturers placing more advanced features into their vehicles.

**Different types.** There are several types of ADAS technologies available in modern cars. Some of the most common ones include: 1) Adaptive cruise control (ACC) automatically adjusts the car's speed to maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front. ACC uses radar and cameras to detect the distance between the two vehicles and adjust the speed accordingly. 2) Lane departure warning (LDW) alerts the driver when the car is drifting out of its lane without a turn signal. LDW uses cameras to detect lane markings and can provide audible or visual warnings to the driver. 3) Automatic emergency braking (AEB) detects potential collisions and applies the brakes to prevent or reduce the impact. AEB uses sensors and cameras to detect obstacles in the car's path and can apply the brakes automatically if the driver fails to do so.

**How do the systems work?** ADAS technologies work by using a combination of sensors, cameras and software to identify potential hazards and provide warnings or interventions. These sensors and cameras are placed strategically around the car to provide a 360-degree view of the surroundings. When a potential hazard is detected, the system will provide a warning to the driver, such as an audible or visual alert. If the driver fails to respond, the system will intervene by applying the brakes or taking other actions to prevent or ease the impact.

**Safety benefits.** The primary benefit of ADAS is improved safety. By providing warnings and interventions, these systems can help prevent accidents and decrease the severity of collisions. Studies have shown that ADAS technologies can reduce the likelihood of accidents and injuries, making driving safer for everyone on the road. Another benefit of ADAS is improved comfort and convenience. Features such as ACC and LDW can make driving more comfortable and less stressful, especially on long trips or in heavy traffic.

*See Ask an Expert on page 24.*



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# Nikki Clear tackles big challenge and wins prestigious award for support staff members

Reprinted from MEA Voice Magazine

Her unit was on the verge of decertification from the Michigan Education Association (MEA) a little over one year ago when school bus driver Nikki Clear took over as president of her local union representing transportation employees, food service workers, paraeducators, and secretaries. Now Clear has won MEA's Leon A. Brunner Award – the MEA's top honor for support staff members.

A bus driver for four years in Stockbridge Community Schools, Clear jokes that she didn't know what she was getting into when she volunteered for the role. But she understood one glaring truth: she had to raise membership – then hovering around 20% – and hopefully lift morale and engagement.

She had less than a month to sign up enough people to save the unit, so she started with talking to folks in transportation who knew her best. They all joined. Then all the food service employees followed suit. And most of the secretaries and paras signed up, too.

Her membership percentage rocketed past 80%.

"I'm a big pain in the butt," she says. "I said to them, 'If you want change, let's do this. But we've got to do it together.' They all know me; they know I won't quit until I get the job done."

With that immediate task successfully completed, Clear joined MEA's Local Presidents Academy where new leaders meet all year to explore the demands, challenges and tools of the role. Everywhere she goes, she meets other leaders and makes more connections.

Meanwhile, the bargaining team she led negotiated a strong contract with the biggest pay raises her members had seen in years. They won seven new paid holidays. This summer the team came back for language changes needed to better support members.

Education support professionals (ESP) do important work as part of a team of educators, she said, likening school to a truck with four tires. "One of those tires is the teachers, and the other three are your support staff," she said. "If any one tire's flat, you're not moving."

Her unwavering belief in and support for her members sets her apart, according to a joint Brunner Award nomination letter signed by three of those people: Jodie Jacobs, a food and nutrition employee and local ambassador, along with Brittany Monette and Debbie Fendelet, both from transportation.

"She has the compassion and drive to make us and everything better in our working family environment, and

we are a family, thanks to her," the nomination letter said. "She has fought for fair wages and better treatment and acknowledgment of the staff.

"She believes that happy, healthy employees bring positive structure to our students and everyone is an influence to these young minds."

Clear is also taking that message to the community by creating opportunities for members of her local to get involved together in events around Stockbridge. She began in June with Day in the Village, a Father's Day weekend tradition in town.

In the school support staff's corner of the action, kids competed in watermelon-eating contests, shimmied under an inflatable limbo stick, tossed balls into cups, and played corn hole. [SCN Ed. Note: Stockbridge ESP also had a notable presence in the 2023 Gregory Fourth of July parade and the kids' activities afterward.]

In a short time, Clear's enthusiasm and hard work has connected people from different jobs and buildings who didn't even know each other existed before," said MEA member Kim Machette, the head cook at the high school.

"Now we are a closer-knit group because of Nikki's efforts," said Machette, who has worked in the district and belonged to the union for 19 years.

In addition to community building and outreach, Clear and her union ambassador, Jodie Jacobs, will soon be connecting members with a new mentoring program they applied for and were selected by NEA to test pilot in the 2023-24 school year.

It all comes down to doing what's best for the kids, and that means hiring, training and retaining great people, Clear says: "Happy staff – happy students – happy admin."

She loves helping kids start and end their days on a positive note as a driver. She gets to know students so she can spot when things aren't going well and what they might need – a chance to talk or some music to listen to.

She cuts water bottles in half and Velcros them to the dashboard to add dirt and plant seeds that kids can watch grow. For March is Reading Month, she hands out books she's collected – one a week per student – along with bookmarks and key tags.

See Clear on page 17.



Nikki Clear received the Leon A. Brunner Award—MEA's top honor for support staff members—at the Education Support Personnel Conference. Photo from MEA Voice Magazine



The Educational Support Professionals at Stockbridge schools has increased their presence in the community through participation in A Day in the Village, Gregory Fourth of July events, and more.

Photo credit Mary Jo David

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### Waterloo Township Board Unapproved Meeting Minutes

25 July 2023 7:00 P.M. 9773 Mt. Hope Road  
Munith, MI 49259

Call to Order and Pledge: 7:00 p.m.

Present: Lance, Walz, Kitley, McAlister, Beck. Also present: 10 residents, Deputy Desnoyer, 3 residents from Ingham County, Stockbridge.

Public Comment: Nancy Smith, from our State Representative Sue Schenk's office in Lansing introduced herself. She said we were welcome to call the office to share issues and that we would be getting more visits. Margie Walz, our new representative on the Jackson County Commissioners Board gave a Jackson County Fair update and also that the old Rollertorium Building located on the fairground property in Jackson is getting a total makeover funded by American One Credit Union. Kristina Griffith from Stockbridge spoke of her father who lives in our Township being very upset over people coming to his door asking about window air units and other household questions. He is 97 years old and doesn't hear well. It was suggested that when the assessor's group is going out to assess properties that they have a business card to give residents. Bill Richardson stated that Aggregate Resources has sold all of their gravel and that they have the pit floor done.

Consent Agenda: Kitley motioned with support from Walz to accept the consent agenda as presented. Aye/all; no/none. Motion carried. Kitley motioned with support from Walz to pay the Post Audit checks is the amount of \$7,806.35. Roll call vote: Yes/Lance, Beck, McAlister, Walz, Kitley. No/none. Motion carried.

Building and Zoning: 12 permits were issued and there was a total of 17 inspections done.

SAESA: Most of the meeting consisted of going over the State inspection documents and approved them for another year. There will be no carnival in Stockbridge this year. Police Report: Deputy Desnoyer's report for June was as follows: Deputies put in 165 hours, drove 2367 miles, answered 43 calls for service, made 15 stops and issued 5 citations. Sheriff's office responded to 21 calls and Michigan State Police took 10 calls.

Correspondence: Lance read an email from Kimberly Hall regarding trash being dumped everywhere along the roads and no way to stop it and no trash service to collect it. Lance is going to check into some options.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Parks & Recreation: Walz said July meeting discussed the Artisan Market event and are reading the surveys to see how they can improve it next year. August meeting third Tuesday of month at 9:30. They will be working on the Halloween Parade which will take place on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 1:00. They are trying to find a company to patch the cracks in the fireplace. New

equipment will be put in place of the merry-go-round that was removed for safety purposes.

Planning Commission: They discussed the zoning change requested by Mark Zweifler stating that there will be a public hearing on August 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. They elected officers which will be the same as last year. They spent time discussing Article 15 Signs. They reviewed Table 9-4 and Article 18. Removed Section 18.05 due to now covered by Township Noise Ordinance.

Action Items:

- Kitley motioned with support from Beck to prepay for 1,000 gallons of propane at a cost of \$1,979 per gallon for the coming heat season. Roll call vote: Yes/Beck, McAlister, Walz, Kitley, Lance. No/none. Motion carried.

- Kitley motioned with support from Walz to increase committee members to \$100 per diem, support staff \$1.00 an hour including Cynthia Richardson for the extra time put in typing for the Planning Commission and \$1.00 an hour for Zoning Enforcement and Building Officer. Roll call vote: Yes/McAlister, Walz, Kitley, Lance. Abstain: Beck. No/none. Motion carried.

- Lance motioned with support from McAlister to approve the land combination for Jeffrey Hanselman combining parcels 000-10-01-126-004-02 and 000-10-01-126-004-01 with the condition that filing will not be done until the final parcel ID is provided by our Assessor, Heidi Roenicke. New parcel number was provided and is 000-10-01-126-004-03. Any Other Business That Comes to the Board: Regarding the letter about the trash being dumped alongside our roads, Walz suggested that we put trail cams up in strategic areas to identify those doing the dumping. Beck will look into the cost of some. ORV ordinance will be given to the Planning Commission. Also discussed was the lack of notice for bike events through our Township. Lance will call our lawyer to ask about the bike events and do we have any authority. Bill Richardson had let us know about 1 of the events.

Walz asked about the Green Road reopening. Consumer Energy has not been scheduled yet. The previous work was scheduled and then a storm happened and they had to deal with that issue. Gary Green is getting ready to break ground at the Township for the pole structure and will house fire vehicles giving us quicker response. Richardson said that Green Road will hopefully be open by the end of July. Public Comment: Sharon Houck spoke of fines for dumping trash alongside roads if identified. Randy Heatley spoke of getting push texts regarding the bike events. It will be looked into regarding costs, etc.

Adjournment: Walz motioned with support from McAlister to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Aye/all; no/none. Motion carried. The next Planning Commission meeting will be Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The next regular board meeting will be on August 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Minutes will be published in the Stockbridge Community News at the end of each month, on our website [waterlootwpmi.gov](http://waterlootwpmi.gov), on our Facebook page at: [waterlootownshipmichigan](https://www.facebook.com/waterlootownshipmichigan), and The Grass Lake Exponent. Submitted by: Janice Kitley, Clerk

## Community Calendar

**Tuesdays** – Stockbridge Farmers Market, 5 to 7 p.m. at Mackinder Glenn Post 510

**Tuesdays** – Pickleball all ages, beginning to intermediate level, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park

**Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** – Prepared Meals for Seniors through Stockbridge Area Senior Center, noon to 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center

**Wednesdays** – Family Storytime (Ages up to 6), 10 to 10:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**Wednesdays** – Pop-up food distribution for anyone in need, 1 to 3 p.m. at Stockbridge Community Outreach

**Thursdays** – Coffee chats, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**Fridays** – Open Air Market, 4 to 7 p.m. on the Stockbridge Town Square

**Fridays** – Coed competitive volleyball, 6 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park

**Occasional Fridays (Call Library for dates)** – Keep Calm and Carry Yarn, 1 to 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**Sept. 5** – The Sons of the American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 to 8 p.m. at Mackinder Glenn Post 510

**Sept. 9** – Fishville Farms 2nd Annual Backpack Drive and Craft Show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Chelsea Fairgrounds

**Sept. 9** – Chicken Supper, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Plainfield Methodist Church

**Sept. 10** – Celebrate with us: Farm to Table, 3:30 to 7 p.m. at Alber Orchard & Cider Mill in Manchester

**Sept. 11** – The American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 to 8 p.m. at Mackinder Glenn Post 510

**Sept. 17** – All Clubs Day for Motorcycle Enthusiats at the Stockbridge Township Square

**Sept. 17** – All You Can Eat Country Breakfast, 8 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Presbyterian Church (see ad on page 22)

**Sept. 19** – Question. Persuade. Refer Training, 5 to 6 p.m. at the Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School

**Sept. 25** – Sparrow Mobile Health Unit at Stockbridge Community Outreach parking lot. Call for hours

**Sept. 26** – The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 7 to 8 p.m. at Mackinder Glenn Post 510

**Sept. 29 and 30** – Stockbridge Annual Tractor Show, at the American Legion Mackinder Glenn Post 510

**For more community events visit: [www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com). To add your community events to our free community calendar, email submissions to [stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com](mailto:stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com).**

### UTPD Activity July 1-31, 2023

**Saturday 07/01** - Assist UTFD-Roepke/Williamsville Rd.

**Sunday 07/02** - Assist UTFD-Worden Rd./M106, Suspicious situation-Hadley Rd./Barnum Rd.

**Monday 07/03** - Assist UTFD- Donohue Rd./Spears Rd., Animal Complaint-Williamsville Rd./San Luray Dr., Animal Complaint-Bullis Rd./M36, Animal Complaint-Livermore Rd./W Trebesh Cir

**Wednesday 07/05** - Assist EMS-Cass St./Ovit St.

**Thursday 07/06** - Assist UTFD-Van Syckle Rd./Dexter Trl.

**Friday 07/07** - Disturbance-Stockbridge St./Cass St.

**Saturday 07/08** - Welfare Check-Bowdish Rd./Worden Rd.

**Sunday 07/09** - Property Damage-Holmes Rd./Doyle Rd., Assist UTFD-M36/Bullis Rd.

**Monday 07/10** - Animal Complaint-Unadilla Rd./Williamsville Rd., Welfare Check-Meadow Park Dr./Raspberry Ridge, Welfare Check-Van Syckle Rd./Doyle Rd.

**Tuesday 07/11** - Suspicious Vehicle-M36/Arnold Rd., Accident- M36/Dexter Trail, Assist UTFD-Kaiser Rd./Hadley Rd., Assist UTFD-San Marino Ave./San Juan Ct., Assist UTFD-Doyle Rd./Unadilla Rd., Assist UTFD-Joslin Lake Rd./Unadilla Rd., Assist UTFD-Bowdish Rd./Walnut Ln., Assist UTFD-Worden Rd./Bowdish Rd. Electrical Hazard-Williamsville Rd./San Luray Dr, Assist EMS-W M36/Livermore Rd., Animal Complaint-Main St./Dewey St., Assist EMS-Van Syckle Rd./Spears Rd.

**Thursday 07/13** - Suspicious Situation-Main St./Dexter Trail

**Friday 07/14** - Road runoff-Holmes Rd./Doyle Rd., Assist EMS-Unadilla Rd./Williamsville Rd.

**Saturday 07/15** - Assist UTFD-Dexter Trl./Dutton Rd., Assist UTFD-Holmes Rd./Doyle Rd.,

Juvenile Complaint-M36/Livermore Rd., Assist other Agency-San Luray Dr./Williamsville Rd., Assist UTFD-Stockbridge St./Cass St.

**Sunday 07/16** - Indecent Exposure-W M36/Kathryn Ct., Assist UTFD-Watson Dr./Channel Dr.

**Monday 07/17** - Animal Complaint-Joslin Lake Rd./Joslin Dr., Malicious destruction of Property-Livermore Rd./Doyle Rd.

**Wednesday 07/19** - Court Prosecutor Activity-S Highlander Way/W Grand River Ave.

**Thursday 07/20** - Assault Report-W M36/W Lakelands Trl., Assist UTFD-Roepke Rd./Williamsville Rd.

**Friday 07/21** - Animal Complaint-Williamsville Rd./Holmes Rd.

**Saturday 07/22** - Malicious destruction of property-Livermore Rd./E Trebesh Cir.

**Sunday 07/23** - Domestic verbal-Webb St./Church St, Domestic verbal-San Luray Dr./San Marino Ave.

**Monday 07/24** - Domestic verbal-San Marino Ave./San Marino Ave., Suspicious Person-Kathryn Ct./W M36, Intimidation/Harassment-Arnold Rd./Spears Rd.

**Tuesday 07/25** - Civic Event-W M36/Acacia Trl., Citizen Assist-Watson Dr./Channel Dr., Suspicious Situation-Bowdish Rd./Worden Rd.

**Wednesday 07/26** - Assist UTFD- M 106/Treelane Dr., Hazard- Doyle Rd./Roepke Rd., Assist EMS-Unadilla Rd./Williamsville Rd., Assist UTFD-Unadilla Rd./Church St.

**Thursday 07/27** - Hazard-W M36/Bullis Rd., Assist EMS-M 36/Van Syckle Rd.

**Friday 07/28** - Fraud- Worden Rd./Williamsville Lake Rd., Domestic Verbal- San Luray Dr./San Marino Ave

**Sunday 07/30** - Assist EMS- W M36/Livermore Rd., Property Damage Accident- Dexter Trl./Dutton Rd.

**Monday 07/31** - Person locked in vehicle-Stonehouse Dr./Townview Ln., Property Damage Accident- M36/Barton Rd., Larceny- San Luray Dr./San Marino Ave., Assist EMS- E Trebesh Cir./Livermore Rd.

Chief David S. Russell  
Unadilla Township Police Department

### STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 2023

Stockbridge Township Supervisor CG Lantis called the Regular Stockbridge Township Board Meeting to order on August 21, 2023 at 7:32pm at the Stockbridge Township Hall. Members present at the Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting; Supervisor CG Lantis, Clerk Becky Muraf, Treasurer James Wireman Trustee Ed Wetherell, Trustee Terry Sommer Member absent None  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Moment of Silence  
Sommer motion to except the agenda as printed Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried  
Citizen's Comment Discussion  
Sommer motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Board Meeting Minutes as printed Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried  
Wireman motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Financial Report as printed Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried  
Stockbridge Township Planning Commission Update/ Meeting Updates  
Old Business  
Stockbridge Township Memorial Wall is still in the process of being worked on hoping to have application form approved at next Stockbridge Township Board meeting.  
New Business  
Wave Bus was in attendance to ask the Stockbridge Township Board for future funding.  
Sommer motion to accept the Crowd

Gathering permits for Wheeling Down on the Farm and Stockbridge Township Harvest Fest Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Muraf motion to spend up to \$1,000.00 on Halloween Candy for Stockbridge Township to hand out on Halloween Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Muraf motion to donate \$300.00 to the Stockbridge Fire Association for Cider and Donuts to hand out on Halloween Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried.

Sommer motion to accept the agreement between Stockbridge Township and Stockbridge Village Police to patrol the Stockbridge Community Schools property that are inside Stockbridge Township Wireman Second All in Favor Motion carried.

Stockbridge Township is looking into moving to a sweep account.

Wireman Motion to give Stockbridge Area Senior Center \$85,000.00 per year for the next 2 years from Stockbridge Township General Fund Wetherell Second Roll Call Wetherell Yes, Sommer Yes, Muraf Yes, Wireman Yes, Lantis Yes, All in Favor Motion Carried

Sommer motion to pay the Stockbridge Township monthly bills in the amount of \$26,918.23 Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Muraf motion to allow up to \$1,500.00 per Stockbridge Board and all Boards member for training Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Citizen Comments Discussion  
Lantis motion to adjourn the Stockbridge Township Board Regular Board meeting at 8:18 pm Wireman Second Meeting adjourn. BM





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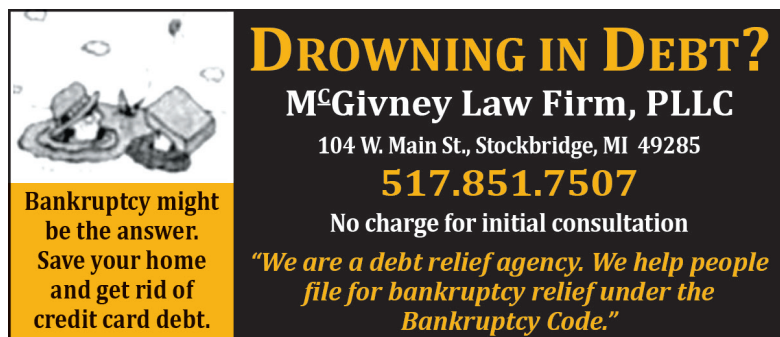
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## 'This I Believe'

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

### First-place winning essay by Sydney Walker

People have dreams  
People want to be heard  
People want to be seen  
I may be quiet but I can still be heard  
I may be shy but I can still be seen  
I have dreams that seem so absurd and outlandish  
But those dreams are mine  
My thoughts scream to be heard  
I let them bleed on paper and watch something beautiful unfold  
I am me and I have dreams

There is a day that I hold special in my heart. I was in my room and I was bored and I had an urge to write poetry. I grabbed a notebook and markers and I began my eye-opening journey. I used a dictionary so I could use a wider range of words. I'm not sure what happened that day and why I was inspired all of a sudden but I'm grateful for it. I let my mind wander so anything and everything would come to me. An idea would hit me and I turned it into something truly amazing. Each time I wrote about something, I would separate the writing pieces by writing them with their own color. I mostly wrote poems but a few were short writing pieces. Once I filled a page I flipped it over and continued writing on the back. One thing I used during that time to help me was music. I had headphones on and I let the music flow through me and guide me. I let the lyrics imprint on my brain so I could be in the zone and take in the beauty of the space around me. Occasionally I flicked through Pinterest to get a few ideas and thoughts planted. So many things bring me inspiration for my poetry like music, Pinterest, people, nature, and the world. The things I tend to write about are more sensitive topics that a lot of people don't love to talk about. I find beauty in things that everyone else sees as something negative. I sat in my room writing for hours and I was really proud of what I did when I was done. It is very important for me to believe in my dreams and not give up. If I do, then I stop believing in myself. I can't let myself be second best or be something less. When I finally felt more connected to my soul, mind, body, and thoughts that day, I was filled with so much joy. I feel it is very important for people to discover what they are good at because it can make their lives more fulfilling. I am very passionate about writing and poetry and I felt happy to find my voice. There was a time when I was struggling to get my voice onto paper and it frustrated me. For a long time, I didn't really do much other than peek at the talents that I have within me because that was all I knew how to do. I always knew that I loved words and writing but I didn't know how to express that very well. I was able to dig up and reveal this special gift that I have to the world that day. I know the younger me would be cheering me on for what I have been able to accomplish and do with myself. I may not be the best right now, but someday I will be the best of the best and then some. I believe that if you hold onto what you love, great things will happen to you and your life. I believe it is more rewarding when you have to work hard at something to become really good and you will feel more accomplished and proud that way.

See 'This I Believe' on page 18.



# NFPW page 1

Joan Tucker, president of the SCN board of directors, called Salyer's win "amazing." "The SCN board is honored by Hope's NFPW first-place national award in page design," Tucker said. "Her time and creativity really make our small community paper stand out.

Tucker also praised Salyer's commitment to SCN. "I personally admire Hope's dedication, as a young woman, to the Stockbridge Community News and board," Tucker said. "We couldn't do it without her."

To qualify for the national contest, Salyer placed first in the newspaper page design category in the at-large contest that drew entries from Michigan and 18 other states without a state contest. Nearly 1,800 entries were submitted in the various categories of the NFPW contest this year. Winners were announced June 24 at the NFPW National Conference in Cincinnati.

Salyer's winning pages had a black background with white type. Large cursive gold headlines reading "2022 Top Ten Seniors" and "Congratulations Seniors" could be found at the top and bottom of the pages. Each senior's info was set apart with an individual photo and paragraph or two listing honors and future plans. Beaded gold ribbon accents with tassels added a decorative flair.

Salyer said she created the winning pages using her usual process for page design. "For those pages, I usually start by searching for a background that I can use," Salyer said.

"I found that background using Canva, and I made some edits to it to create room for the photos.

"From what I remember, I created the headline in Canva as well, then I downloaded the file as a PDF, and did the photo placement and captions in inDesign with the rest of the layout," she continued.

The judge in the at-large contest described Salyer's layout as "dynamic" with use of the headline font as the top element.

"The inviting headline draws the reader in to read about the seniors," the judge said. "The use of the background enhances the overall design."

NFPW is a nationwide organization of women and men pursuing communications careers in print and electronic journalism, books, public relations, photography, radio, television, graphics and others.

*Jeff Caskey* **WILD SANITATION** *Brad Caskey*



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## Obituaries

### Curtis Richard Chillison



**Curtis Richard Chillison**  
Nov. 10, 1946 to Aug. 21, 2023

**Curtis Richard Chillison**, of Gregory, MI, age 76, passed away peacefully at home with his loving family by his side on August 21, 2023.

Curt was born on November 10, 1946 in Detroit, MI, the son of Oliver and Wilhelmina "Mina" (McGee) Chillison. He was predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his loving wife, Mary; sister, Judy (Michael) Fly of Nashville, TN; daughters, Michelle (Jamie) Lewis, Micki Chillison, Eileen-Young Bradley, Michelle (Thad) Kellenberger. He held a special place in his heart for his nephew, Joseph Fly. Curt will be greatly missed by his 12 grandchildren: Bradley, Ryan, Noah, Ava,

Brian, Audrey, Ethan, Macy, Owen, Lauren, Natalie, and Alaina.

He was a 1964 Stockbridge High School graduate and went on to study at Jackson College, where he received his degree in science. Curt was a hard-working mason for over 40 years. He was a member of the B.A.C Union his entire career.

He loved sports, with Michigan football being his favorite. His other passion was his grandchildren. He loved watching the kids play their various sports and was a proud fan in the stands.

After you met Curt, you were never a stranger. He will be missed by many friends and family.

Visitation was held on Thursday, August 24, 2023 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge.

A funeral service was held on Friday, August 25, 2023, 11:00 a.m., at Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home. Burial followed at Williamsville Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Unadilla Firefighters Association.

### Paul Charles Sturgill



**Paul Charles Sturgill**  
Nov. 22, 1972 to Aug. 17, 2023

**Paul Charles Sturgill**, age 50, passed away on August 17, 2023 at his home in Munith, MI. Paul was born on November 22, 1972 in Jackson, MI, the son of Charles and Sandra (Dudeck) Sturgill.

Paul had lived in the Munith area his entire life, and he graduated from Stockbridge High School. He worked in construction for LiUNA Construction Laborers' Local 499. Paul enjoyed hunting and fishing, and he loved his dog, Remington.

Paul is survived by his parents, Charles and Sandra Sturgill of Munith, and a brother, William Sturgill of Jackson. He was preceded in death by a twin infant brother, Charles Jr., his grandparents, Kenneth and

Margaret Dudeck and Reese and Virgie Sturgill; as well as a sister-in-law, Roberta Sturgill.

The family received friends at the Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 from 5-7 p.m. and on Wednesday Aug. 23 from 10-11 a.m.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 11:00 a.m., at Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home with Pastor Eric Stricklin officiating. Burial followed at Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Henrietta Township, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Henrietta Twp. Library. Arrangements by Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home.

### Steven Carl VanDyke



**Steven Carl VanDyke**  
Aug. 31, 1955 to July 30, 2023

**Steven Carl VanDyke**, age 67, of Mason, Michigan, passed away in the comfort of his home on July 30, 2023, losing his battle with cancer. He was born the middle child of a family of five children, in Muskegon Michigan on August 31, 1955, and he was raised mostly in the Lansing area. Steve enjoyed all the usual outdoor activities that kids did in the 1960s including swimming at Moores Park pool, area lakes, Wolf Lake and Houghton Lake. Rollerskating at Edru was a big part of not only his youth, but also his adult life, and he worked there part time for a bit. As a teen, Steve was defiant. He got involved with drugs and alcohol, dropped out of school and ended up in jail for theft. While there, he decided to get his GED. After that, Steve chose to pursue dancing. While working at Red Lobster (Frondor), he

took classes at L.C.C. and performed in many musicals. He was trained by Ric Mitchell, who then built a dance studio business around Steve and others who came after. Steve moved to New York City to pursue a dance career. He lived at the YMCA while taking dance classes and worked at restaurants to support himself as a struggling artist. He roller skated the streets of New York, and was mugged at one point. He was fortunate to get the role of "Action" in the original Jerome Robbins "West Side Story" musical and went on a two-year tour throughout Europe. Eventually, he suffered a leg injury and returned to Michigan.

On July 5, 1986 he met Barb White at a bar in Lansing. One dance and the rest was history. On October 29, 1988, Steve and Barb got married in Stockbridge Michigan at the First Presbyterian Church. He and Barb were blessed with a son, Samuel, in October, 1993, then another son, Mason, in April, 1996. In his mid-30s, Steve returned to LCC and trained to be a paramedic. He started working for Livingston County Ambulance in 1994. In September 2000 the family moved to Mason. Steve retired on his 60th birthday - August 31, 2015. Soon after, he started driving for Lexus of Lansing and as an Uber and Lyft driver.

Steve was a servant of Christ as evidenced by his actions as a member of Mason First Presbyterian Church for over 22 years. Always with a heart for helping others, he served on many committees and in several capacities. He was a hands-on kind of guy who volunteered consistently to transport people to and from services and oversee events, such as funerals and annual Sweetheart Luncheons. He was also a volunteer driver for the Davies project.

Steve stopped working upon his cancer diagnosis in January, 2023. His treatments began and continued from February to June, but were unsuccessful. As of July 30, 2023, his suffering is over. He will be sorely missed by many. He now joins several beloved family members, cats, and dogs who went before him.

Steve is preceded in death by his father, Harrison VanDyke; mother, Carol VanDyke; father-in-law, Curt White; sister, Julie VanDyke; and sister-in-law, Rosanne VanDyke. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Barbara W. VanDyke; sons, Samuel VanDyke and Mason VanDyke; and granddaughter, Caidra VanDyke. He is also survived by his step-mother, Patricia VanDyke; mother-in-law, Dorene White; siblings: Brad VanDyke, Sherri (Jeffrey) VanDyke Nylander, and Eric VanDyke; many beloved nieces, nephews, great and great-great nieces and nephews; and special friends: Jim Hahn, George Hubbard, and Mark Ruhala.

A special thanks to Sparrow staff and Promedica Hospice team: Abby, Jennifer, Amanda, Casey, Dr. Harold Roth (thanks for the jokes!).

All were invited to help the family celebrate Steve's life at Mason First Presbyterian Church located at 131 E. Maple Street in Mason Michigan. Visitation was held on Sunday, August 6, 2023, from 4-7 p.m. and on Monday prior to the service which began at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Bill Pinches officiating. The service was live streamed. The live stream was accessed via the church website at [www.MasonPresbyterian.org](http://www.MasonPresbyterian.org) - under the photo of the church were links to their Facebook page and YouTube Channel where services could be watched. A time for sharing love, memories, and laughter was provided at a luncheon following the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be directed to Mason Public Schools Fine Arts Programs, 201 W. Ash Street, Suite 2A, Mason, MI 48854, Mason First Presbyterian Church, or the Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Arrangements were entrusted to Vickers Leslie Funeral Home, 109 N. Church Street/P.O. Box 503, Leslie, MI 49251. 517-878-6600.



## Obituaries

### Margaret "Peggy" Catherine Dillinger Beals, RN



**Margaret Dillinger Beals**  
April 10, 1932 to Aug. 13, 2023

**Margaret "Peggy" Catherine Dillinger Beals, RN**, of Waterloo Township, Michigan, age 91, passed away Sunday, August 13, 2023, at Silver Maples of Chelsea. She was born April 10, 1932, in Dayton, Ohio, the daughter of George E. and Ruth P. (Litzenberg) Dillinger.

Peggy graduated from Germantown High School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1950, and received her RN from the Albert Einstein Medical Center in 1953.

Peggy married Theodore Fairbank Beals in the Douglas Memorial Chapel in Ann Arbor on June 13, 1954. Peggy was preceded in death by her husband, parents, and her brother George. She is survived by her children, Sandra Beals of Ann Arbor, James Beals (Kelli Sullivan) of Ann Arbor, Lynn Beals of Webster Township, and John Beals of Ann Arbor; two brothers, David Dillinger of Warrington, Pennsylvania, and Paul Dillinger of Escondido, California; five grandchildren, Andrea (Moreno-Beals) (Yoni) Paz, Brian Moreno, Michael Moreno, William Becker, and Josh (Miranda) McVety; one great-grandchild, Soleil Daliya Paz; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Soon after her graduation from nursing school, Peggy came to Ann Arbor to serve as private duty nurse at U of M Hospital for her brother George, who had been seriously injured in an automobile accident. She continued to work at the hospital for many years in various departments. Peggy was a pioneer in childbirth education, founding a local organization, the Family Life Forum, to provide education for the childbearing year, writing books for courses and teacher training, traveling throughout the US and Canada to train teachers, and serving as Co-president of the International Childbirth Association for two terms in the 1960s. She studied homeopathy in the 1980s, attending the National Center for Homeopathy's Summer School for many years and teaching introductory courses in Ann Arbor. In 1990, Peggy and Ted bought property in Waterloo Township, MI, where they both participated in the township, serving on various boards and committees. In the early 2000s, she learned of Nourishing Traditions, an approach to healthy nutrition, and became active in studying and teaching the principles of Weston A. Price, DDS. She was a chapter leader for the Weston A. Price Foundation for many years, and wrote a book, *Caring for Fresh Milk*, which continues to be very popular with dairy farmers and consumers of whole, fresh, unprocessed milk. She served on the board of the Farm-to-Consumer Foundation, working to support small dairy farms and farmers. She also participated in a workgroup that brought together representative of small and industrial dairy farmers with state officials in Lansing, Michigan, and resulted in a Report, which she published and sold through her company, Spring House Press.

In addition to her enduring commitment to teaching, Peggy was creative and artistically talented, over the years producing elegant millinery, stained glass art, crewel embroidery, ballroom dancing costumes, and Michigan State Fair prize-winning wedding cakes. She loved to sing, at home and in church choirs, and her gardens were always vibrant works of art. Ted and Peggy were passionate about dancing together. They met at a square dance, and that shared interest was a continuous theme throughout their 66-year marriage. They danced several times a week for nearly 50 years, taking private lessons and participating in many square and ballroom dance clubs.

A celebration of Peggy's life will be held at a later date. A private burial will be held at Forest Hill Cemetery in Ann Arbor. Arrangements were entrusted to Cole Funeral Chapel in Chelsea.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Farm-to-Consumer Foundation or the National Center for Homeopathy.

### Carol Ann (Laska) Gerisch



**Carol Ann Gerisch**  
March 12, 1945 to Aug. 4, 2023

**Carol Ann (Laska) Gerisch**, age 78, of Gregory, MI, passed away August 4, 2023 at U of M Hospital in Ann Arbor, MI. She was born on March 12, 1945, the eldest daughter of the late Arthur and Cecilia Laska.

She had lived on Bruin Lake for the last 54 years in the house she and her husband Robert built, spending winters in their beloved home in Florida. She worked as a teacher, coach, and administrator for River Rouge and Stockbridge Schools until she retired. She loved going to watch youth sporting events, gardening, quilting, off shore fishing in Florida, lake life, Michigan football, and most of all her grandchildren.

On June 28, 1968 she married Robert Gerisch, and he preceded her in death. Surviving is her son, Aaron (Meghan) Gerisch of Kingwood, TX; two granddaughters, Ayla and Khyla; two brothers, Arthur (Ann) Laska of Livonia, MI, and Scott (Shelly) Laska of Knoxville, TN; one sister, Mary Malone of Grosse Pointe, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and other extended family members.

A celebration of life will take place at a later date. Arrangements by Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea.

## ArtPrize page 1



**"Lucindas East of Eden" projects a noble, aristocratic, and yet inviting visage of Berger's beloved Morgan.** Photo credit Andrea Stickney

"Eden" projects a noble, aristocratic, and yet inviting visage that pulls the viewer directly into eye contact with the subject. The piece is beautiful and mesmerizing.

Her entry will be on display in Heritage Hill Campus Cornerstone Church, on 48 Lafayette Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, during the show.

Berger is an accomplished, self-taught artist who studied graphic

design and harbors a lifelong love of art, pursuing it as a painter and selectively working in oils. She particularly enjoys painting landscapes and architectural subjects but also has a rare talent for capturing the personalities of animals in the portraits she paints for clients.

Over the past 15 years, millions of people have seen thousands of works of art during ArtPrize. This year, visitors will have the opportunity to view more than 650 works of art from international artists displayed throughout downtown Grand Rapids.

The entry form for this elite show includes more than seven pages of eligibility rules defining the artists, fees, categories of art and fine details of every aspect of the show, which artists must comply with to be considered as a participant. Successfully completing the entry form, in addition to having already created a piece of art worthy of an international audience, is nothing less than impressive.

Berger has successfully entered her work in ArtPrize on two previous occasions and has, for several years, had her work displayed online by AllArtworks.com and, most recently, in their Grand Rapids Gallery.

This local-to-Stockbridge artist is sought after for private pet portraits as well. She may be reached through AllArtworks.com or by email at CarolsCanvas@gmail.com.





"Talk. They Hear You." provides information for talking with kids about underage drinking and substance use in a way that resonates with the kids. Photo credit Priscilla Du Preez on unsplash.com

## Bridge to Wellness

# Promote strong relationships by talking with your children in a way that resonates with them

by Patti Bihn, BSN, RN

One of the most important factors in healthy child development is a strong, open relationship with a parent or trusted caregiver. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has initiated the "Talk. They Hear You." campaign. The intent of the campaign is to provide guidance, information, and materials for parents and caregivers to use when talking with kids about the risks of underage drinking and substance use—in a way that resonates with the kids.

To help begin the conversation, SAMHSA created five goals to keep in mind when talking to kids about alcohol and drugs:

**1. Show you disapprove of underage drinking and other drug misuse.** More than 80 percent of people ages 10-18 say their parents are the leading influence on their decision whether or not to drink.

**2. Show you care about your child's health, wellness, and success.** Young people are more likely to listen when they know you're on their side. Reinforce why you don't want them to drink or use drugs, emphasizing that you want your child to be happy and safe. The conversation will go much better if you're open and show concern.

**3. Show you're a good source of information.** You want your child to make informed decisions about alcohol and drugs with reliable information about their dangers. You don't want them to learn from unreliable sources.

**4. Show you're paying attention and you'll discourage risky behaviors.** Show you're aware of what your child is up to, as young people are more likely to drink or use drugs if they think no one will notice. Do this in a subtle way, without prying.

**5. Build your child's skills and strategies for avoiding underage drinking and drug use.** Having a plan to avoid alcohol and drug use can help children make better choices. Talk with your child about what they would do if faced with a decision about alcohol and drugs, such as texting a code word to a family member or practicing how they'll say, "no thanks."

Keep the discussion low-key. Don't worry, you don't have to get everything across in one talk. Plan to have many short talks.

To learn more about "Talk. They Hear You.", visit [underagedrinking.samhsa.gov](http://underagedrinking.samhsa.gov) or download the mobile app on the App Store, Google Play, or the Microsoft Store.

**Upcoming training for recognizing warning signs of suicide**  
The Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition will be hosting an upcoming training: Question. Persuade. Refer. (QPR).

Learn how to recognize and respond to the warning signs of suicide. Free and open to anyone 14 and older.

• Tuesday, Sept. 19 from 5-6 p.m. at Stockbridge Jr/Sr High School, 416 N. Clinton St.

• To register, visit [tinyurl.com/QPR919](http://tinyurl.com/QPR919)

• Email [Sarah.Wilczynski@trinity-health.org](mailto:Sarah.Wilczynski@trinity-health.org) for more information.

• To register, visit [tinyurl.com/QPR919](http://tinyurl.com/QPR919)



This column is sponsored by the Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition. Emily Stewart is the Coalition vice chair and SRSly Stockbridge director with the Community Health Improvement Team at Chelsea Hospital.



# Congratulations!



Photo by Judy Williams

## Leslie Cummings

High School  
Guidance Counselor

2022-2023 Employee  
of the Year and winner  
of the Helen Mitteer  
Remembrance Award



**S STOCKBRIDGE**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation Mission: To fund programs and projects that create or enhance educational opportunities available to residents within the boundaries of the Stockbridge Community School District.



# Stockbridge Community Schools welcomes new staff and recognizes important support roles

by Mary Jo David

New staff attended the Welcome Back Breakfast for the first time. To welcome them aboard, each of the school principals acknowledged their new staff, calling them up onto the stage so other staff members also could meet them.

At the breakfast, Superintendent Brian Friddle also made it a point to recognize some of the key support teams in the district, including Food Service (who were busy with breakfast responsibilities), Transportation, Business Office staff, and the Custodial Crew.

Photos by Judy Williams and Mary Jo David



Introducing new Custodial Crew Member



New staff: Jr./Sr. High



New staff: Heritage School



New staff: Smith Elementary



Recognizing SCS Transportation Crew



Recognizing SCS custodians



Recognizing SCS Food Service Team Members



Central Office introductions



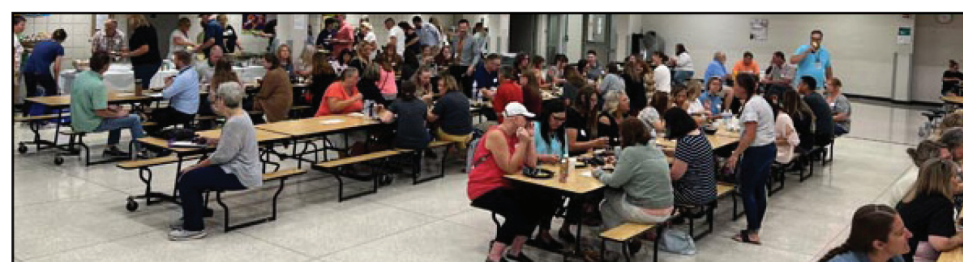
Mike Demint and Leslie Cummings get standing ovations.



First grade teachers show they have GRIT.



Welcoming staff back with breakfast



The 2023-24 Staff Welcome Back Breakfast was well attended.

## Employee of the Year page 1

Beginning her 28th year with Stockbridge Schools, Cummings has an exceptional passion for supporting students and their success. Many parents credit Cummings as the reason their son or daughter was able to graduate from Stockbridge High School. This is evidenced by the number of graduating seniors waiting patiently each year to get a photo with Mrs. Cummings on graduation day.

With so many years of service under her belt, Cummings is a wealth of information. She has a lot on her plate and wears many hats throughout her day, guiding students through scheduling, postsecondary planning, and the many daily challenges they face. She always supports and pushes students to succeed so they can eventually walk across the stage to accept their diplomas.

Co-workers credit her with a calming presence that is just what's needed during intense moments and stressful situations. Staff members always feel welcome in her office to talk over their questions or concerns. In fact, there is rarely a moment when someone is not in Leslie's office.

Cummings was nominated and chosen last year by the students as the grand marshal for the Homecoming parade, a testament to how much the student body appreciates and values her.

The look of surprise on her face changed from shock to pride as her husband and three sons joined her on stage when the Employee of the Year award was announced.

The Helen B. Mitteer Employee of the Year Award is a great honor. Junior/Senior High School Principal Jeff Trapp had this to say about Cummings:

"Leslie is an important part of the foundation of our district and a solid rock upon which our students can depend for support. She is a Stockbridge Panther in every sense of the word! I am so thankful that she is one of the lasting impressions that our students take with them when graduating from high school."

Helen Bullis Mitteer was born in Pinckney, Michigan, in 1910. In the fall of 1929, Helen started teaching in a rural, one-room schoolhouse between Pinckney and Gregory. For over 40 years, Mrs. Mitteer was a committed, caring, and patient teacher to thousands of students in the Stockbridge Community. Her dedication to Stockbridge Schools is now perpetuated through the financial support provided to those employees who reflect her unselfish commitment to the students of Stockbridge Schools.



# Stockbridge Community Schools

## Recognition for Years of Service to the District

The Stockbridge Community News would like to acknowledge the following school staff members for their dedication to our school district. They were each recognized by Superintendent Brian Friddle for their years of service at the Staff Welcome Back Breakfast held on Aug. 14.

*(Years of service are listed next to each name in the list.) Photos by Judy Williams and Mary Jo David*



54 Years Of Service



35 Years Of Service



32 Years Of Service



28-29 Years Of Service



25 Years Of Service



24 Years Of Service



23 Years Of Service

**50+ Years**

Mike Demint 54 Teacher Jr/Sr High

**35 Years**

Karen Bradford 35 Secretary Jr/Sr High

**30 – 34 Years**

Sue Gaseski 32 Food Service

**25 – 29 Years**

Cheryl Walsh 29 Virtual Jr/Sr High

Brenda Clear 29 Transportation

Leslie Cummings 28 Counselor Jr/Sr High

Jay Langone 28 Teacher Jr/Sr High

Angie Filice 28 Teacher Smith

Shawn Bliss 27 Teacher Heritage

Janice Armstrong 27 Teacher Smith

Kerri Allen 26 Teacher Heritage

Kathy Pierce 26 Teacher Jr/Sr High

Jeff Lewis 25 Custodial Heritage

**20 – 24 Years**

Patty Pniewski 24 Teacher HS/HER

Nichole Borowy 24 Teacher Heritage

Terri Grant 24 Teacher Smith

Angie Nichols 24 Teacher Heritage

Nichole Whitt 24 Teacher Heritage

Rachel Jones 24 Transportation

Deanna Kruger 24 Secretary Heritage

Corey Baird 23 Teacher Jr/Sr High

John Janowicz 23 Custodial Smith

Melissa Asher 23 Paraprofessional Smith

Lori Cook 23 Food Service Jr/Sr High

Cady Bauer 23 Fantastic 4s Smith

Stephanie White 23 Food Service Service

Michelle Burke 22 Teacher Smith

Lissa Avis 22 Teacher Jr/Sr High

Michelle Hedding 22 Teacher Smith

Kevin Smith 22 Custodial Jr/Sr High

Kim Carpenter 22 Transportation

Bob Richards 21 Teacher Jr/Sr High

Luke Thorburn 21 Teacher Heritage

Shelley Elmer 21 Custodial Smith

Leslie Reasoner 21 Transportation

CJ Jeffers 20 Custodial Jr/Sr High

Brad Edwards 20 Administrator Smith

Jenny Pulk-Blom 20 Little Stars Smith

**15 – 19 Years**

Josh Nichols 19 Dean of Culture Heritage

Steve Allison 19 Coordinator/Teacher PASS



22 Years Of Service



22 Years Of Service



Cristina Villegas 19 Teacher Jr/Sr High

Tammy Heeney 19 Little Stars Smith

Preschool

Katherine Andersen 19 Literacy Coach Smith

Alexis Dyer 18 Teacher Jr/Sr High

Susan Lockhart 18 Teacher Jr/Sr High

Jodie Jacobs 18 Food Service Heritage

Kim Machette 18 Food Service Jr/Sr High

Amy Taylor 17 Interventionist Smith

Craig Rehmann 17 Teacher Heritage

Jeffrey Trapp 17 Administrator Jr/Sr High

John Twining 16 Counselor Jr/Sr High

Hilary Lyman-Bower 16 Teacher Jr/Sr High

Julie Rentfrow 15 Speech Smith

Whitney Cool 15 Transportation

Jennifer Goble 15 Payroll Central Office



5 Years Of Service



6-9 Years Of Service



10 Years Of Service



14 Years Of Service



11-14 Years Of Service



15 Years Of Service



16-19 Years Of Service

**STOCKBRIDGE**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



21 Years Of Service



20 Years Of Service



# STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

## Makayla Surline signs to play softball at Lansing Community College

by Mike Williamson

Despite missing most of her senior season to an arm injury, Makayla Surline still made a strong impression on the Lansing Community College softball coach and signed with the Stars to play next season.

Surline started playing softball when she was young, but it wasn't until middle school that she realized it was the sport for her. "I started playing softball when I was around 5 years old," Surline said. "It was in eighth grade that I decided that I wanted to take it



**Makayla Surline signs with Lansing Community College to continue her softball career.** Photo provided by Mike Williamson

more seriously."

In eighth grade, Surline started playing travel ball for the Krash team out of Lansing and her softball career took off.

It also was in the eighth grade when Surline started looking at LCC for her college of choice. "LCC had always felt like the right decision for me as I wanted to stay close to home," Surline said. It also helped that Krash was right in the backyard of LCC when it came to recruiting Surline for the Stars softball program.

Surline will work toward her associate degree at LCC before she hopes to move on to another school to get her master's degree in the science of anesthesia.

After missing her freshman year because of the COVID pandemic and part of her senior season with the arm injury, Surline made the most of her 2 1/2 years on the Panthers varsity team and capped it off by playing in the Lansing Area All-Star Game along with teammate Bailey Bartrum.

A lot of Surline's success is owed to her parents Tom and Lindsey Surline. "From a very young age, they taught me that you have to work for what you have and that has always pushed me to be better," Surline said.

When asked what she wanted to let people know about her before she heads off to LCC this fall, she said, "You can do anything you want to when you work hard for it, despite what people tell you."

## Adult coed softball returns to Stockbridge

by Mike Williamson

For the first time since 2019, adult coed softball players are flocking to Stockbridge on Thursday nights in surprisingly large numbers this summer.

Eleven teams and more than 100 players from around the area answered the call when Jaimee Gauthier put out the word that Stockbridge Community Education was going to attempt to have another adult softball league in town.

The last time Stockbridge had a league, there were just four teams that played in 2019 prior to the COVID pandemic in 2020.

"We tried to start a league a couple of years ago, but there wasn't much interest from the community," Gauthier said. "I reached out to Community Ed again this year about trying to put a league together and Ernie Rivers gave me full rein."

"I asked Tracie Lentz to help and Cyndi Eibler offered to help and they have been great," Gauthier said. "I handle the administrative tasks and they handle the rules and implementation, since they have more recreation experience."

The league is meant to be fun for the players with each team having 10-16 players on a roster, but when teams are short on a given night, other players are willing to sub and play for other teams.

Teams are enjoying it so much, they are playing pickup games on Sunday nights and challenging each other to scrimmages on non-game nights.

The league uses the two high school softball fields and the JV baseball field for its five games every Thursday. They have used the services of high school-age umpires as well as one old-timer who just enjoys softball, but can't play the game anymore.

"It has been so fun for my team and I am enjoying it all," Gauthier said. "The excitement from the community is making it fun, too."

## Panthers football sets sights on 2023 playoffs

by Mike Williamson

After being just one of a handful of teams with six wins to miss the state playoffs in 2022, the Stockbridge football team has some extra motivation and set high goals for the upcoming season.

In years past, six wins were enough for teams to qualify for the state playoffs, but last season the MHSAA implemented a new playoff format. Teams qualified by playoff points, and despite a 6-3 record, the teams came up short of qualifying for the postseason tournament.

The Panthers have a new look to the schedule because of the GLAC folding after last season.

Stockbridge will play this season as an independent. The team will not compete for a league title, but the Panthers still have a lot to play for and the state playoffs is the No. 1 goal.

There are some familiar opponents on the 2023 schedule for the Panthers with archrival Leslie slated for the second game of the season. Along with Leslie, longtime rival Perry remains on the schedule, as well as local rival Dansville.

The Panthers will travel to Springport for a rematch of last year's season opener against the Spartans in their opening game.

Some new names on the schedule are teams the Panthers may not have played recently, but are known to fans around the area. Former ICL rival Bath has joined the schedule, as well as Manchester and Whitmore Lake.

Two teams that are new to the Panthers are CMAC member Saranac and Stockbridge will take on Hart in a match at Olivet College in the fourth game.

Head coach Jeremy Killinger enters his 22nd season at the helm for the Panthers and has an experienced team heading into 2023.

The Panthers return eight starters to the offense and seven to the defense. Five of those players are two-way starters on both sides of the ball.

Stockbridge should be high-flying on the offensive side of the ball with senior quarterback Jalen Rogozinski tossing the ball to senior wideouts Joey Ballagh and Brock Rochow, along with tight end Zach Fletcher. The Panthers also are loaded in the backfield with seniors Drew Robinson and Gary Killinger and junior Zach Rogozinski giving the Panthers a vaunted rushing attack.

Junior Foster Pybus will be the anchor of the offensive front, along with seniors Cameron Loveall and Travis Salyer.

The defense will be a fast unit with a no-fly group in the backfield with three Panthers chasing the career interception mark this season with Robinson and Rochow leading the D-backs.

The linebacking core is solid with Gary Killinger shooting for another 100-tackle season. He will be paired with Pybus, Zach Rogozinski and Fletcher.

Salyer will be the mainstay on the defensive front for the Panthers.

"The guys have worked very hard this offseason to be prepared to make their mark on the program," coach Killinger said. "Finishing 6-3 and not making the playoffs last year was some extra motivation to be better and ensure that doesn't happen again."

As in the past, the Panthers are not a real deep squad and rely on two-way players to lead them on both sides of the ball.

In what should be an exciting season for Stockbridge, one of the main keys will be for the Panthers to stay healthy in spite of the lack of depth on the field. If they keep the players on the field and not on the sideline in street clothes, the Panthers should make a push for the state playoffs this season.





## Boys cross country team aiming for state finals run

by Mike Williamson

With numbers down this season, a small Stockbridge boys cross country team will need to stay healthy for another chance at qualifying for the D3 state finals in November.

The Panthers return just three letter winners and added two newcomers to the squad. All five team members will need to be able to participate this season to compete as a team.

Senior Ethan Wright is coming off an All-GLAC season and is expected to lead the way for the Panthers in 2023.

Sophomore Brady Cole and junior Finn Coffman are returning and will bring their experience to help the Panthers.

Coach Chuck Bumpus also expects big things from newcomers Will Gancer and Grant Howlett.

"With any injuries, it will be tough to field a team this season," Bumpus said. "If everyone is healthy, we should be fine."

## Experienced soccer team has high hopes for 2023

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge soccer team has high hopes for the 2023 season after returning 11 players from last year's squad.

Led by 2022 leading scorer Jordan Huskey-Wright, the Panthers are aiming for double-digit wins this season.

Huskey-Wright returns after scoring a team-high 26 goals in 2022 and looks to add to his career mark of 34 goals this season.

Alongside Huskey-Wright is junior Zech Puckett, who led the team in assists last season.

Anchoring the defense will be goalkeeper Gavin Hart, who will be called on to keep the Panthers in the game.

He will be helped on the defense by newcomers, freshman Ashton Oversmith and junior Collin Trost.

"Our team has a wealth of experience and a new formation," coach Devin Baldwin said.

## Clear page 7

"We're like The Magic School Bus, always doing fun things," Clear said.

Nikki's motivation and drive are remarkable, says her MEA-assigned leadership mentor – Gypsia Flath, an 11-year paraeducator and four-year president of her local union in Escanaba. "She has accomplished in one year what took me four," Flath said.

"We can give anyone all the information to be successful," Flath added. "However, it is up to the mentee to turn the information into action. Nikki and her team ran like their pants were on fire!"

In June, Clear attended her first ESP Statewide Conference and there she received the Leon A. Brunner Award, which recognizes support staff members for dedication to their union, advocating for ESP member issues, and promotion of ESP careers.

Who would've thought just starting out last year she would be receiving a prestigious award, Clear said in her acceptance speech.

"One thing I've learned has been: We all have a voice," she said, challenging attendees to bring one new member to the conference next year. "I figure if we all work together, we're going to keep growing and growing and have a bigger voice, and then imagine what we can do."

*Nikki Clear represents Stockbridge's education support professionals in the Michigan Education Association. This story is excerpted, with permission, from the full article that originally appeared in the August-September 2023 issue of MEA Voice magazine by the Michigan Education Association.*

See additional photos at [www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com).

### FOOTBALL

• Fri, 8/25	7:00 pm	Springport	Away
• Thu, 8/31	7:00 pm	Leslie	Away
• Fri, 9/8	7:00 pm	Manchester	Home
• Fri, 9/15	7:00 pm	Hart @ Olivet College	
• Fri, 9/22	7:00 pm	Bath	Away
• Fri, 9/29	7:00 pm	Saranac	Away
• Fri, 10/6	7:00 pm	Perry	Away
• Fri, 10/13	7:00 pm	Whitmore Lake (Homecoming)	
• Fri, 10/20	7:00 pm	Dansville	Home



### VOLLEYBALL

• Thu, 8/24	6:00 pm	East Jackson	Away
• Sat, 8/26	12:00 pm	Perry	Away
• Tue, 8/29	7:00 pm	Pinckney	Away
• Tue, 9/5	7:00 pm	Tecumseh	Away
• Thu, 9/7	6:30 pm	Clinton	Home
• Tue, 9/12	6:00 pm	Summerfield	Away
• Thu, 9/14	6:00 pm	Home Tri-Meet	
• Mon, 9/18	6:30 pm	Home Tri-Meet	
• Sat, 9/23	1:00 pm	East Jackson	Home
• Thu, 9/28	6:00 pm	Leslie	Home
• Tue, 10/3	5:00 pm	Perry	Home
• Thu, 10/5	6:00 pm	Dansville	Home
• Thu, 10/12	6:00 pm	Grass Lake Quad	
• Sat, 10/14	12:00 pm	Dansville	Home
• Tue, 10/24	5:00 pm	Home Tri-Meet	
• Sat 10/28		Districts	



### SOCCER

• Fri, 8/25	4:00 pm *	H	Lake Odessa Lakewood @ Stockbridge Jr/Sr High School (Soccer Field)
• Mon, 8/28	6:00 pm	A	Jackson Northwest @ Northwest High School (Soccer Field) -
• Wed, 8/30	5:30 pm *	A	Onsted @ Onsted High School (Soccer Field #1)
• Tue, 9/5	5:30 pm	A	Jackson Lumen Christi @ Lumen Christi Catholic High School
• Mon, 9/11	5:30 pm *	A	Perry @ Perry High School (Soccer Field)
• Wed, 9/13	5:30 pm *	H	Pinckney @ Stockbridge Jr/Sr High School (Soccer Field)
• Fri, 9/15	5:30 pm *	A	Leslie @ Leslie High School (Soccer Field)
• Mon, 9/18	5:30 pm *	H	Vermontville Maple Valley @ Stockbridge Jr/Sr High School
• Wed, 9/20	5:30 pm *	H	International Academy of Flint @ Stockbridge Jr/Sr High School
• Thu, 9/21	5:30 pm	A	Jackson Christian @ Jackson Christian High School (Soccer Field)
• Mon, 9/25	6:30 pm *	A	Potterville
• Thu, 9/28	5:30 pm	H	Jackson Lumen Christi
• Mon, 10/2	5:00 pm	H	Laingsburg
• Thu, 10/5	5:00 pm *	A	Bath



### CROSS COUNTRY

• Tue, 8/29	Marshall Invite
• Sat, 9/9	Bath Invite
• Tue, 9/12	Leslie Invite
• Sat, 9/23	Jackson Invite
• Sat, 9/30	Stockbridge Invite
• Fri, 10/27	MHSAA Regionals
• Wed, 11/1	Last Chance Meet @ Stockbridge
• Sat, 11/4	MHSAA State Finals



# FALL 2023 SPORTS SCHEDULE



## Outreach in Action

# Emergency Preparedness: If chimpanzees in Louisiana can do it, we can, too

by Jo Mayer

Sharing a pertinent news item, from the Aug. 8 issue of the New York Times:

A retirement home for research chimpanzees in Louisiana has begun teaching its 300 chimps to quickly take shelter inside when employees sound an “extreme weather” alarm.

Maybe those of us living in the Stockbridge area can take a tip from these clever primates. Our area has seen a few close calls over the past month, underscoring the need to prepare for the unexpected.

On July 20, while Outreach volunteers were handing out food to those who pulled up at our weekly Wednesday food distribution, alarms sounded from phones all around us: Tornado Warning! Take Cover Immediately!

We quickly suspended operations and made our way to an interior, windowless room down the hall from Outreach offices in the old middle school. We soon were joined there by some wet pedestrians and their dogs.

As I squeezed under a table, I was feeling unprepared for the possibility of a tornado strike in Stockbridge. Fortunately, we skimmed by unscathed.

I still felt unprepared as the warning sounded two weeks later at my house in Waterloo Township. Thinking I’d better not test my luck in the future, I have since taken some first steps in getting my ducks in a row.

For guidance, I went to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). Below are some suggestions included on their Make a Plan page. (Note: Direct links to detail backing up some of these suggestions are available in the online version of this story at [stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://stockbridgecommunitynews.com).)

**STEP ONE:** Put a plan together by discussing the questions below with your family, friends or household to start your emergency plan.

- A. How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- B. What is my shelter plan?
- C. What is my evacuation route?
- D. What is my family/household communication plan?
- E. Do I need to update my emergency preparedness kit?

**STEP TWO:** Consider specific needs in your household.

- A. Discuss and tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Talk about how people in your network can assist each other with communication, care of children, business, pets or specific needs like operating medical equipment.
- B. Create your own personal network for specific areas where you need assistance.
- C. Consider some of the following factors when developing your plan:
  - Different ages and commitments of members within your household.
  - Responsibilities for assisting others or caring for animals.
  - Locations frequented.
  - Dietary needs and medical needs including prescriptions and equipment.
  - Disabilities or access and functional needs, including devices and equipment.
  - Cultural and religious considerations.

**Step 3:** Create a Family Emergency Plan. Use this fillable for quick and easy plan creation: <https://www.ready.gov/plan-form>

**Step 4:** Practice your plan with your family/household.

### CONTENTS OF A BASIC EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

- Water and nonperishable food for several days
- Extra cellphone battery or charger
- Battery-powered (including extra batteries) or hand-crank radio that can receive NOAA Weather Radio tone alerts.
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First-aid kit and a whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Non-sparking wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps

As I head out to the grocery and hardware stores, I will bring the list I’ve created in order to be proactive about emergency preparedness.

Outreach will discuss its own emergency preparations at our next board meeting. We at Outreach need to prepare to “put on our own mask first” so we can continue to help others.

*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.*



**Start planning now for what to do in case of a local emergency. Put a plan together, practice your plan, and assemble a basic emergency supply kit.** Photo credit Nikolas Noonan at unsplash.com

## 'This I Believe' page 9

It can feel like you have nothing that makes you special and that you don’t seem to be good at anything, but you are and it is in you somewhere. For some people, it is easy for them to reach their dreams. Others have to work harder at it, and that is okay. I know what it is like to feel like you don’t have anything to be good at. I believe that even if you struggle with something that interests you at first, it will come to you and you’ll be able to reach your dreams.



## Paws and Claws

# September is designated as Animal Pain Awareness Month

by **Cindy Anderson, DVM**

Animals suffer from pain just like people do. Pain comes in many forms: surgical pain, arthritis and cancer-related pain, just to name a few. Acute pain is obvious and distressing. Chronic pain can be subtle and masked as "getting old" or "slowing down." Old age is not a disease, but pain is. There are many options to treat the various causes of pain in animals including pain medications, physical rehabilitation, acupuncture, laser therapy and therapeutic massage.

The International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management (IVAPM) educates and informs pet owners about their pet's health and well-being when it comes to pain management, be it acute or chronic pain.

IVAPM has proclaimed September as Animal Pain Awareness Month, and this coincides with human medicine's Pain Awareness Month.

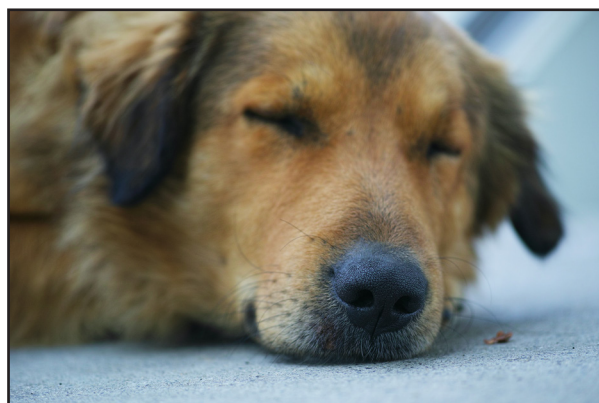
The proclamation of the month is in keeping with IVAPM's commitment to encouraging pain management for all animal species through education and advocacy. During this annual campaign, IVAPM also is encouraging various veterinary organizations to raise public awareness about pain and pain management for veterinary patients.

In the past, not all veterinarians believed that pain management was important, but research shows that uncontrolled pain can lead to other health issues including impaired immune function, delayed wound healing, increased risk of sepsis, and cardiovascular stress. Acute pain also can indicate a chronic problem that is undiagnosed.

Acute pain is more recognizable because it manifests with a sudden change of behavior or clear signs of pain. But chronic pain, on the other hand, can be subtler and we might not even be aware that our beloved



**Cindy Anderson, DVM**



**Research shows that uncontrolled pain can lead to other health issues.** Photo by Engin Akyurt via Unsplash.com.

furry family member is hurting.

Old age, arthritis, cancer, old wounds, or fractures that did not heal properly can be the cause of chronic pain in pets. And pets can hide this chronic pain very well and suffer quietly. This month aims to educate pet owners to recognize the subtle signs and to take their pets for regular veterinary checkups and pain evaluation visits.

### Signs of pain in dogs, cats and other animals:

- Excessive grooming, especially on one body part.
- Constant scratching or chewing on a single area, sometimes to the point of mutilation.
- Sleeping longer and more often than is typical for your pet.
- Hunching over and other changes in posture, also called guarding.
- Trouble rising and standing up in the wake of sitting or resting.

- Failure to run as quickly or as frequently as typical.
- Decreased appetite or refusing to eat at all.
- Decreasing or discontinuing grooming.
- Increased agitation, snapping or snarling.
- Hiding or refusing to come when called.
- Being depressed, uninterested or withdrawn.
- Trembling and shaking more than is typical for the weather.
- Heavy panting or labored breathing.

When the pain is localized, there are many ways to minimize it or even neutralize it. Some of the pain management options are pain medications, acupuncture, physical therapy, laser therapy and various kinds of therapeutic massages.

Please contact Dr. Anderson and her staff at Lakelands Trail Veterinary Clinic, 4525 S. Michigan 52, Stockbridge, MI; or call 517-655-5551, if you feel your pet may need some help with pain management.

*Cindy Anderson, DVM, is a graduate of MSU Veterinary College (1992) and has practiced veterinary medicine for over 28 years.*

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## Superintendent's Desk page 3

This fall, we will be adding a school resource officer for the district. This officer will help in providing a safe learning environment and provide a deterrent for inappropriate behavior. Our school liaison also will assist in promoting good habits and a healthy learning environment.

We will continue to develop and refine all of these programs as needed. We are excited for the new year and are working to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for our students and staff.

Go Panthers!

Brian Friddle

Superintendent of Schools





John Robinson

## Rock 'n' Roll Trivia Did the actor playing Robin on TV's 'Batman' try singing?

by John Robinson

**Q: Didn't the kid who played Robin on the old "Batman" TV show make some records?**

A: Yeah, a few. Robin was played by actor Burt Ward on that 1966 television program. He released a mid-1960s single produced by Frank Zappa titled "Boy Wonder, I Love You," with the B-side, "Orange Colored Sky." It didn't chart.

**Q: Please tell me where these bands got their names: Guns N' Roses, Iron Maiden, Megadeth and Tesla.**

A: Tesla named themselves after inventor Nikola Tesla, whose research paved the way for X-rays, microwaves, radio, fluorescent lights and more. Megadeth is a military term for "one million dead." An iron maiden was a medieval torture device — a human-size box lined with sharp spikes. And Guns N' Roses was named when members of two bands — L.A. Gunns and Hollywood Roses — came together and formed a new group.

**Q: Who did the '60s song "Here Comes The Judge"?**

A: There were four chart versions in 1968 but only two made the Top 40: Shorty Long (No. 8) and Pigmeat Markham (No. 19). The other two that made the bottom half of the charts were by The Magistrates (No. 54) and The Buena Vistas (No. 88). "Here Comes The Judge" was based on an old Pigmeat Markham vaudeville skit. Sammy Davis Jr. made it popular a second time around with his "Judge" parodies on NBC's "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" television program in the late '60s.

**Q: Was Lobo one man or a group?**

A: Lobo was the stage name used by Kent Lavoie, a native of Florida. After he recorded the 1971 song "Me And You And A Dog Named Boo," he knew it was going to be a hit. But he was afraid he would become just another one-hit wonder, so, he used the name "Lobo," which is Spanish for a "wolf" (or a "lone wolf," as he intended). He became anything BUT a one-hit wonder. He had a total of 16 chart hits from 1971-1980.

**Q: Do you have any trivia about Connie Francis? I wanted to know when "Everybody's Somebody's Fool" was out.**

A: Connie's "Everybody's Somebody's Fool" was a No. 1 hit in 1960. It was specifically written and arranged for the German market. Her German version made No. 1 on the Munich charts. The drum pattern was copied from Guy Mitchell's 1959 hit "Heartaches By The Number."

*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.*

## GRIT page 2

After gathering feedback at staff meetings last May, the District School Improvement Team met during the summer to expand upon this theme. As with so many concepts nowadays, GRIT is serving as an acronym for the 2023-24 school year, and at the Welcome Back Breakfast, members of school administration took turns presenting what each letter in GRIT stands for.

G = Growth. There's always room for improvement. —Meghan Kunzelman, Heritage School Principal

R = Rowing. Power results when people work together to move in the same direction. —Steve Keskes, Director of Grants and Academic Innovation

I = Inspiring. Creative ideas serve to inspire fellow teachers and students. —Brad Edwards, Smith Elementary Principal

T = Together. There is power in togetherness. No one at SCS should feel they are working or learning alone. —Jeff Trapp, Junior/Senior High Principal

Following the presentation by these administrators, all members of the staff were given T-shirts and succulent plants (the latter to serve as GRIT reminders in their work areas) to keep the theme of GRIT front and center throughout the school year.

Staff members are also encouraged to fill in GRIT cards when they witness another staff member applying the concepts of GRIT in their work. GRIT cards can serve as modern-day reminders of what strong-willed teenager Mattie Ross conveyed in her tribute to Rooster Cogburn in the movie, "True Grit," when she said, "You, sir, have true grit!"



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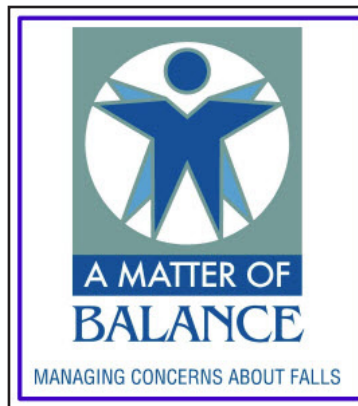
**Active Aging**

**SASC offers 'A Matter of Balance' workshop, space limited to 15, so register soon**



by Christine Histed, Tri County Office on Aging

Is falling a natural part of aging? Should we accept that we are going to fall just because we are getting older?



You may be surprised to hear that falling is NOT a natural part of aging and we do NOT have to accept that we are going to fall just because we are getting older. Falls are preventable! There is always a reason why we fall. You can learn ways to prevent falls and keep yourself safe and as independent as possible.

In "A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls" workshop, we will discuss how to prevent falls—it's more than just removing throw rugs! During this eight-week workshop we will challenge your mind and

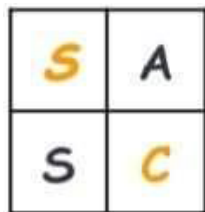
body so you can view falls as manageable and controllable.

To do this, we will review and discuss the following:

- Habits that may contribute to falls and how to change those habits.
- The role exercise plays in fall prevention and barriers to exercise.
- Home environments and ways to remove hazards and increase safety.
- Medical reasons why people may fall.
- What role being assertive has in fall prevention.
- And much more!

The workshop includes exercises that help improve balance, coordination, flexibility, and strength, but this is not solely an exercise class. This workshop will also exercise your mind. Additionally, a physical therapist will deliver a one-hour presentation with specific guidance on how to use assistive devices correctly, how to get up from a fall, and address any other concerns you may have.

"A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls" will be offered at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center on Mondays, Oct. 2 – Nov. 20, 2023, from 1 to 3 p.m. Space is limited to 15 participants. The workshop is free of charge, but donations are accepted. Funding is provided by the Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition. To register, call Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1465.



*The Stockbridge Area Senior Center (SASC), a great place to spend time. Visit [stockbridgeareaseniors.org](http://stockbridgeareaseniors.org) or call 517-480-0353 for information.*

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**GRAND SLAM SUNDAE**



# After 45 years, Dave's Place in Leslie shutting down

by Tina Cole-Mullins

Dave's Place, one of the oldest independently owned businesses within the Leslie community for decades, may soon be closing as its owner makes plans for retirement.

"Some say 45 years making pizza is nuts, but I have enjoyed it and all the people," owner Dave Southwick said while reminiscing.

Retirement and leaving the pizza restaurant brings mixed feelings for the longtime business owner.

"It's hard to stop doing what you love," he said.

But at age 76, Southwick has spent more than half his life running the business.

"Retirement is not what I necessarily want at this time, but my wife says it's time," he said.

Southwick grew up in Leslie and graduated in the Class of 1965. After serving in the Air Force, he returned to his hometown and previous job at Oldsmobile.

In his late 20s and 30s, Southwick started working the night shift as the adult in charge at the West Side Deli in Mason. His employer told him Jerry Bachman, of MJ Pizza in Leslie, had put his shop up for sale and thought it would be a great opportunity.

Dave's Place opened in 1978. Southwick originally planned to call the pizza place Di's Pies in honor of his wife, who worked alongside him for 12 years before taking another job.

Longtime customers of Dave's Place will definitely miss their favorite pizza spot. Lesley (Messner) Washer remembers Dave's Place from her 1980s childhood in Leslie.

"We would get [pizza] like once a month," she said. "And yes, it was a treat. We didn't get pizza all the time as a kid like we do now."

In an online review, Dave's Place customer Kerstyn Tortelli praises the restaurant for its "good food, great people." She recommends trying the cinnamon breadsticks because they're "so yummy!"

"Dave's Place is great; the people that run it are super friendly and helpful even when you don't know what you want," Tortelli wrote. "First time I went I fell in love with the pizza sub and pickle chip deal. I love their food when I'm on the run or in the mood to sit and chill."

Southwick credits his employees for the success of his business.

"I have had some great kids work for me throughout the years," he said. "Without the kids, I wouldn't have made it. Like Donnica here." Southwick then gestured to his employee working with him that day. "She has been with me for the past 13 years."

When asked about his retirement plans upon the sale of the business, Southwick said he and his wife will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary in October. They like to go to Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Mackinac Island to celebrate.

"So our plans are to continue traveling all over Michigan," he said.

Those who have never been to Dave's Place and would like to try the food, or those who would like to wish Southwick a happy retirement, make sure to stop in soon before he bids a fine farewell to the area.

"Thanks to all my employees and customers," he said. "We would have not made it without you. I would not have been a success."

*Photos provided by Tina Cole-Mullins*



A "for sale" sign is posted in the window of Dave's Place, 108 E. Bellevue Road in Leslie. Dave Southwick, owner of the business since 1978, plans to retire.



Dave's Place owner Dave Southwick proudly displays the Leslie All-Time Business Tournament Award won by his business. The honor was voted on by the community.

## All You Can Eat Country Breakfast



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## Vanlife page 1



The couple spent seven weeks customizing the van for their purpose of experiencing vanlife in Europe. All photos provided by Madie Gee-Montgomery and Kyle Lilley



Kyle negotiating the Scottish highlands behind the wheel of "Creep," with Madie taking advantage of the view.

For others, it's completely building out a van from scratch in only seven weeks and shipping this pride and joy across the Atlantic Ocean to start vanlife on a completely different continent.

We just so happen to fall into both situations.

My fiancé, Kyle Lilley, and I left Michigan in August 2022 to travel the world for a year. We each packed a carry-on suitcase and were off to fill our lives with excitement and the unknown. In seven months of full-time international travel, we were definitely pushed out of our comfort zone more times than we can count.

We drove a three-wheeled vehicle around Sri Lanka during an economic crisis, hiked to Everest Base Camp without ever trekking before, and broke a fast with Muslims—who spoke very little English—during Ramadan in a tiny village in rural Indonesia. Visiting 13 different countries and averaging only \$65 a day as a couple, we were able to experience some of the most amazing and most miserable moments of our lives.

After traveling intensely for seven months, we came home to start our new adventure: building out a van from scratch and shipping it over to Europe.

A built-out van is giving us the opportunity to travel in a similar manner to our previous trip, but this time, we are able to bring our home and all of our belongings along with us. We finished our van in June after seven weeks of actual blood sweat and tears were spent building it out. Equipped with a queen-sized bed, a fully functioning kitchen, a toilet, shower, and power provided completely from solar, our tiny home on wheels has everything we need to take on our adventure.

Just one week after finishing our build, it was time to drive Creep, our van, to Baltimore, Maryland, where it would be put on a cargo ship and, in two weeks, would be picked up in Southampton, England.

Our choice to ship Creep across the pond was an easy one. We knew we wanted to pursue vanlife but also knew we loved and craved experiencing new cultures and ways of life, so vanlife Europe it was!

We have now had our little home in the United Kingdom for nearly three weeks, visiting England, Wales and Scotland. Traveling this way feels much like our previous travels, but we now have to pay \$7.50 a gallon for gas, and we get to see the expressions on people's faces when they see an American license plate parked in the parking lot.

From here, we are driving Creep into Europe and plan to spend the next month driving through Belgium, France, Switzerland and Italy.

With all of our travels, we have documented nearly every moment along the way on our YouTube channel: Kyle and Madie. If you're interested to see our travels and what we get up to, follow us on YouTube and Instagram to see our up-to-date adventures (@kyleandmadie).

We continue to grow as we pursue experiences outside our comfort zones. Our travels have changed us into more adventurous, spontaneous, mindful people, who have been able to meet some of the best humans and who are living some incredible experiences. The only question is, where are we going next?

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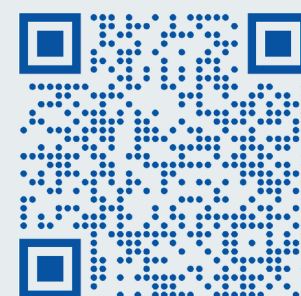
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### Tractor Show page 5

Two longtime friends of the museum—Eddie Josephs and Blackberry Jam—once again performed for our guests. They have been performing at Waterloo Farm Museum events for more than 30 years. Great musicians and real crowd pleasers, they deserve a special thank you!



Various quilts were on display at the Antique Tractor Show. All photos provided by Waterloo Farm Museum

### Ask an Expert page 6

**Limitations and risks.** ADAS have many technologies to significantly improve safety on the road. However, it is important to remember that these systems are not foolproof and have limitations and potential risks that drivers should be aware of.

So, are modern cars with ADAS really safer? The answer is yes, but only if they're used correctly and maintained correctly.

*John and Theresa Kightlinger own My Body Shop at 401 N. Clinton St., Stockbridge. The couple have lived in the area and raised their children here over the past 20 years. John has been in the auto body business since 1985, and Theresa began work at General Motors after high school. Between the two, they have been working on cars for more than 75 years.*

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