



STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

Promoting our common good and shared well-being

****ECRWSEDDM****
LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OWOSSO, MI
PERMIT NO. 54

SCS Board of Education approves invitation to Big 8 Interscholastic Association



by Brian Friddle

The Stockbridge Community Schools Board of Education has approved the district's entry into the Big 8 Interscholastic Association, starting the 2024-2025 school year. On Feb. 19, the board approved the invitation, paving the way for Stockbridge to join the ranks of Big 8 member schools such as Bronson, Concord, Quincy, Reading, Springport, Union City and Maple Valley.

This is a big step forward for Stockbridge's athletic programs, providing opportunities for heightened competition and broader exposure for our student-athletes. By aligning with the Big 8 Conference, Stockbridge aims to enhance its sports offerings while fostering a spirit of competition among its athletes. The decision reflects the district's commitment to providing a well-rounded educational experience, encompassing not only academic excellence but also the development of character, teamwork and sportsmanship through athletics.

As Stockbridge prepares for this new chapter within the Big 8, we will be adding Big 8 school athletic contests to our spring schedule. With a focus on collaboration, growth and community spirit, Stockbridge is poised to make meaningful contributions to the conference while continuing to uphold its values of integrity and fair play.

April 8 deadline for federal help for homeowners affected by severe August storms



Image Credit Facebook.com

Home and business owners in nine Michigan counties are now eligible for federal assistance to help recover from damages caused by severe storms, tornadoes and flooding in August 2023.

On Feb. 8, President Joe Biden approved Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's request for a Major Disaster Declaration in Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, Kent, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland and Wayne counties.

The declaration now opens the application process for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Individual Assistance (IA) for affected residents.

This FEMA assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

On Aug. 23-24, area residents of multiple counties experienced storms that caused damage to homes, businesses and personal property.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated areas can begin applying for assistance at <https://www.disasterassistance.gov> or by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362), or by using the FEMA app. Anyone using a relay service, such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, can give FEMA the number for that service.

Local Disaster Recovery Centers also will be set up for those who need help applying in person. Once those centers have been identified that information will be made available through the WHMI website, Livingston County Emergency Management social media sites, and by contacting local city, village and township offices.

Volunteers needed at area history museums



A girl hauls water at the Waterloo Farm Museum. Photo provided by Arlene Kaiser

by Arlene Kaiser

Do you remember when you were in the second, third or fourth grade? Do you remember when your class went on a field trip to the Waterloo Farm and Dewey School Museums?

Do you remember the fun you had making butter, grinding corn, sawing wood, or hauling water so you could do the laundry? Possibly your class made hats for the boys or bonnets for the girls, or a tin bucket to carry your lunch.

Perhaps your teacher read "Little House on the Prairie" books to you, such as "House in the Big Woods."

Do you remember the excitement when you stepped off the bus and back to another time when your grandparents or great-grandparents were young, and when the pioneers started the farms in Michigan?

See Waterloo Farm on page 9.

MARCH INSIDE
Special Features

Women of Note: Every March, SCN celebrates Women of Note in the community. This year, we are pleased to share three stories of local women who are making a difference in our communities. See pages 3 through 5.

Panther Sports: Check out our coverage of local sporting events. See pages 18-19.

Community Calendar: Check out our list of community events in March. See page 17.

Rural Perspectives: Eastern bluebirds making a comeback in numbers



Diane Gray Constable

by Diane Constable

Our only tawny red, white, and blue bird is the eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*). A harbinger of spring, they return to Michigan in late February/early March, although they are extending their range and now can be found in our area year-round.

The male searches for a nesting spot in a tree cavity or a bluebird box and will guard it from other male bluebirds and predators.

By April, the female, which is a duller blue than the male, has built the grass nest and has laid five or six light blue eggs that will hatch in about two weeks. Both parents feed the chicks, which leave the nest at about 21 days. The adults will continue to feed and protect them for another week while they gain their flying skills. The chicks will grow to about 6 inches long and weigh about 1 ounce.

Bluebirds eat caterpillars, spiders, crickets and other insects that live in short grasses and gardens, and the birds can spot them from their perch up to 50 yards away. In the winter, they will eat wild berries and fruit. They will come to feeders if mealworms are offered and will sometimes eat suet and sunflower seeds.

About 60 years ago, their numbers were low



The male eastern bluebird (above) has bright blue feathers, while the female is a duller blue. Photo credit Diane Constable

because of chemicals (now banned) and non-native birds such as starlings and English sparrows that would invade their nests. Since then, they have made a comeback, in good part due to nesting boxes, which offer a spot to nest and, when made correctly, block other birds from getting in.

Fun Facts:

- The back and wing feathers of the bluebirds do not absorb blue light wavelengths and are reflected, making it appear sky-blue to us.
- Michigan has a Bluebird Festival every year in Jackson or Ann Arbor. This year it is on March 23, in Ann Arbor.

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.

Lakelands Trail Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Cindy Anderson
517-655-5551
akvet1@yahoo.com

4525 S M-52
Stockbridge, MI 49285

Facebook:
Lakelands Trail Veterinary Clinic

Gormley Law Offices, PLC

101 E. Grand River Ave., Fowlerville | www.gormleylawoffices.com

Local Attorney & Counselor at Law – Committed To Your Goals

John L. Gormley, Esq., Attorney and Counselor at Law
Office: 517.851.7014, Ext. 104
Email: john@gormleylaw.net | Fax: 517.223.8233

THE OPEN AIR MARKET

March 9 ~ 11 to 2 pm at 101 S. Center St.
1st Presbyterian Church CE Bldg.

Indoor Market

Market Items: honey, eggs, maple syrup, dried herbs, baked goods, granola, chocolates, soaps, candles, lotions, art, etc.

ACCEPTING VENDOR APPLICATIONS FOR '24 SEASON.

OUR MARKET IS YOUR HOMETOWN FOOD SOURCE!

OPEN AIR MARKET OF STOCKBRIDGE

NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE A MOVE!

Close-up of upper right brick in aerial.

COMING SOON
Lake Access, Boat Docking, Gregory

403 Woodside **SOLD**

Dexter Trail **FOR SALE**

PERFORMANCE REALTY
734-707-8774

311 S. Clinton, Stockbridge

JACKIE SCHELLER
BROKER/OWNER
734-707-8774

ROBYN SLUDOCK
ASSOC. BROKER
517-304-0667

GET TO KNOW US

SRSly
STOCKBRIDGE
srslystockbridge.org

SERIOUSLY

Celebrating Women of Note

March is
Women's History
Month

Dr. Heather Adiska: Not your average small-town dentist

by Hope Salyer

When you think of local businesses in Stockbridge, Adiska Family Dental probably comes to mind. The practice was started in 1996 by Dr. Gary Adiska, and now his daughter, Heather Adiska, an associate dentist and member of the practice's business administrative team, has plans of one day becoming a partial owner.

The younger Adiska, a Stockbridge High School graduate, and current Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation president, is a prominent member of the Stockbridge community.

She began a preceptorship program through Northern Michigan University in the late '90s alongside a cosmetic surgeon at Marquette General, but quickly realized the field she thought would be most satisfying was not what she wanted.

"Oftentimes, the [cosmetic surgery] patients were sedated and had minimal post-operative appointments," she said. "It made it difficult to form lasting relationships with patients. From personal experience, I knew the dental field is quite the opposite."

Adiska says, as a dental professional, you can form personal relationships with patients that last a lifetime.

After graduating from NMU in 2001, Adiska attended the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. Upon graduating as a dentist in May 2005, she became a full-time practitioner at Adiska Family Dental.

"I joined Adiska after graduation because my father owned the dental practice and my mother worked there as well," Adiska said. "I've always been very close to my family, and I knew I would not have a similar opportunity to work alongside such a strong mentor elsewhere."

Throughout the years, Adiska accepted more responsibility at the practice, and is now one of three members of the business administrative team, where she oversees the general operations of the offices.

"I work on marketing for all four of our locations through social media and print, and I organize promotional events throughout the communities," Adiska said. "I also provide clinical care to patients, typically as a "float dentist" across our locations, filling in for maternity and medical leaves and covering vacations. I am currently the sole dental provider four days a week in Owosso."

As if her dental practice responsibilities don't keep her busy enough, Adiska recently accepted a nomination as president of the Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation. She has always loved education, so joining the foundation was a great fit.

See Adiska on page 4.



Dr. Heather Adiska, an associate dentist at Adiska Family Dental, has deep roots in the community, which will serve her well as president of the Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation. Photo credit Jennifer Cicalo

Armstrong and Blaszkowski: A Dynamic Duo make their mark on the Stockbridge Area Senior Center

by Mary Jo David

"Holy Hangout, Batman!" When it comes to ensuring that seniors have the opportunity to age gracefully in our area, the community can thank the Dynamic Duo. Heather Armstrong and Dana Blaszkowski are quick to credit everyone else, but there's no doubt these two powerhouses have had a major hand in the explosive growth at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center.

In three years' time, SASC membership enrollment has jumped from fewer than 50 members to more than 160—and that number increases monthly. Programs and activities also have increased exponentially to include more meals, exercise classes, wellness checks, collaboration with other organizations and people of all ages in the community, and even a mobile Social Security office.

One major common denominator in all this is the hiring of Blaszkowski as the center's director in May 2021 and the appointment of Armstrong to SASC board president in October 2022.

As director, Dana Blaszkowski has been responsible for the day-to-day operations of the SASC, along with programming and event planning, relationship building, outreach, and volunteer recruitment and recognition.

"As a mom of four, I'm used to being flexible, so one minute you'll see me leading members in the chicken dance and the next minute I'm heading off to a meeting to help secure funding for the center," Blaszkowski said with a smile.

Armstrong credits Blaszkowski's personality and magnetism for the director's success at winning over the trust and dedication of the SASC membership.

"Dana is that ray of sunshine that stands out when you walk into a room," Armstrong said. "She's so charismatic, and she makes people want to join in. SASC would never have grown as fast and as big as it is if it hadn't been for Dana's hard work and amazing spirit."

See Dynamic Duo on page 5.



Together, the Dynamic Duo of SASC Board President Heather Armstrong (left) and Director Dana Blaszkowski (right) have enjoyed working together to expand the reach of the Stockbridge Area Senior Center. Photo provided by Dana Blaszkowski

Celebrating Women of Note

March is
Women's History
Month

Jill Ogden landed in Stockbridge and hit the ground running

by Mary Jo David

In and around Stockbridge, you often hear people joke that even after 20 or 30 years of living in the community, they're still considered "newbies" by those whose families have lived here for generations.

Jill Ogden is the exception to the rule. Although Ogden's parents—Colleen and Mark Redfield—have lived in Stockbridge since 1999, it took until 2011 for Ogden, her husband Stewart, and their blended family to settle in the area. But within a few years of arriving, Ogden began leaving her imprint on the town.

Asked what she dreamed of being back when she was a child, Ogden barely missed a beat when she replied, "I wanted nothing more than to be a mom of six kids and a schoolteacher." Always the over-achiever, her family consists of eight children, ranging from 11 to 25 years old, including a foster child and an unofficial adoptee, Kimberly. (Sadly, Kimberly passed away when she was only 20 years old.)

"Stewart and I like to think of our family as 'yours, mine, ours, and then some,!' " Ogden explained.

Ogden spent 15 years as a stay-at-home mom. She moved to Stockbridge where the younger kids started school, so it made sense, in 2016, that the PTO was one of the first organizations Ogden chose to dip her toes in after getting settled in the area. At that time, the Stockbridge PTO was in danger of shutting down due to lack of participation. Beginning as a volunteer, she soon found herself leading the PTO as its president.

"We pulled together a really great group of people and soon had engaging, enriching events almost monthly for families of the kids in school," Ogden recalls.

PTO involvement and volunteering with Stockbridge Community Outreach were great ways for her to meet new people and make many connections in the area, "all while doing good, fun stuff."

After five years as PTO president, Ogden began focusing her attention on other areas of need in the community, including working as an elections inspector for Stockbridge Township. Judy Williams, who is on the Livingston County Board of Canvassers, has been familiar with Ogden's work in that area.

"Jill's 'no hurdle too high' attitude is amazing; she is always ready to attack another obstacle."

Ogden is also a trustee on the Board of Education for Stockbridge Community Schools and has served as clerk of the Building Department for Stockbridge Township, a role she recently stepped down from to make more time for her commitments to the Village of Stockbridge.

As Village Council president and manager, Ogden is wearing two hats: she was elected to the council president role but had to automatically take on the manager role when the previous village manager resigned just before Ogden began her term as village president.

"The manager role basically defaulted to me. It's a paid position, but I performed it voluntarily for six months."

One of Ogden's proudest professional accomplishments was successfully proving to the Village Board that she could fill both village positions and do so effectively.

"After those first months, I negotiated a contract with the village to be compensated going forward for the work I was doing as village manager while continuing to serve as village president," Ogden explained. "While I may not have all the titles and degrees normally associated with these positions, I dug in and proved that, in the dual roles, I could have a positive influence on the village. That's so important to me. This is our home; I want to make a difference here."

Challenges are not new to Ogden. Those who know her are familiar with her trusty sidekick, a yellow Lab named Clifford (or "Cliff"). Ogden was born with a visual disability that was later diagnosed as Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA), which the American Academy of Ophthalmology describes as a retinal dystrophy that results in severe vision loss at an early age. In her case, Ogden is almost completely blind, and Cliff is Ogden's service dog.

When she was 11, Ogden met the late professor Sue Ponchillia of the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies at Western Michigan University.

See Ogden on page 5,



From stay-at-home mom to community volunteer to village president, Jill Ogden is leaving her imprint on the town. Photo provided by Jill Ogden

Adiska page 3

"I joke around that if I could earn a decent wage being a full-time student, I would," Adiska said. "I think it is important that students have a strong educational support system as it is essential for helping them develop skills, knowledge, and habits that will enable them to pursue their goals and overcome challenges."

Adiska understands that not all students learn in the same ways, or at the same rate, as others, so she loves the opportunities SAEF can provide.

"The Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation helps to provide classroom grants for what is often not your typical classroom learning," Adiska said. "This enables students to explore education in a non-traditional format, which might enhance their education."

Former SAEF President Jennifer Hammerberg said she is thrilled Adiska accepted the position.

"Heather brings her home grown, natural way of interacting with and supporting the community," Hammerberg said. "She has a unique perspective and the ability to lead SAEF to new heights."

Adiska said it's important for her to be involved in the Stockbridge community and give back because Stockbridge is her hometown. As a small community, Stockbridge has always been there to support her through challenges and to celebrate her victories.

"The residents of Stockbridge have supported me both personally and professionally throughout the years," Adiska said. "I cherish the old friendships that developed at a young age, and the new friendships I have found more recently. When I've gone through something difficult, people who know me, know my family, or are a part of our business, have gone the extra mile to ensure I am supported."

While it would appear Heather Adiska has accomplished a lot so far, she said her biggest accomplishment is still a work in progress.

"Becoming a leader whom others can depend on for motivation and support – despite challenges and setbacks – and developing into a role model for my team, my family, and community members are all things I'm proud of and continue to strive for," Adiska said.

Asked to choose one aspect of her personality that has been most useful in making her a successful dentist, Adiska said it would be her empathy toward everyone.

"I genuinely care for others, and I think that shows in my personal life and professional career," Adiska said.

Adiska, who is afraid of spiders, crickets, moths, storms, dogs, horses, and balloons, is proud of the life she has made as a small-town dentist. In her spare time, she enjoys walks through the woods, golfing, and spending time with her family.

Adiska said her biggest goal in life is to teach her daughter Elliyah empathy.

"It's important to refrain from any verbal comment or action that would make someone else doubt their self-worth," Adiska said.

The hardest lesson Adiska has had to learn is to step away from negativity and toxic environments while attempting to regain some sense of self-confidence. If there is one thing she wishes she could go back and tell her younger self it would be, "Don't forget, while you're busy doubting yourself, someone else is admiring your strength."

See additional photos at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.

Celebrating Women of Note

March is
Women's History
Month

Dynamic Duo page 3



Heather Armstrong (left) and Dana Blaszkowski (right) love sharing their passion for food and fun, which spills over into their involvement at the SASC. Photo provided by Heather Armstrong

As board president, Heather Armstrong is a volunteer responsible for overseeing the center as a whole and supporting the center's director in all of her previously listed responsibilities. A big part of Armstrong's role involves attending meetings and participating in what she likes to call "The Senior Center World Tour," which involves visiting other township board meetings and community groups like the Lions, Masons, and more, "to tell people who we are and what we are all about at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center."

Although Armstrong and Blaszkowski were both involved in the recent achievement of gaining 501(c)(3) nonprofit status for the center, Blaszkowski is quick to credit Armstrong for the lion's share of this accomplishment. This achievement will be key to enabling the center to secure funding that will enable them to remain viable, financially, in the future.

"Heather will give credit to the board, and they did play a big part," Blaszkowski explained. "But Heather was the one who understood the big picture and the legal assistance that would be needed to successfully achieve this all-important 501(c)(3) nonprofit status."

She then paraphrased SASC Board member Mark Taylor about Heather's value, "Mark says, 'If you're looking to un-noodle a whole bunch of spaghetti, then Heather's your gal!'" Blaszkowski added, "And he's absolutely right!"

Both members of this Dynamic Duo are married to their high school sweethearts.

Armstrong, who is originally from South Carolina, spent time in Michigan on and off and eventually moved to Saline and then Stockbridge where she lives with her husband Casey and their blended family of four children. She is currently employed as the Village of Stockbridge clerk. Her degree in recreational therapy and her experience working in that field at the Chelsea Retirement Center has been invaluable in her role at the center. But that's only part of it.

"Once I decided to join the SASC Board, I decided I needed to educate myself on the obligations of being a board member. I read books, listened to podcasts while cutting the lawn, and talked to people," Armstrong said. "But being able to organize and delegate—that came from my job working at the University of Michigan for more than 20 years."

Blaszkowski grew up in Westland and was known as a teacher's pet. She went on to marry her husband, Karl, who had a history of being the class clown. Together they raised their children in Pinckney before moving to Stockbridge in 2020. Although she has held many part-time jobs, she credits her work as a program coordinator for Girls on the Run and her many volunteer roles while her children were growing up for providing her with the varied skills she puts to use daily at SASC. But it was her volunteer work with Meals on Wheels that proved to be life-turning for Blaszkowski.

"I drove my daughter and other young people to deliver meals to folks who were so grateful and so excited for our visits. It was very moving," she recalled. Blaszkowski, whose parents died when she was very young, felt as though Meals on Wheels provided her with the grandparents and parents she never had. "I love, love, love spending time with older adults," she exclaimed.

While they are timid to take any credit for it, the combined enthusiasm of Armstrong and Blaszkowski—the Dynamic Duo—has turned the SASC into a wonderful home away from home for area seniors, whether they're trying to find ways to stay active or just looking for camaraderie.

"We see members caring for each other, checking on each other, celebrating each other. They've built a community within these walls that stretches far beyond these walls, into the community," Blaszkowski said.

Armstrong adds, "Stop by and visit. You'll see a community coming together and relationships forming. You'll see laughter, joy, smiles, involvement—nothing but good things."

See additional photos at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com

As all senior citizens can attest, "Life goes on." Dana Blaszkowski announced in mid-February that she accepted a position at the Tri-County Center for Aging, and thus, would be leaving her director position at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center. Her decision to leave does not diminish the huge impact her involvement has had at the SASC, and the Stockbridge Community News would like to wish her well in her new position.

Ogden page 4

"I have been blessed with many role models, but professor Ponchillia was like a second mom to me. She was strong, no nonsense—a straight shooter—and she cared about everyone," Ogden said. "She and her husband started the goalball program at Western. It's a sport developed after WWII for blind veterans. I played on Western's goalball team when I was 15 on the U.S. Women's Team when I was 17."

When she was 19, Ogden moved to New Jersey to work with The Seeing Eye, Inc., of Morristown. From Ogden's perspective, "life-ing" with a significant disability can be challenging. Every day she deals with accessibility issues and is accustomed to having to prove herself to others who often take all of their five senses for granted.

"But I'm as stubborn as the day is long," says this fearless warrior. "Tell me I can't do something, and I'll show you how!"


Like Dory in "Finding Nemo," Ogden's mantra is "Just keep swimming." And that's what she's doing—for her family, the Village of Stockbridge, and those in the Stockbridge School District.

See additional photos at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.

CLINTON WEST APTS. ~ TAKING APPLICATIONS
Visit us today at 839 S. Clinton St., Stockbridge, MI 49285
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Call 517-851-7093 (TDD# 711)

Clinton West is accepting applications for our beautiful 1 BR apts. Clinton West is designed for persons 62 years and older and disabled at any age. Rents based on income. Heat & water included. A barrier free & rental subsidy waiting list is available. An Equal Housing Opportunity.




Woah Nellie! After 100 years, the concept of meal planning endures, but the meals, not so much

by Mary Jo David

Looking through last century's Nellie Maxwell columns, I noticed she has started taking a somewhat different approach. Instead of just recipes, in 1924, Nellie began including some weekly meal plans with her recipes.

My first thought was, "Some things never change." After all, here we are 100 years later, and meal plans are still a popular topic. Sure, they're published differently; nowadays you can find meal plans everywhere—on TikTok and Instagram, even in newspapers. You can download all kinds of meal-planning apps to your smartphone or smart TV and use them in the kitchen or from the comfort of your recliner.


Spend a few minutes searching, and you can pick from budget-friendly meal plans to five-ingredient or nutrition-rich meal plans, and even theme-night meal plans. Many include grocery lists you can download to ensure you have the necessary ingredients on hand. And some even allow you to design your meal plan by first providing a list of the ingredients you have on hand.

I find myself wondering what Nellie would think if she could return as a food columnist in 2024. Would she be excited about all the new developments in meal planning or would she be overwhelmed? Would Nellie prefer a magnetic meal-planning calendar for her refrigerator door or the convenience of an app on her smartphone? Would her budget allow for a \$12/month meal-planning app or would she be fine with the plethora of free apps available?

What are the chances Nellie would prefer to take advantage of home-delivered meal kits from Blue Apron or Hello Fresh? Then again, maybe a fully prepared meal delivered by Door Dash would be her jam?

One thing is certain, a 21st Century Nellie would certainly have plenty of choices. But how would she feel about a breakfast of broccoli frittata fingers instead of fried mush; a lunch/dinner that features mini sweet pepper pizzas instead of cottage pudding; and a supper of sheet-pan nachos vs. oyster stew?


As one who has been following her old columns for almost two years now, at a minimum, one thing I can say with confidence is that Nellie Maxwell would surely appreciate the advances we've made in spell-checking!



WEEKLY MENU SUGGESTIONS

SUNDAY—Breakfast: Cinnamon rolls. Dinner: Roast leg of lamb, stuffed. Supper: Oyster stew.
MONDAY—Breakfast: Drop doughnuts. Dinner: Baked potatoes, apple pie. Supper: Sliced roast of lamb, escaloped potatoes.
TUESDAY—Breakfast: Oatmeal, top milk. Dinner: Sausages and creamed potatoes, Johnny cake. Supper: Hash of lamb, baking powder biscuits.
WEDNESDAY—Breakfast: Griddle cakes. Dinner: Cherry pie. Supper: Sour cream cake.
THURSDAY—Breakfast: Buttered toast, omelet. Dinner: Cottage pudding. Supper: Milk toast.
FRIDAY—Breakfast: Eggs on toast. Dinner: Fried fish. Supper: Hot potato salad.
SATURDAY—Breakfast: Sausage and cakes. Dinner: Bean soup. Supper: Cake with orange filling.

Nellie Maxwell
Stockbridge Brief-Sun • March 1924



	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER
Monday	Sheet Pan Mini Sweet Peppers & Eggs	Everything Bagel Cheese Stuffed Mini Sweet Peppers	Italian Sausage & Veggie Sheet Pan Dinner
Tuesday	Broccoli Frittata Fingers	Rainbow Italian Pasta Salad	Mandarin Chicken Stir-Fry with Green Beans
Wednesday	Fiesta Toast	Mini Sweet Pepper Pizzas	Chicken Zoodle Soup
Thursday	Make-Ahead Breakfast Burritos	Rainbow Veggie Wraps	Teriyaki Shrimp & Veggies
Friday	Sunshine Wrap	Easy Pizza Pasta Salad	Mini Sweet Pepper Sheet Pan Nachos

Image Credit: HealthyFamilyProject.com

Even after 100 years, meal planning is still popular. Today's cooks have many resources for finding meal plans, for example, TikTok, Instagram and newspapers.

Celebrating Women's History Month Marge Abbott (1910-2013): Local writer, poet at heart

by Tina Cole-Mullins

Many in Stockbridge may have known Marjorie "Marge" Abbott as a successful businesswoman, a co-founder of the Abbott & Fillmore Agency on Main Street in Stockbridge. But Marge was a woman of many talents, including a published author and poet.

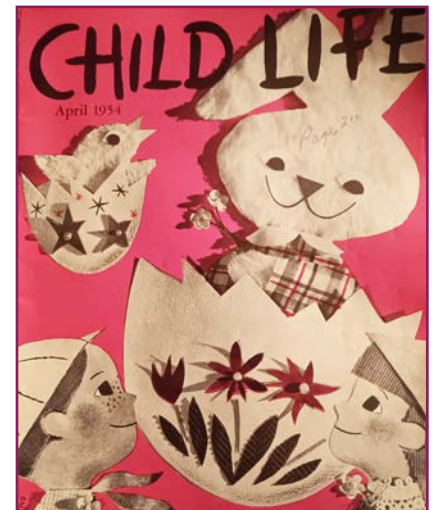
In March 2019, the Stockbridge Community News published an article titled "The woman beside the man..." highlighting Marge's success and contributions in her business life working beside her husband. But few knew of Marge's success as a writer. Her short stories and verse were published in newspapers such as The Wall Street Journal. Her writing also appeared in children's magazines like Kiddie's Funbook, Child Life, and Highlights for Children.

Publication of her work began in the early 1950s and spanned nearly a decade. This timeframe coincided with the childhood years of her only daughter Sally. For example, in spring 1954, Marge's Easter riddle poem, "Easter Colors," was published in Child Life magazine.

In addition to writing, Marge was an accomplished violinist who performed with the Jackson Symphony Orchestra. She loved to travel and visited Germany, the Mediterranean, Portugal and Italy. Although Marge was a social traveler who made trips abroad, she also could be introverted at times, as one of her earliest children's poems, "Windows," reflects.

Marge and her husband enjoyed square dancing and were popular dancers throughout the area. She was fond of area history, sponsored several social and historical groups, and was a founding member of the Waterloo Farm Museum.

See Abbott, poet at heart on page 17.



A photo of the Child Life April 1954 cover. Marge Abbott's "Easter Colors" poem was published in the magazine. Photo provided by Tina Cole-Mullins

Easter Colors

by Marjorie Abbott

It's Easter, and
Upon my head
I'll wear a hat
That's cherry _____

The eggs we find
With much ado,
Are shades of purple
And of _____

The good baked ham
We'll eat, I think,
Is of so fine
A shade of _____!

And when in church
We'll feel delight
To see the lilies,
Snowy _____!

Answers:
red, blue, pink, white



Double Deuce Ice Cream Treatery is open March 1st

ATTENTION: We're offering 50% off all ice cream March 1-7 for Stockbridge schools students!

Across from new Dollar General | Serving deliciousness for over 30 yrs!





Cindy Anderson, DVM

Paws and Claws

Spaying, neutering can make pets healthier, live longer

by Cindy Anderson, DVM

We all want to do what's best for our pets. When you become a new pet parent, you're faced with many decisions, not the least of which is whether to spay or neuter. The birth of puppies and kittens often takes place during the spring and summer months. During this time, animal shelters become severely overcrowded. Dogs can have an average of two litters per year, producing six to 10 puppies per litter. Cats can have an average of three litters per year with four to six kittens per litter.

Not only will spaying or neutering your pets help with overpopulation, it also will encourage longer, healthier lives. In fact, the decision to spay or neuter your pets could be the single most important decision you make in regard to their physical wellness.

Spay and Neuter Awareness Month is an annual event held every February throughout the world to promote the spaying and neutering of animals. World Spay Day also is the last Tuesday in February. This important awareness campaign encourages pet owners to be responsible for their beloved pets and focus on controlling animal overpopulation.

The concept of celebrating a dedicated month to spread awareness about spaying and neutering was first discussed in early 2000s by a number of veterinary associations around the world. It was spearheaded by famous actor Doris Day's Animal League and the American Humane Association to raise awareness about pet overpopulation. Finally in 2004, World Spay Day was initiated.

The health benefits

The following health benefits can result from spaying or neutering your pets:

- Medical evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier.
- Spaying removes the risk of pregnancy. The health of the mother can be in jeopardy during delivery and some new mothers can develop health problems during nursing.
- Spaying your pet can help prevent uterine infections, uterine cancer and breast cancer.
- Neutering male pets can help prevent testicular cancer and prostate problems.

Spaying and neutering also can help control behavioral problems in pets

Sterilization can result in a calmer, quieter, more affectionate pet and a cleaner home. Some of the behavioral problems that can be addressed by spaying or neutering include:

- Heat. Spaying eliminates the crying, pacing and roaming that is experienced during heat.
- Aggression. Neutering prevents assertive or aggressive behavior, which decreases the number of fights, bites and injuries.

See Paws and Claws on page 12.

Virtual On-Line Edition

March 10 - 16, 2024
(Sunday to Saturday)

Festival of Tables

Auction items available for bid include:
 Deep Water Fishing Trip for 4 with dinner and one night's stay at Little River Casino Resort, Kendra Scott Ellie Studs Gold and Elisa Pendant Gold, Handmade Cheese Cutting Board with Slicer, 12 Pro Strider Bike, Smokehouse BBQ Mancrate, Hickory Grilling Mancrate, 30 Minute Chris Young Comedy Session, Bark Box Bundle, Fire Truck Ride for two in the Gregory Fourth of July Parade, Front End Alignment at Stockbridge Auto Care, Gift Certificate and Hooded Sweatshirt Nick's Auto Detail, Blackstone Grill, 5 Yards of Limestone delivered within the Stockbridge School District Area, Coach Val Duffle Black Shoulder Bag

... AND MUCH MORE!!

To register to bid, scan the QR code below or visit
<https://ourschool.auction/BidForEducation>
 Items can be paid online via credit card, or cash at pickup.

STOCKBRIDGE AREA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
 GREGORY • MUNITH • STOCKBRIDGE

STOCKBRIDGE
 COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

For questions or additional information, please contact Brian Friddle 517-851-7188, ext. 5503

The Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation serves the community of the Stockbridge School District. Our mission is to fund programs and projects that create or enhance educational opportunities available to area residents.



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

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.

Our Board of Directors

Joan Tucker	President
Nancy Wisman	Vice-President
Judy Williams	Treasurer
Bev Glynn	Secretary
Mary Jo David	Editor-in-Chief
Hope Salyer	Managing Editor
Amy Haggerty	Board Member
Terry Sommer	Board Member

SCN Support Team

Carol Berger	Graphic Design
Judy Brune	Editing Support
Kayla Fletcher	Media Coordinator
Agnes Geiger	Copy Editor
Mary Krummrey	Graphic Specialist
Connie Risner	Advertising Outreach
Rachel Sweet	Billing Support
Chuck Wisman	Subscription Coordinator

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!

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

Email:

stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com

Also find us at: [facebook.com/stockbridgecommunitynews](https://www.facebook.com/stockbridgecommunitynews)
or stockbridgecommunitynews.com

Postal Address:

Stockbridge Community News, P.O. Box 83 Gregory, MI 48137



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRESS WOMEN
Winner of National First Place Awards, At-Large Awards
and Honorable Mentions

Active Aging

Grow while serving your community: Become a board member



Board members take part in the planning and executing of the strategic vision and mission of the organization. Photo credit Damir Kopezhanov on unsplash.com

by **Stacey Glemser**

Recently, I was asked to volunteer my time to the Stockbridge Area Senior Center by serving on the board of directors. I thought to myself, "What better way to give back to my community?" At the same time, I was nervous, as I had never done something like this before. I'm hoping by sharing my story, others will be encouraged to consider giving back in any way they can.

First let's explore the responsibilities of being a board member. Board members are a part of the planning and executing of the strategic vision and mission of the organization. Together, fellow board members lay the groundwork and establish the framework of the organization.

A board member's responsibility doesn't end there. Members of the board also are responsible for ensuring the organization is successful and all guidelines and policies are followed. Depending on the organization, a board member also may serve as an executive member, such as president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, or other assigned role. The work that the board does supports and ensures the organization's success.

Now, let's explore why you should consider joining a board and how it can help you in your career or in your life. Serving on a board can give you a chance to network within the organization and your surrounding community. You even may have the opportunity to represent your organization and your local community countywide. Serving on a board also can expand your skill set, help you develop additional leadership skills, and provide you an opportunity to learn more about your organization and community.

My decision to serve has been very rewarding. I have had the opportunity to meet and network with senior leadership within our county and our community. Even after 30-plus years of professional experience in the workforce, I am learning new things every day as part of a nonprofit organization. If you are interested in networking opportunities, learning new skills, and helping your community, serving on a board may be the next step in the right direction.

I encourage you to seek out your local organizations for opportunities. If you are unsure if you want to commit to being on a board, ask to sit in on their open sessions. Ask to speak to other board members about their roles and find out where you might be able to be a service.

See SASC on page 23.

**STOCKBRIDGE
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

Emma Smith Elementary

KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

Thursday, March 14

Session 1: 9:30 – 12:00 Session 2: 1:00 – 3:00

Registration Info.
517-851-7735

What's New? Host a virtual party or fundraiser with me!



pampered|chef
INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT



Hope Salyer

Facebook icon @PCwithHSalyer • www.pamperedchef.com/pws/hsalyer
pcwithhsalyer@gmail.com

Rock 'n' Roll Trivia

What war is the song 'Sky Pilot' about?



John Robinson

by John Robinson

Q: Was The Animals' song "Sky Pilot" about the Vietnam War?

A: I suppose it could be taken that way; but whenever I heard it, I thought of World War II. So maybe it's just supposed to be about war in general. Because the entire song was more than seven minutes long, MGM Records split that 1968 single into "Sky Pilot Part 1" on the A-side and "Sky Pilot Part 2" on the flip. The song tells the story of a

military chaplain who blesses the troops before they set out to battle and then waits for their return.

Q: I know "Twilight Zone" was a song by Golden Earring, but I think there was another record with that title. If so, please tell me what it was.

A: Golden Earring's song was a Top 10 hit in 1983. Before that, in 1980, The Manhattan Transfer made the Top 40 with "Twilight Zone/Twilight Tone." Then, in 1992, another record called "Twilight Zone" made the singles charts for 2 Unlimited. Earlier, in 1964, The Marketts reached No. 3 with "Out Of Limits," based on the theme for the TV series "The Twilight Zone." Even though the tune was mostly based on the "Twilight Zone" theme, the title itself was based on "The Outer Limits" TV program.

Q: Do you remember a girl group called the GTOs?

A: Yup. The GTOs (which stood for Girls Together Outrageously) formed in the late '60s and consisted of seven rock groupies including the infamous Pamela Des Barres. They originally called themselves The Laurel Canyon Ballet Company but changed to The GTOs on the advice of Frank Zappa, who produced and financed their recording sessions. They recorded an album's worth of material but never had any chart hits.

See Rock 'n' Roll Trivia on page 21.

George & Sons Tire We
For All Your Tire Needs
517-985-6100

5118 S M106
Stockbridge

WE SELL ALL MAJOR BRAND TIRES AND WHEELS

Over 50 Booths

FISHVILLE FARMS
Spring Fling & Easter Craft Show and Donation Drive
Sat., Mar. 23 | 10 am - 4 pm
Chelsea Fairgrounds

Gift Basket Giveaway

Food Bandit Food Truck

Burnt Honey Food Truck

Free Easter Bunny Photos

Find financial guidance.

Financial professionals at The State Wealth Advisors offer the right combination of experience and ideas to earn your trust and help you take control of your financial future.

FINANCIAL PLANNING
IRAS & OTHER RETIREMENT PLANS
INVESTMENT STRATEGIES
LIFE INSURANCE



SALVATORE VANADIA
Financial Advisor
s.vanadia@ampf.com
810.593.5567

THE STATE
Wealth Advisors

175 N Leroy | Fenton, MI
810.714.3900
AmeripriseAdvisors.com/s.vanadia

Salvatore Vanadia is a Financial Advisor with The State Wealth Advisors, a financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC in Fenton, MI. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 11 years. Contact Sal at https://www.ameripriseadvisors.com/s.vanadia/ 810.593.5567, 175 N. Leroy St, Fenton, MI 48430.
Ameriprise Financial, Inc. and its affiliates do not offer tax or legal advice. Consumers should consult with their tax advisor or attorney regarding their specific situation.
Investment products are not insured by the FDIC, NCUA or any federal agency, are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by any financial institution, and involve investment risks including possible loss of principal and fluctuation in value.
Investment advisory products and services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, a registered investment adviser.

Waterloo Farm page 1

The field trips still are happening for more than 900 children each year at the Waterloo Farm and Dewey School Museums. The program provides a pioneer experience for children from five surrounding counties. Four volunteers at the school and eight volunteers at the farm conduct the sessions for six weeks in April and May and four weeks in September.

As you can see, the museum volunteers are spread thin. Some volunteers also have been involved in the program for more than 20 years and are ready to retire.

The museums need more men and women to volunteer and provide the pioneer experience for the children. Only four to six hours during the week is required. Volunteers will be trained and guided through every step of the program.

The Dewey School program is run by one or two school marms or masters each day. If you are a retired teacher and love history, this would be a perfect position for you.

The Waterloo Farm program is worked by three people each day. A shepherd gets the children to the proper building at the proper time and assists the Mr. and Mrs. Realy re-enactors.

Mr. Realy gives his presentation about farming and crops of the 1860s in the big barn. He also talks about farm chores the young people were doing at that time.

Mrs. Realy gives her presentation in the Log House, where she offers opportunities for the children to learn about cooking over a fire and hauling water for laundry. She also talks about the general upkeep of a family home without running water or electricity.

If you would like more information about volunteering for the program, please call Arlene at 517-392-3195.

Published in Uncaged, February 2024

Survival of the Smartest

Academic competition between students

by Kaitlyn Oversmith, *Uncaged* Reporter

This article is being reprinted, with minimal edits, from the Uncaged Student News February 2024 edition.

Competitiveness, the need to win and be the best, is something that comes naturally to humans. According to Sander van der Linden, a renowned social psychologist, competitiveness is what commonly drives us to work harder. The determination to prosper in sports, games and careers often stems from a sense of competitiveness.

In school, students often compete for the best grades, the most honors and the highest GPA. But when does it become too much? Can this seemingly healthy competition among aspiring students take a deleterious turn?

Sarah Garcia-Linz, an academic coach at Lansing Community College, believes there are both positive and negative impacts of competitiveness in high school.

On one hand, academic competition often serves as a good motivator. It allows students to set goals and gives them something to work towards. In fact, according to American Heritage School, It's been proven that the social motivation of competing against school peers can push students to be more dedicated to their academics because it inspires them to do their best instead of just good enough.

Leslie Cummings, the Stockbridge counselor, has had personal experiences where she has seen firsthand how competition has moved students to put in more effort with their classes.

"I had this one student - a smart kid - but he struggled with motivation. One day he got into a competition with another student and I've never seen him work harder," Cummings said. "Competition allowed him to care, so I'd say it's a good thing for the most part."

The benefits of competition extend far beyond motivation. Actually, the advantages can reach into many aspects of your life. Garcia-Linz says it can teach you valuable life lessons such as learning how to lose with grace, adopting a growth mindset, managing your stress and balancing your time and responsibilities. But what Garcia-Linz deems as the most important takeaway from academic competition is that it prepares you for the workforce.

"There are few jobs in which there is no competition. Usually, people who outperform others often have more opportunities to advance," Garcia-Linz said. "Some competition in school is good because it prepares you early on."

Individuals among the student body thrive in the competitive environment that a school can feel. Senior Jason Gruber is a prime example of this. Throughout his high school career, Gruber has continuously worked hard and has a bright future. He says that the unspoken competition among students and the need to stand out, has played a role in his success.

"I've always driven myself to achieve the best that I can because I know with effort and dedication I am capable of doing well," Gruber said. "Competition has definitely aided me in that drive up till now."

Competition has its benefits. However, even with all the good it brings, it appears to also have a hidden dark side. According to the Adelphi Psych Medicine Clinic, competition, when taken to the extreme, can often lead to a fear of failure, negative feelings and bad health. This overzealous competitiveness is not entirely uncommon in students. Cummings, though usually an advocate for competition, says that she's seen students put too much importance on their grades up to the point that students don't want to challenge themselves for fear of failing and falling behind other students.

"I've had many students hold themselves back from what they're really capable of so they don't run the risk of not getting straight A's or ruining their 4.0 GPA," Cummings said. "They are far too focused on material things instead of pushing themselves and trying their best. It's sad to see."

Cummings isn't alone in this realization. Students themselves have discerned that they put too much of their self-worth on their grades and often can experience self-deprecating thoughts when they don't perform as well as their peers.

"We have always been told to strive to be the best in the class which creates a sense of competition with your peers. But some people are just naturally better at things than others, which can make you feel inadequate even if you're not," senior Coco Cesarz said. "There have been many moments, throughout high school especially, that I have felt like a failure as a person because of this."

Cesarz is not alone in her struggle with the competitive nature cultivated in school. Senior Gavin Hart shares similar thoughts and experiences.

The severe downsides to competition don't stop there. The sense of competition that students so frequently carry can even impact their health. Garcia-Linz notes that she commonly sees this among high school and college students.

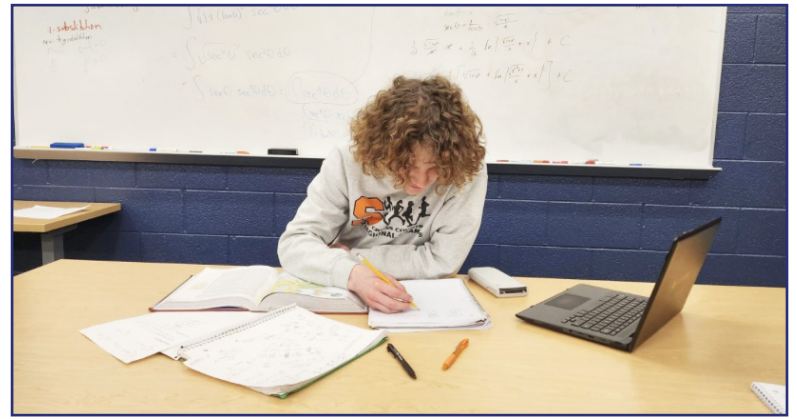
"I notice a culture of perfectionism among a lot of students and an issue I would see from them as a result of this was eating disorders," Garcia-Linz said. "It's really heartbreaking to see and sadly I see it pretty regularly in students."

It seems that on a surface level competition among students can reap many benefits. In addition, it can be a very useful tool for them. However, when diving deeper into the darker nature competition can have, it has been found that it can have very damaging effects on the student body.

"Some competition is a good thing. It is important to have some motivation to do your best," Garcia-Linz said. "However, it also can become unhealthy. Too much competition or pressure to be the best can lead to mental health issues, which unfortunately happens way too often in school."

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.panthernet.net/our district.



Senior Brady Cole studies for his upcoming calculus test by memorizing the formulas to antiderivatives and integrals. Cole is also enrolled in AP Literature, AP Computer Science and AP World History. Photo credit Nicole Wadkins

Davis Small Engine & Equipment Repair

(517) 565-3280 | M-F 8 to 5 pm | Sat 8 to 2 pm
All Makes & Models, Offering New & Used Parts



David Davis

2070 Fitchburg Rd.
Stockbridge, MI 49285

Pickup & Delivery – I'll haul away outdoor power equipment for **FREE**



KASASA SAVER

Link to your Kasasa Checking for automatic savings!

With **Kasasa Saver** from The State Bank, you can easily connect your Kasasa Checking account and set up automatic savings.

Visit TheStateBank.com/Kasasa to learn more.

*Go to <https://thestatebank.com/cycle-dates/> or see your branch representative for specific Statement and Monthly Qualification Cycle dates and additional details and restrictions. The State Bank, Member FDIC. Kasasa and Kasasa Cash are trademarks of Kasasa, Ltd., registered in the U.S.A. Equal Housing Lender · Member FDIC





Kitley's
CUSTOM EXHAUST & AUTO
517-851-7111
 Stockbridge, Michigan

5010 S. M-106 HWY
 STOCKBRIDGE, MI 49285
 WWW.KITLEYSCUSTOM.COM

M-F 8:00AM-5:00PM
 SAT 8:00AM-12:00PM

COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
 -CUSTOM EXHAUST SYSTEMS
 -ALL AUTO & TRUCK SERVICES
 -NEW & USED TIRES
 -WELDING & FAB
 -RV/MOTORHOME REPAIR
 -HITCHES & TRUCK ACCESSORIES



517-985-6090
 121 E. Elizabeth St.,
 Stockbridge

PLANE FOOD
MARKET
 Planefoodmarket@gmail.com
LOCALLY SOURCED GOODS

Sky's the limit...
 let's grow together!
 OUR BAKERY IS UP AND RUNNING.

42.45° N / 84.17° W 938'



Faist FARMS, INC. **PIONEER SEEDS & HERITAGES**
 www.faistfarms.com

4241 Territorial Rd.
 Pleasant Lake, MI 49272

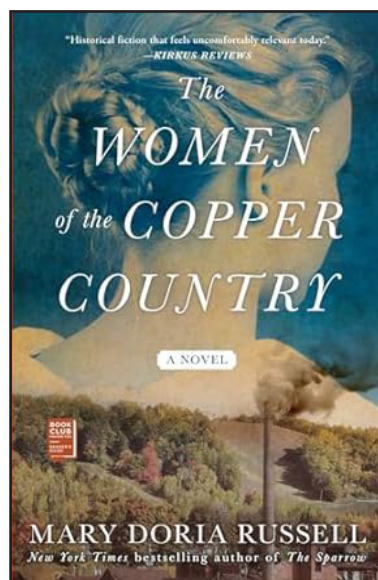
Pioneer Hi-Bred Seed

Jacob Faist
 517-937-2407
 faist.farms@plantpioneer.com

Corn • Soybean • Wheat

Reading Between the Lines Big Annie looms large in 'The Women of the Copper Country'

by Mary Jo David



"The Women of the Copper Country" was an accidental read—just a book I happened upon at the library—showcased on a shelf with other stories that take place in Michigan.

Mary Doria Russell does an excellent job recreating a fictional accounting of the real-life story of Annie Clements—or "Big Annie," as she is called—who helped to spearhead a major strike against Calumet & Hecla, the largest copper mining company in Michigan, in 1913.

Thanks to the rich vein of copper running below ground, in the early 1900s Calumet rivaled many of the big towns in the Midwest. According to Russell, despite being located in the northwest reaches of Michigan's Upper Peninsula...on the windswept shores of Lake Superior...and averaging annual snowfalls of 10-to-15 feet, Calumet grew into a centerpiece industrial city. It boasted electricity, an opera house, its own streetcar system, and, in 1910, more churches per capita than any other town in America.

The novel's prologue takes the reader back to 1903, when "Big Annie" was only 16 years old and very resentful of the nickname she was tagged with due to her uncommon height. She and her father share a special moment in that prologue, during which, her father tells her, "Stand up straight, Anna. Hold your head

The story of Big Annie doesn't leave you with warm fuzzies, but it does leave you with an appreciation for Michigan history—the good, the bad, and the ugly. Image credit Amazon.com

high. That's your strength... When your head is high, you can see farther than anyone else." Her father's words prove to be quite prescient ten years later, when the community looks to Annie for her strength and leadership.

Initially, the book focuses not on Annie but on James MacNaughton, general manager of Calumet & Hecla mining company. As a man "of iron habits," whose rituals never vary, the reader does not initially know what to make of MacNaughton. He oversees a copper empire that outshines all in the area, and his fastidiousness and apparent OCD paint a picture of a man who is stubbornly set in his ways. At the same time, his appreciation for bringing some quality-of-life aspects to the miners and their families—like home gardens and shower houses—provides a puzzling counterbalance to this man who is later at the center of the miners' uprising in 1913 and who is probably solely responsible for the strike going on as long as it did.

Soon, though, the story comes around to Annie and the home she makes for her husband, Joe Clements and three Italian boarders. Children do not figure into the equation for Annie and her abusive husband, so while other women are overwhelmed caring for children and spouses, Annie is eventually compelled to action outside her home, beginning with joining the local Women's Auxiliary.

The Calumet mining workforce of that era was comprised of a patchwork of miners—Finnish, Italians, Swedes, to name a few. While the language barrier was very real, the women of the Auxiliary managed to work around this problem in recognition of common needs for supporting their families.

Meanwhile, unrest was growing among the miners of Calumet due to hazardous working conditions and the introduction of the one-man drill. The author describes these, along with the 12-hour days and six-day workweeks of the miners and the questionable conditions in which they were expected to work. But the main focus of "The Women of the Copper Country" is evident in the book's title—it's Calumet's women. And at the head of the pack, quite literally, as she leads miners' parades during the almost yearlong strike that is a focal point of the book, is Big Annie.

Through the involvement of fictional newspaper photographer, Michael Sweeney, who lands in Calumet in time for the miners' uprising, Big Annie becomes the face of the Calumet copper mine strike in newspapers across the country. At the young age of 25, Annie endures physical harm, bears constant emotional stress as she carries

responsibility for 10,000 workers' lives and their families, and eventually even faces imprisonment.

Russell creates many engaging fictional characters, like Sweeney, but also includes important real characters in her story. "Big Annie" did exist in Calumet in 1913 and has been referred to as "America's Joan of Arc" for her role leading the copper miners in their legendary strike. The author also weaves in mention of national union leaders of the era and key women who led workers' rights charges across the country, including American labor organizer Mother Jones and political activist Ella Reeve Bloor.

As an avid reader who always appreciates happy endings, I must warn that this story does not paint a rosy picture. Instead, the reader is faced with accurate depictions of workers' struggles in a part of the country that was harsh and unforgiving—in business, in politics, and even in weather. Truth be told, one key event, a true event, which shall remain unnamed so as to not spoil the read, will likely leave most readers in tears.

See Reading Between the Lines on page 13.



MY BODY SHOP INC.

517-945-2059

You fought a deer? We'll fight the insurance company.

No matter how your vehicle gets damaged, we'll get it fixed on time and the right way. No short cuts or compromises. Remember, where you get your car fixed is NOT up to your insurance company, it's up to you. Make the right decision, bring your vehicle to My Body Shop.

2024 Congressional High School Art Competition is underway



2023 Art Competition winner Emma Li (right), Okemos High School, with Rep. Slotkin, viewing Li's painting hanging in the U.S. Capitol. Photo provided by Rep. Slotkin's office.

Information from Office of U.S Rep. Elissa Slotkin

Calling all artists: Now is the time to get your entries ready for the 2024 Congressional High School Art Competition!

Each year, Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin sponsors this high school arts competition along with her colleagues in the House of Representatives. The Congressional Art Competition is an opportunity to recognize, celebrate, and encourage artistic talent in the nation.

The competition is open to all high school students who either reside or attend school in Michigan's 7th District.

The first-place winner's artwork will hang in the U.S. Capitol for one year, and the artist will be invited to Washington, D.C. to attend a ceremony with other winners from around the country over the summer. The second-place winning entry will

be on display in Slotkin's Washington, D.C., office, and the third-place entry winner will be on display in Slotkin's Lansing office.

A reception also will be held in late spring in Lansing to announce the winner and display and celebrate all of the art submissions.

Artwork will be collected from participating schools and home-schooling families in early April by our office staff.

Submissions must adhere to the following rules:

- Artwork must be two-dimensional and no larger than 26 inches by 26 inches by 4 inches, and must not weigh more than 15 pounds.
- Art pieces should NOT be framed for judging.
- All submissions must be original in concept, design, and execution, and may not violate U.S. copyright laws.

Artwork can be:

- Painting.
- Photography.
- Drawing.
- Mixed Media.
- Other (ie. Computer-generated art, collages, etc.).

Full rules and a competition checklist can be found at <https://slotkin.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/slotkin.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2024-rules-for-students-and-teachers.pdf>.



John and Theresa Kightlinger

Ask an Expert What is the future of artificial intelligence in vehicles?

by John and Theresa Kightlinger

With today's advancement in technology, the automobile industry is poised to take the next big leap forward. The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) technology in automobiles is an exciting and promising development.

AI technology will bring a lot of improvements to automobiles, including increased safety, efficiency and comfort. Here are some ways AI technology will improve automobiles.

Enhanced safety features. AI technology has the potential to dramatically enhance the safety of automobiles, making them much safer for drivers, passengers and pedestrians. With the help of sensors and cameras, AI can detect and analyze objects on the road, such as other vehicles, pedestrians, and animals.

The system can then use this information to alert the driver of potential hazards, such as collisions, lane departures and traffic signals. Additionally, AI can help reduce the risk of accidents by automatically adjusting the vehicle's speed and braking in response to the detected objects on the road.

Autonomous driving. Autonomous driving is perhaps the most exciting application of AI technology in automobiles. With the help of sensors and AI algorithms, autonomous vehicles can navigate through traffic, avoid obstacles, and park themselves. The potential benefits of autonomous driving technology are enormous, including increased safety, reduced congestion, and improved efficiency.

Autonomous driving technology is still in its early stages, but many car manufacturers already are investing heavily in its development. Some of the most advanced autonomous driving systems can already handle a wide range of driving situations, including highway driving and parking.

See Ask an Expert on page 23.

State Rep. Julie Brixie visits the senior center

Information provided by Dana Blaszkowski

On Feb. 1, Michigan State Rep. Julie Brixie visited the Stockbridge Area Senior Center, where she spoke with area residents.

Rep. Brixie, of the 73rd House District, stopped by to present an update on legislation.

"Senior center members especially appreciated the

news about the repealed retirement tax," SASC Director Dana Blaszkowski said.

Rep. Brixie spoke to members, opened up for questions and answers and then joined the SASC members for lunch.



State Rep. Julie Brixie visited with Stockbridge Area Senior Center members on Feb. 1. Photo provided by Heather Armstrong

Paws and Claws page 7

- Urine marking. Neutering also reduces the likelihood of frequent urine marking. The urge to spray is extremely strong in an intact cat, but neutering solves most marking issues.

- Roaming. Both procedures can prevent the urge to roam, which often results in injuries from traffic accidents or fights with other cats and dogs.

What if I never spay or neuter my dog or cat?

If you never spay or neuter your dog, it increases the risk of health problems, behavioral issues and pet overpopulation. Unneutered male dogs are more likely to roam in search of a mate, which can lead to fights with other animals and injuries. Unspayed female dogs will come into heat every six months and may attract unwanted attention from male dogs.

Unspayed female cats also go into heat more frequently and will often yowl loudly and spray inside the home, which can be a nuisance for pet owners. Additionally, not spaying or neutering your dog or cat contributes to pet overpopulation and may lead to more homeless animals ending up in shelters.

Note that you should always consult a veterinarian before spaying/neutering your pet, as they can provide tailored advice based on breed, size and lifestyle.

If you have any questions about spaying or neutering your pet, please feel free to contact Lakelands Trail Veterinary Clinic, 4525 S. M-52, Stockbridge, MI 49285, or call 517-655-5551.

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



Amanda Matthews

Positive Parenting 'Young 5s' in Smith Elementary School provides a special learning opportunity for children born in late summer or fall

by Amanda Matthews

Kindergarten Roundup is coming on March 14, and Stockbridge Community Schools is proud to offer a Young 5s program at Smith Elementary School. This program is designed specifically for our young learners with late summer and fall birthdays because it enables them to get an extra year of school between preschool and kindergarten.

The Stockbridge program is taught by a certified teacher with an early childhood endorsement. To achieve this endorsement, the teacher was required to take extra courses specializing in children, ages 4-8, which focused on all areas of their development.

Young 5s offers a smaller class size and a full-day paraprofessional in the classroom. This program is a full-day opportunity and follows closely to the kindergarten schedule. These children have the chance to eat lunch and go to recess with kindergartners, making it an easy transition to their next school year. Children in our Young 5s also attend "specials" daily, like art, gym, music, and/or S.T.E.M.

Research shows that children at this age learn best through play. The Young 5s classroom is a place where children have the opportunity for sensory and hands-on experiences. These young students have daily free-play opportunities, along with stations that allow for more exploration in all play areas.

Our Wonders curriculum is used to build foundational, early literacy skills, such as letter names, letter sounds, vocabulary, and communication skills. Read-alouds are also a key part in building these skills. The curriculum ensures children have hands-on experiences to build math, science, and social studies knowledge. Most importantly, though, we recognize the importance of educating the whole child, so the Young 5s program specializes in building social-emotional skills.

Children leave Young 5s with essential skills needed for kindergarten and a love of learning. The program is a transition year between preschool and kindergarten that honors each child's uniqueness and, within our classroom community, works to build the foundation skills for a strong future.

Young 5s program highlights:

- Certified teacher with credentials specializing in early childhood education.
- Full-day paraprofessional.
- Smaller class sizes.
- Wonders curriculum.
- Daily "specials," including art, gym, music, and S.T.E.M.
- Hands-on educational experiences.
- Sensory exploration.
- Free play.



Noodle-cutting is a great sensory experience for young children. Photo credit pinterest.com

- Focus on social-emotional development.
- Outdoor explorations twice daily and incorporated into our curriculum.
- Focus on building large- and fine-motor skills.
- Strong classroom community.
- Attention to foundational early literacy and math skills.

Activity Highlight: Noodle Cutting Sensory Experience

Cook spaghetti noodles and let them cool. Rub them with water or provide a spray bottle. Provide scissors and even child-safe knives for children to cut the noodles. Allow them to explore and fill bowls with their noodle cuttings.

Parent University: Mark your calendars for March 6, 6 p.m., to attend the next Parent University at Smith Elementary School. March is National Reading Month, so we have a special presentation focusing on literacy and facilitated by Katherine Andersen of Ingham ISD and Cindy Stacy of Stockbridge Community Schools.

Parent University takes place on the first Wednesday of each month (February through June 2024) and offers a chance for families to learn more about topics related to children. Dinner, child care and a chance to win prizes are available. We also offer a virtual option if

you are unable to attend in person. There is no fee. Use a smartphone to scan the QR code, right, to register.

Amanda Mathews is a mother of two girls and is a Young 5s teacher in Stockbridge. She has been in the early childhood field for more than 10 years. Her family moved to Gregory two years ago, and they love getting to be part of this amazing community.



Reading Between the Lines page 11

But to avoid this novel would be a mistake. Following the story of Big Annie doesn't leave you with warm fuzzies, but it does leave you with an appreciation for Michigan history—the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Mary Jo David is a retired business and technical writer who contributes occasional book reviews to Stockbridge Community News. She and her husband reside in Gregory.



The Young 5s classroom is a place where children have the opportunity for sensory and hands-on experiences. Photo credit Senjuti Kundu on Unsplash.com



GENTLE REINS FARM

Horseback Riding Lessons



Register Now
for Summer
Camps!

16250 Bowdish Rd.
Stockbridge

www.gentlereinsfarm.com/camps | 734-730-2164





Clyde's Corner Small-town doctor sure did leave his mark on the Stockbridge community

by Clyde Whitaker

This month I have a special story to share with you about Dr. Sidney Beckwith, who started practicing general medicine in Stockbridge right around 1941.

I had a special bond with Dr. Beckwith you see because he brought me into this world, along with hundreds of others, at the Rowe Memorial Hospital on Center Street, which is now a private residence.

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Beckwith's daughter Fran Laird and her husband Campbell Laird at their home on Maple Street in Stockbridge.

The story begins with Sidney Beckwith being born in 1910 in Yonkers, New York, an inner suburb of New York City. Growing up, Sidney lived in Yonkers, where his father was a doctor. Deciding he also wanted to become a doctor, Sidney enrolled in New York University. As an undergraduate, then afterward, he attended medical school at New York Medical College.

While attending medical school (and through a friend from Jackson, Michigan,) Sidney met his future bride, Hattie Kennedy. When Sidney graduated from medical school, he was at the top of his class.

Dr. Beckwith started his general family practice in Yonkers, New York, right around 1935, and continued there for about two years. Sidney and Hattie then moved to Fogo Island, Newfoundland, which at the time was a primitive island, where travel consisted of mainly boat and dogsled, as he attended to his patients.

While living on Fogo Island, the Beckwiths adopted a daughter, Irene, then afterward Hattie returned to the States, living in Jackson, Michigan. Dr. Beckwith soon returned to Jackson as well, deciding that he wanted to practice medicine somewhere in Michigan.

After exploring several communities, Dr. Beckwith visited Stockbridge and decided that Stockbridge was the place where he wanted to continue his practice. Fran stated that he enjoyed the diverse community we had at that time. Other family members of the Beckwith family included daughters Irene, Frances, Margarete and son Sidney.

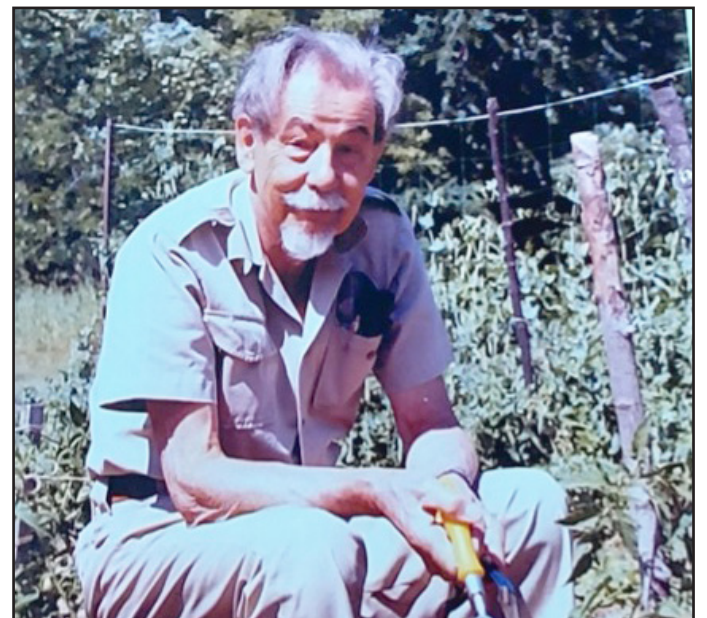
When I asked Fran about hobbies that Dr. Beckwith enjoyed, she had many examples. He had a love for photography and even had his own darkroom to develop the prints. He became very interested in learning the German language, including poetry, and it worked out that local resident Charlotte Camp, who was of German descent, provided weekly German lessons to Dr. Beckwith.

He also loved gardening, caring for many different varieties of plants in his garden. Dr. Beckwith also enjoyed riding horses, having two that he rode periodically, kept in the barn on his property.

See Clyde's Corner on page 20.



Dr. Sidney Beckwith and his wife Hattie take a buggy ride at the Waterloo Farm Museum. Photos provided by Frances Laird



Dr. Sidney Beckwith loved gardening and grew many different types of plants in his garden.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH LENTEN SERVICES
 5758 W. M-36 Pinckney, MI 48169
 Pastor Michael R. Ruhl
Mid-week Soup Supper and Worship on Wednesdays:
 Now thru March 20 | Supper at 5:30 & Worship at 6:30
Maundy Thursday Service: March 28 at 6:30 pm
Good Friday Service: March 29 at 6:30 pm
Easter Sunday on March 31: Breakfast at 9:00 am
 Egg Hunt at 9:30 am & Worship at 10:00 am
 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study @ 9 am | Worship @ 10 am | Office: 734-878-5977

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Good Friday Service:
 6-7 pm

Easter Sunday:
 9 am & 11 am



950 S. CLINTON STREET STOCKBRIDGE, MI



PALM SUNDAY VIGIL, Saturday, March 23: **St James 4 pm**
PALM SUNDAY, March 24 & **EASTER SUNDAY MASSES**, March 31:
Sts Cornelius & Cyprian 8:30 am | St James 10:30 am
HOLY THURSDAY, March 28: **St James 7 pm**
GOOD FRIDAY: **St James Youth Group Shadow of the Stations 2 pm**
VENERATION: **St James 3 pm**
EASTER VIGIL, Saturday, March 30: **St James 7 pm**



Obituaries

Catherine Ann (Crenshaw) Konarske Carmack



**Catherine Ann (Crenshaw)
Konarske Carmack**
Jan. 8, 1950 to Feb. 13, 2024

Catherine Ann (Crenshaw) Konarske Carmack, age 74, of Gregory, MI and Sarasota, FL, passed away peacefully on February 13, 2024 in Riverview, Michigan. Cathy was born January 8, 1950, in Wayne, MI to James and Rosetta (Santoro) Crenshaw. She married James Konarske on December 22, 1967, and they had a daughter, April (Konarske) Hansen.

On July 14, 1989, she married Bobbie Carmack, who preceded her in death on June 6, 2005.

Cathy lived on Joslin Lake in Gregory, MI for over 51 years and wintered at her home in Sarasota, FL for the last nine years.

She grew up in Wyandotte, Michigan. She graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1968, and as a teen she worked at Giordano's Pizza.

She traveled for a short stint in Tennessee and South Carolina with her husband, James Konarske while he was in the military. Shortly thereafter, they settled in Unadilla Twp., Michigan.

Cathy worked as an energetic server for Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor, MI for approximately 18 years. There she met Bobbie Carmack, a regular

customer for many years, who later became her second husband. They liked to work around the house, relax on the lake, and in their free time, ride their Harleys.

Additionally, Cathy worked as an administrative assistant at Guenther Building, and as a scheduler for EPMG. In 2003, she worked as an administrative assistant to Fr. Brendan Walsh and St. Joseph's Parish in Dexter, MI until her retirement in 2011.

Cathy had a passion for community, laughing, talking, sharing stories, and helping animals and people in need. Her favorite pastimes were gardening, watching birds, and rescuing animals, traveling, skiing, boating, sunbathing, and gathering shells on the beach. She loved spending time at family gatherings and visiting her twin granddaughters, Mandy and Liberty Hansen. Cathy volunteered at a wildlife rescue, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Ann Arbor, St Joseph's Parish, and festivals in Dexter, MI.

Cathy is survived by her daughter, April (David) Hansen; grandchildren, Mandy Hansen and Liberty Hansen; sister, Sharon (Kenneth) Belknap, brother, Ron (Dawn) Crenshaw, sister, Lorraine (Arthur) Ruge, sister, Mary Jo (William) Welsch, and a sister, Rosemarie (Johnathan) Barnosky; as well as numerous nieces and nephews, a sister-in-law, Jackie Santoro. She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, James Santoro.

Mass of Christian Burial will be prayed at St. Joseph Village Church, 3430 Dover St., Dexter, with Fr. Brendan J. Walsh presiding, on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

The family will receive friends at the Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, 901 N. Main St., Chelsea, on Friday, March 1, 2024 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m., with a Wake Service at 7:00 p.m. The family also will receive friends at the church on Saturday one hour prior to the service.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Janice Marie Kitley



Janice Marie Kitley
May 3, 1942 to Feb. 18, 2024

Janice Marie Kitley, age 81, of Munith, MI, passed away peacefully at her home in Waterloo Twp. on February 18, 2024 surrounded by her family. Born on May 3, 1942, in Alma, MI, Jan was the daughter of Homer and Ruth (Gottschalk) Hale.

On April 15, 1961, Jan married the love of her life, George L. Kitley, spending nearly six decades cycling between laughter and exasperation. Together they raised four children, Karla, Cheryl, Ken, and Cindy. Jan was particularly proud of her grandchildren for whom she crafted baby blankets, provided many meals, taught piano, covered snow day childcare, waited on buses, took forgotten items to school, and sent groceries from her home (fondly known as Meijer South). Family was the center of Jan's life. She was happiest when her family was together and well (over)-fed.

Jan's love for music and unwavering faith found a home at Munith United Methodist Church, where she served as the organist, pianist and choir director for almost 50 years. Jan loved tending to her many chickens and enjoyed her three cats, Callie, Cece, and Beanie. Jan was an avid reader, never failing to read at least 3 books while on annual vacations with her family. She was known to always have snacks, at least three chapsticks, a bundle of pens, and another 5lbs of miscellaneous items in her Mary Poppins purse.

After raising their four children to school age, Jan worked for Stockbridge Community Schools for many years before moving on to the University of Michigan Hospital. After retiring from U of M, Jan continued her service to the community, dedicating 16 years as Waterloo Township Clerk and serving on the local SAESA Board. Jan was always generous and welcoming, and she 'adopted' many delivery folks, friends, and visitors.

Jan is survived by her four children: Karla Kowalec of Munith, Cheryl Bayerl of Williamston, Ken (Tracy) Kitley of Stockbridge, and Cindy (Doug) Lance of Munith. She is also survived by her nine grandchildren: Jessica (Chad) Carr, Kenny (Lisa) Kitley, Sam (Kait) Bayerl, Cassie (Josh) Watson, Georgia Bayerl, Barb (Misti) Lance, Natalie Kowalec, Dalton Kitley, and Isaac Lance; five great-grandchildren, Layton Carr, Brady Carr, Ezra Watson, Isabel Watson, and Leigh Lance-Stevens; a brother, Vaughn Hale, sisters-in-law, Janet Senyko, Connie Kitley, and Elaine Hale; uncle, Bill Gottschalk, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Jan was preceded in death by her beloved husband, George, her sister-in-law Barb Smith, brothers-in-law Bud Kitley and Ed Senyko, and her brother, Richard Hale. Heaven probably wasn't ready for the level of rejoicing at the reunion of George and Jan.

A memorial service will be held at the Munith United Methodist Church on March 30, 2024 at 3:00PM with a short and light reception to follow. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Cascades Humane Society or the Munith United Methodist Church.

Karen Allene Price



Karen Allene Price
May 30, 1948 to Jan. 29, 2024

Karen Allene Price, age 75, of Stockbridge, MI, passed away on January 29, 2024 at her home.

Karen was born on May 30, 1948 in Northville, MI, the daughter of Roland and Grace (Center) Spencer. She grew up in Ortonville, one of fourteen children. She enjoyed spending time outside, gardening and tending to her flowers. Most of all she loved her family and spending time with her grandchildren.

On March 20, 1986, she married Thomas J. Price in Howell, MI, and they enjoyed nearly 38 years of marriage. Also surviving are three children, Matt (Nicole) Caroen of Stockbridge, Andrew Caroen of Brooklyn, and James Caroen of Brooklyn, and three step-children, Tim (Lindsay) Price of Brighton, Todd Price of Pinckney, and Scott (Gigi) Price of Pinckney; twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; her siblings: Dave Spencer of North Carolina, Randy Spencer of North Carolina, Greg Spencer of White Lake, MI, Sheila Ashley of North Carolina, Judy Reeves of Mt. Pleasant, MI, Dianna Rives of Spring Lake, MI, Marion Ring of Rock, MI, and Linda Sanders of White Lake, MI. She was preceded in death by five siblings: Edward Spencer, Daniel Spencer, Michael Spencer, Janet Murphy, and Connie Cross.

Visitation was held at the Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home in Chelsea on Friday, February 2, 2024 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m.

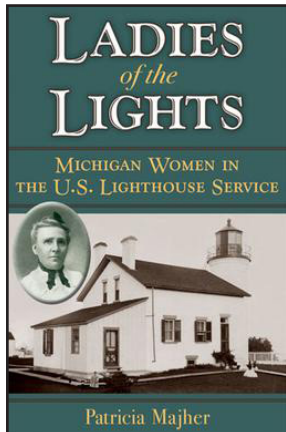
A Graveside Service was held on Saturday, February 3, 2024, 10:00 a.m., at Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, MI with Pastor Kurt Hutchens officiating.

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

Arrangements by Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea.

From CADL Stockbridge

Celebrate reading month with Pete the Cat



Dianna Stampfler, former marketing director for the West Michigan Tourist Association, will present the program "Ladies of the Lights" at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at the Stockbridge Library. The program will discuss women lighthouse keepers who protected the Great Lakes shoreline, back to the 1840s. Photo provided by Stockbridge CADL

by Head Librarian Sherri McConnell

Theodor Seuss Geisel was born March 2, 1904. He made significant contributions to early childhood literacy with classics like "The Cat in the Hat" and "Green Eggs and Ham." But what started as a recognition of Seuss' contributions each March 2 has resulted in the whole month becoming a celebration of reading.

Many schools will mark this month with special events and guest visitors. The library has its own guest this month to help us celebrate! Pete the Cat, that blue guitar-playing, skateboard-riding, rocket-hopping cat, will be at the Stockbridge Branch at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 20, for Family Storytime.

The library also will be hosting another guest of a different sort this month, Dianna Stampfler. She is a former marketing director for the West Michigan Tourist Association and has been entertaining audiences with tales of old Michigan for 20 years. At 2 p.m. Saturday, March 16, she will present "Ladies of the Lights," about the brave women who protected the Great Lakes shoreline as lighthouse keepers, dating back to the 1840s. The program will include images of the keepers, their families and their lighthouses as well as readings from newspapers and autobiographies. Join us for a trip through time.

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

Panther Draw Down a success!



Mike and Carrie Krachie, top prize winners of the night donated a portion of their winnings back to the Boosters! Photo provided by the Stockbridge Athletic Boosters

Information provided by the Stockbridge Athletic Boosters

On Saturday, Feb. 24, Stockbridge Athletic Boosters hosted their 2024 Panther Draw Down Fundraiser! The evening consisted of delicious food, community, and BIG cash prizes. Boosters would like to thank the Stockbridge and surrounding communities for their generous support through the many sponsorships, ticket purchases, and overwhelming kindness of its members — many who donated their winnings back! To date, the amount raised from this event exceeds \$9,500. The Boosters are very excited to put this money to work for our athletes and athletic programs.

The event, held at the Stockbridge Activity Center was decked out in Stockbridge Panther colors, while music played, and Gordie Kunzelman led the festivities. Dinner was provided by Smokehouse 52 BBQ/Tolliver family – All Star/Major Dinner sponsors. Home Run sponsor Medina's Take Out, along with every other sponsor, donor, ticket holder, and volunteer were integral to the Draw Down's success. Stockbridge Athletic Boosters is extremely proud and thankful to be a part of this amazing community!

Many thanks to our sponsors: All Star/Major Dinner:

Smokehouse 52 BBQ/Tolliver Family; Home Run: Medina's Take Out; Kick-Off: Abbott & Fillmore - InsuranceMichigan.com, Belfost Construction, Boyd Heating & Cooling, Bramlett Heating and Cooling, Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Carney's Complete Auto Service, Chelsea State Bank, Chelsea Wellness Center, Eaton Community Bank, Mike Groeller (Hungry Howies), Tracey Hernly & Co., My Body Shop, Ransom & Salow Brothers Farm, The Rush TV*, TWO MEN AND A TRUCK; Hometown: Anonymous, Classic Pizza, Dragline Works, FiveOneSeven Salon/Spa, George and Sons Tire, LLC, Cassie Horstman**, Jason's Tech Services, JWC Concrete, Mike and Tina's Party Store, MC Creative Design & Photography**, Modern Moxy, Nick Proctor, Ralph's Gun Shop**, Secret Crisis Comics, The State Bank, Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition, Stockbridge Hometown Pharmacy, Stockbridge Lions Club and www.chrisyoungcomic.com; as well as: Hind Sight, Inc., Mugg & Bopps, and Stockbridge Jr/Sr High School.

*Denotes In-Kind and **Additional In-Kind with \$ sponsorship.

JOHNSON'S SERVICES LLC – Excavating & Trucking

Concrete Tear Out, Demos, Dozer Work, Drain Fields, Driveways, Material Moving, Site Work, etc.

BRIAN JOHNSON
517-985-6095
FREE ESTIMATES
Stockbridge, MI
JohnsonsServicesLLC@Yahoo.com

Jim's Gutter Service

Seamless Aluminum Gutters
Installation or Repairs
Cleaning and Screening

Jim Weiland
Free Estimates ~ Insured

517-851-4673

SEWING AND ALTERATIONS

DOROTHY CRAFT

4425 BROGAN ROAD
STOCKBRIDGE, MI.
adcrafft@fnwusers.com
517-490-1481 or 517-851-7934

STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES February 19, 2023

Stockbridge Township Supervisor CG Lantis called the Regular Stockbridge Township Board Meeting to order on February 19, 2024, at 7:00pm at the Stockbridge Township Hall. Members present at the Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting; Supervisor CG Lantis, Treasurer James Wireman, Trustee Ed Wetherell Member absent Clerk Becky Muraf, Trustee Terry Sommer

Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence
Wireman Motion to approve the Stockbridge Township Monthly Board meeting agenda as printed Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried
Citizen Comments: Discussion
Wetherell Motion to approve the Stockbridge Township meeting minutes as printed from January 15, 2024, and February 7, 2024, Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried
Wireman Motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Financial Report as printed Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried
Stockbridge Township last quarter Building Report of 2023 is as follows. Zoning Permits: 2 new permits. Building permits: 6 new permits. (4 Roofs, 1 new house, 1 Pole Barn Addition) Electrical permits: 7 new permits. Mechanical permits: 11 new permits. Plumbing permits: 1 new permit. Driveway Permits: no new permits. Address Permits: no new permits. Demolition Permits: no new permits.
Stockbridge Village Police are looking to cover Stockbridge Township for a cost of \$70,000 a year for policing 24/7.
Wireman Motion to approve the Stockbridge Township quote to paint the walls and shelves of the Stockbridge Library while CADL is renovation the Stockbridge Library Later in 2024 Wetherell Second Roll Call Vote Wetherell Yes, Wireman Yes, Lantis Yes All in Favor Motion Carried

Wireman Motion to approve Poverty Exemptions as printed Wetherell Second DETERMINED BY INGHAM COUNTY EQUALIZATION DEPARTMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS: CLASS Tentative Ratios Multipliers Agricultural 48.11 1.0393 Commercial 47.57 1.0511 Industrial 48.68 1.0271 Residential 46.87 1.0668 Personal 50.00 1.0000 All in Favor Motion Carried
Stockbridge Open Air Market will be on Fridays from May 2024 thru October 2024
Lantis motion to table TextMyGov Wetherell Second All in Favor Item Tabled
Wireman motion to increase Stockbridge Township Assessor Coucke Property pay by 10% and approve Coucke Property Contract for assessing for Stockbridge Township Wetherell second Roll call vote Wetherell Yes, Wireman Yes, Lantis Yes. All in Favor Motion Called
Wireman motion to accept West Shore Services contract for up to \$5,000.00 for maintenance of the weather sirens in Stockbridge Township Wetherell Second Roll Call vote Wetherell Yes, Wireman Yes, Lantis Yes All in Favor Motion Carried
Wetherell motion to spend \$ 798.00 with Spartan Irrigation Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried
Wireman Motion to spend \$13,900 on BS&A software upgrade Wetherell Second Roll Call Vote Wetherell Yes, Wireman Yes, Lantis Yes All in favor Motion Carried
Stockbridge Township is looking to schedule a Cleanup Day in early spring dates will be discussed on March 18, 2024 Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting
Wireman motion to pay the Stockbridge Township Monthly bills in the amount of \$65,165.97 Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried
Citizen Comment Discussion
Lantis Motion to adjourn the Stockbridge Township regular monthly meeting at 8:35PM on February 19, 2024
BM



DROWNING IN DEBT?

McGivney Law Firm, PLLC

104 W. Main St., Stockbridge, MI 49285

517.851.7507

No charge for initial consultation

"We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code."

Bankruptcy might be the answer. Save your home and get rid of credit card debt.



Susan Pidd REALTY

A REALTOR YOU CAN TRUST

C: 517-775-1610 | O: 517-851-7568

New office location next to the library:

114 Wood St., Stockbridge

SusanPiddRealty@gmail.com

734.498.3476

www.cts-tax.com



Smart Business Solutions

TAXES & ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Your partner in tax preparation, bookkeeping & operational support

Community Calendar

- Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** – Prepared Meals for Seniors, noon to 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center
 - Wednesdays** – Family Storytime (Ages up to 6), 10:30 to 11 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
 - Occasional Fridays (Call Library for dates)** – Keep Calm and Carry Yarn, 1 to 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
 - March 4** - National Honor Society Blood Drive at Stockbridge Jr/Sr High School
 - March 5** - Stockbridge Community Outreach Fundraiser hosted by Smokehouse 52 BBQ in Chelsea, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Smokehouse 52 BBQ
 - March 6** - Panther Cubs PTO Meeting, 4 to 5 p.m. at Heritage Elementary
 - March 6** - Parent University, 6 to 7 p.m. at Smith Elementary
 - March 9** - Old Time Maple Syrup Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Eddy Discovery Center
 - March 9** - Chicken Supper, 5 p.m.- til sold out at the Plainfield Methodist Church
 - March 10-16** - Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation Online Festival of Tables Auction (see page 7 for more information)
 - March 11** - Stockbridge Community Schools School Board Meeting, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Smith Elementary
 - March 16** - Diana Stampfler's "Ladies of the Lights" presentation, 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library
 - March 17** - St. Patrick's Day
 - March 17** - Snakes and Turtles Live! 2 to 3 p.m. at the Eddy Discovery Center
 - March 20** - Pete the Cat will be at Family Storytime, 10:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library
 - March 24** - What You Need to Know about Michigan Ticks, 2 to 3 p.m. at the Eddy Discovery Center
 - March 25-29** - Stockbridge Community Schools Spring Break
 - March 29** - Good Friday
 - March 31** - Easter. See page 14 or Local Church Events
- For more community events visit: www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com. To add your community events to our free community calendar, email submissions to stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com.**

Abbott, poet at heart page 6

Marge was born on Friday the 13th, in May 1910, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. As a child, she migrated back and forth between Toronto and Detroit with her grandparents for her grandfather's work as a carpenter.

At 21, she began the five-year process of obtaining her American citizenship. A short time later, she met Wendell Abbott, who would become her husband in 1935. The newlyweds relocated to Grass Lake and later settled in Stockbridge as home.

Marge graduated from the Detroit Business Institute in 1932. With her degree, she secured a position as an executive secretary at the Socony (Mobil) Oil Co. Later, the Abbotts started their own business by selling license plates for the state of Michigan out of their home. The company gradually grew to include real estate and insurance sales. The Abbott & Fillmore Agency Inc. is one of Stockbridge's oldest businesses still in operation.

Marge lived a long, full life and died in 2013 at age 102, just a few months short of her 103rd birthday.

See additional photos at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.



Because Everyone Deserves a Beautiful Smile

Our Stockbridge location:
100 West Main Street
517-851-8008



www.adiskafamilydental.com

North Stockbridge Cemetery Association Notice of Annual Meeting

We look forward to seeing you at the 2024 meeting to be held:

April 18, 2024 at 7:30 pm at the White Oak Township Hall
1002 S. M-52 Webberville, MI 48892

There are currently lots for sale at the North Stockbridge Cemetery. Prices are: full lot (4 burial sites), \$1,200; half-lot (2 burial sites), \$700; single lot (1 burial site), \$400. Contact Glen at (517) 331-2489 or Chad at (517) 206-7854 for more information or to purchase.

The North Stockbridge Cemetery Association members would like to remind all current and future lot owners that there are to be no permanent or movable lot "adornments" put in place without specific permission from the Cemetery Sexton.

Submitted by: Lora McAdams

Secretary, North Stockbridge Cemetery Association 517-812-2109

STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

Competitive cheer season ends at districts



The Stockbridge competitive cheer team lets the fans hear it at a jamboree. Photo by Mike Williamson

The Panthers competed Jan. 27 in the Michigan Center Invite and finished 14 out of 17 teams.

Stockbridge opened strong and was in 12th-place after the first round, but had a rough round two and dropped two spots.

The Panthers wrapped things up with a score of 235 in the final round to earn the 14th-place finish.

Panthers boys varsity basketball team confident and ready for state playoff run



Joey Ballagh drives to the basket for the Panthers. Photo by Mike Williamson

Kegan Collins led the Panthers with 15 points.

Joey Ballagh added 13 points and Brock Rochow eight. Shannon Henderson chipped in with six points, Drew Robinson and Foster Pybus four points each and Jacob Dalton one.

On Feb. 2, the Panthers defeated Calhoun Christian 78-20.

Collins led Stockbridge with 17 points. Ballagh added 16 points and Dalton 10. Zach Fletcher finished with eight points, Henderson seven, and Robinson four.

Stockbridge dropped a tough 65-62 decision to Clinton Feb. 10.

Collins tied the school record held by Joey Ballagh and Skeeter Ballagh with seven 3-pointers in the game and finished with 25 points to lead the Panthers.

Ballagh added 10 points and Dalton seven. Rochow chipped in with nine points, Robinson and Fletcher four each, Pybus two, and Henderson one.

The Panthers defeated Bronson 66-51 on Feb. 16.

Collins once again led the Panthers with 18 points.

Ballagh added 14 points, Dalton eight, Robinson six, Fletcher five, and Rochow two.

See Boys Basketball on page 19.

by Mike Williamson

The varsity competitive cheer team saw its season end Feb. 16 with a ninth-place finish at the D4 Districts at St. Charles.

The Panthers finished with a score of 580.1 in the meet that was dominated by Merrill with a 756.08 score.

Stockbridge was in 10th place after the opening round, but a strong showing in the second rounds pushed

the Panthers past Webberville. The team held on to the ninth spot by five points over the Spartans.

Wrestlers improve to complete season with a strong finish



Jayson Conant works toward a pin for the Panthers. Photo by Mike Williamson

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge wrestling team continued to improve as the season went on and picked up three dual-meet wins in the last couple of weeks of the season before it ended in districts.

The Panthers split a pair of matches at a Bath tri-meet, defeating the Bees 29-24 and falling to Perry.

Jayson Conant, Jason Porzio and Camron Stratton picked up wins in the Bath match to help the Panthers pull out the win.

Stockbridge took 10th place at the Lakewood Invitational.

Jayson Conant earned a fourth-place finish by going 2-2 on the day at 126 pounds.

Chris Conant also went 2-2 on the day, but did not place for the Panthers. Marcus Pikur earned seven points for the Panthers with a pair of wins, while Stratton earned one win for Stockbridge.

The Panthers then picked up a pair of wins at the Dansville quad meet.

They defeated the Aggies 33-24 and Fulton 36-21.

Jayson Conant, Pikur and Porzio were all victorious against Fulton, while Mateo Ortiz-Martinez, Evan Arbenewske, Chris Conant, Pikur and Stratton all earned wins against Dansville.

The Panthers season came to an end at team districts when Williamston swept the Panthers with a 72-0 win.

The individual district saw Stratton finish in fourth place and qualify for regionals.

Stratton went 2-2 on the day to earn the fourth-place finish. Unfortunately, he was not able to compete in the regionals the following weekend.

Big 8 Conference: Good fit for school size, distance a challenge

by Mike Williamson

Stockbridge athletic teams will return to conference play in the 2024-2025 school year with the announcement of the Panthers being accepted into the Big 8 Conference.

The Panthers played as an independent in 2023-2024 after the disbandment of the Greater Lansing Athletic Conference in 2023.

The Big 8 consists of teams in Branch, Jackson and Hillsdale counties.

Based on 2023 school counts, the Panthers will be the second largest school in the conference with Quincy at 384 students and Stockbridge at 374. Other members of the Big 8 include Bronson (320), Union City (300), Springport (289), Reading (219) and Concord (200).

Stockbridge will be reunited with former GLAC foe Vermontville Maple Valley (235) with the Lions joining the Big 8 this year.

While school size is a good fit for the Panthers, there is quite a distance between some of the schools. The distance from Stockbridge to each of the other conference schools is: Bronson 90 miles, Reading 64 miles, Union City 64 miles, Quincy 62 miles, Maple Valley 59 miles, Concord 36 miles and Springport 31 miles.

In comparison, the Panthers made trips to Lakewood (69 miles), Olivet (41 miles), Perry (39 miles), Lansing Christian (35 miles) and Leslie (15 miles) while in the GLAC.

See Big 8 on page 19.

STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

Lady Panthers basketball team shocks state-ranked Jackson Northwest



Alaina Kellenberger works toward the basket for the Panthers. Photo by Mike Williamson

The Panthers dominated the Mounties from the start, jumping out to a 13-2 lead after one quarter and never looked back.

Stockbridge continued to pour it on in the second by outscoring Northwest 18-11 to take a 31-13 lead into halftime.

The lead grew to over 20 in the third and with every run the Mounties made, the Panthers had an answer and held a 45-24 lead after three quarters.

Northwest would get within 15 a couple of times in the final quarter, but the Panthers would hold them off and seal the win in the final minutes of the game.

Gracee Robidou had a huge night for the Panthers with a team-high 23 points, including three long-range triples. She added three assists and three steals on the night.

Taylor Lockhart was a force for the Panthers with a double-double of 21 points and 13 rebounds, with two assists and two steals.

Alaina Kellenberger dominated down low with nine points and grabbed a team-high 14 rebounds to go along with seven assists.

Melina Sayre, who moved into the starting lineup midway through the season, chipped in with five points, while Maddie Dalton had a strong all-around game with two points, five rebounds, four steals and three assists.

The Panthers took on Division 3's top-ranked team Ypsilanti Arbor Prep Jan. 26 and held their own for three of the four quarters, but it was the third quarter that did the Panthers in and the No. 1-ranked Gators took down the Panthers 61-39.

Stockbridge battled the Gators tough in the first half, trailing Arbor Prep 31-26 at the break.

The wheels came off the bus for the Panthers in the third when the Gators showed why they are the top-ranked team in the state and went on a 21-0 run to blow the game open and take a 52-26 lead after three.

Stockbridge continued to fight in the fourth, outscoring Arbor Prep 13-9, but it wasn't enough.

Kellenberger picked up a double-double of 12 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Panthers.

Lockhart added nine points and eight rebounds, while Sayre chipped in with eight points and six boards. Robidou and Dalton finished with five points each.

On Jan. 29, Stockbridge bounced back and rallied in the fourth quarter to beat former GLAC rival Olivet 42-38.

The Panthers trailed the Eagles 31-30 after three periods, but outscored Olivet 12-7 in the final quarter to pull out the win.

Robidou led the Panthers with 17 points and four rebounds.

Kellenberger added eight points and eight rebounds, while Sayre finished with eight points.

Lockhart chipped in with four points and seven rebounds, Dalton three points and four boards, and Emma Monahan two points.

The Panthers then fell to D3 honorable mention Ovid-Elsie 64-50 on Feb. 6.

Kellenberger had a huge night with 17 points, 16 rebounds, and five assists to lead Stockbridge.

Robidou added 11 points, while Dalton had seven points and three assists. Lockhart scored eight points and grabbed five rebounds, Monahan chipped in with four points, and Sayre three points.

Boys basketball page 18

On Feb. 6, the Panthers took down Ovid-Elsie 56-43.

Collins led the way with 19 points.

Ballagh finished with 14 and Fletcher 11. Dalton added eight points and Henderson one.

Stockbridge will be in district play at Laingsburg. The team is ranked as the No. 2 seed and is scheduled to play the winner of Leslie and Bath in the semifinals Feb. 28.

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge girls basketball team turned some heads Feb. 9 after a stunning 60-37 rout of Division 1 seventh-ranked Jackson Northwest.

Pulling the upset was not a big surprise, but the way the Panthers blew out the Mounties and handed them just their second loss of the season was an eye-opener for teams in the Lansing and Jackson areas.

Playing as an independent, the Panthers loaded their schedule with strong competition and the game against Northwest was the sixth matchup with a state-ranked team this season. It appears the tough schedule has the Lady Panthers clicking with the playoffs just around the corner.

The win lifted Stockbridge to 9-6 on the season, with five of those losses coming to ranked teams and the other to a strong Leslie team that is 13-3 on the season.

Alaina Kellenberger signs to continue playing basketball at Rochester University



Alaina Kellenberger announces she will play college basketball at Rochester University. Photo by Susan Lockhart

by Mike Williamson
Stockbridge senior Alaina Kellenberger knew from her first visit that Rochester University was the right choice for her to go to play college basketball.

Basketball wasn't even her sport of choice growing up. "I always thought soccer would be my sport until one of the parents from my soccer team saw my height and talked me into basketball," Kellenberger said. "I would say I really started to like the sport in about sixth grade when I started travel ball and began to be coordinated and learn the sport better."

Kellenberger is a three-year varsity starter that has averaged nearly a double-double for her Stockbridge career that isn't done just yet. She is averaging 11.9 points and 9.9 rebounds per game to this point.

Kellenberger will be studying nursing and hopes to become a NICU nurse one day. "My travel league director always told us we will feel it when we have found our right fit at a college," Kellenberger said. "When I went to Rochester for the first time on a visit, I felt that I was at home. The coaches were so nice and the girls on the team were very welcoming. I also discovered how great the nursing program is and knew it would be good for me."

When asked about the biggest highlight of her career, Kellenberger didn't really have one.

"It is not really a highlight, but it has meant so much to me to be able to play with some of the same girls from third grade until now," Kellenberger said. "I have played with Maddie Dalton and Taylor Lockhart since we were young, and both of their parents played a huge part in my basketball career."

Alaina added that traveling was a big highlight for her. "I have also loved being able to travel the Midwest with my travel ball team and we even got to go to Florida."

Kellenberger mentioned all her coaches in influencing her throughout her career, but one really stood out to her.

"Coach Susan Lockhart has played one of the biggest roles for me," Kellenberger said. "She is so good at what she does and has been with me since third grade. She does so much behind the scenes, for not just me but the whole team."

Kellenberger also mentioned her parents as being big motivators throughout her playing career.

"I just want everyone to know how grateful I am for everyone who has helped or supported me throughout the process," Kellenberger said.

Big 8 page 18

Sand Creek will play a Big 8 Conference schedule in football in the fall of 2024, but will remain in the Tri-County Conference for the Aggies' other sports. Concord plays eight-man football and will not field a team in the Big 8.

Stockbridge made recent attempts to join the Cascades Conference in the Jackson area and the CMAC in the Lansing area, but those efforts were unsuccessful.

The Stockbridge School Board made the move official with a vote at a Feb. 12 meeting.

See related story on page 1.



Jennifer Matthews

Bridge to Wellness

Vaping is not the harmless alternative to cigarettes you may think it is

by Jennifer Matthews, RN

Vaping was initially thought to be a safe alternative, designed to help people quit smoking harmful cigarettes. Vaping quickly became more than an alternative; in fact, many people who vape have never smoked. Vaping is

now being marketed in the same way that cigarettes were, with multiple flavors and marketing ploys. **So, what is vaping exactly?**

Vaping is when you use a hand-held electronic device to breathe a mist (vapor) into your lungs. The solution being inhaled often includes liquid nicotine, flavoring propylene glycol as well as other additives. Although we are focusing on nicotine here, other drugs can also be vaped, including THC and CBD.

Opinions vary about whether vaping is better for you than cigarettes. Although the research is new, it does show that the substances found in vape cartridges could be as harmful, if not more harmful, than cigarettes. Inhaling foreign substances into your lungs always has the potential to put you at risk for lung issues and disease.

Health problems that could result from vaping

Following is an extensive list of health issues that may be caused by vaping.

- Asthma: Vaping puts you at greater risk for asthma and other lung conditions.
- Lung scarring: Some of the chemicals used for flavoring can cause bronchiolitis obliterans or "popcorn lung," a permanent scarring of the lungs.
- Organ damage: Your lungs are not the only organ that can be affected by e-liquid. Nicotine and other substances can hurt brain development, raise your blood pressure, and narrow your arteries.
- EVALI: This is a serious lung condition similar to emphysema, which causes widespread damage to the lungs and results in coughing, shortness of breath, and chest pain. EVALI stands for e-cigarette or vaping use-associated lung injury, and it can be a fatal illness.
- Addiction: Nicotine is extremely addictive. It causes changes to your neurological system that make you want more and more nicotine. Many people are unable to stop vaping, even when they want to, due to the addictive properties of nicotine.
- Cigarette smoking: Many people who start out vaping end up switching to cigarettes.
- Second-hand exposure: Vaping doesn't create smoke, but the people around you are exposed to nicotine and other chemicals when you vape.
- Explosions: Batteries in electronic smoking devices have been known to explode and cause serious burns.
- Cancer: Some ingredients in e-liquid are known to cause certain cancers.

Vaping and teens

Unfortunately, flavors and marketing make e-cigarettes appealing to teens. The use of vapes and e-cigarettes is on the rise among this age group in the U.S. Teenage brains are not fully developed, so the damage from vaping can be worse. In 2022, the CDC found that 2.55 million U.S. middle school and high school students reported current use of vapes (within the last 30 days).

Let's be good examples and help change this statistic in our community. Resources for smoking cessation can be found at www.smokefree.gov.

Sources:

- www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p1007-e-cigarette-use.html
- my.clevelandclinic.org/health/treatments/21162-vaping

This column is sponsored by the Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition. Jennifer Matthews, RN, is a registered nurse in the Stockbridge School system. She has worked as a community nurse for the last eight years and is an active volunteer within the Jackson County foster care system. Jen has a passion for helping individuals advocate for their health and learn to navigate the health care system.



Clyde's Corner page 14

Behind the family home on Maple Street is about 30 acres of natural beauty. Years ago, Dr. Beckwith contacted the Stockbridge FFA to come out and plant spruce and pinewood in the Beckwith woods, which eventually became known as the "Beckwith Preserve."



The Beckwith house on Maple Street in Stockbridge. Frances (Beckwith) and Campbell Laird currently reside in the family home. Photo credit Clyde Whitaker

The Beckwiths originally lived on Main Street in Stockbridge, moving to Maple Street in 1948, where Fran and Campbell Laird still reside.

Dr. Beckwith was involved in the community in many ways, as president of the School Board, head of the Village Council, helping out at the Waterloo Farm Museum, and acting in the community plays.

Dr. Beckwith passed away in 1982 at the age of 72. Hattie Beckwith passed away in 1995.

A life well lived, Dr. Beckwith certainly left his mark on Stockbridge and we were fortunate that he chose Stockbridge to serve in his practice.

Stockbridge thanks you, Dr. Sidney Beckwith, and so do I.

See additional photos at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com

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.



Although the research is new, it does show that substances found in vape cartridges could be as harmful, if not more harmful, than cigarettes. Image credit: Wikimedia.org (CDC: What is the bottom line?)

CHELSEA FARMERS MARKET

A March Pop Up

SUNDAY | MARCH 17 | 11 TO 3:30PM

Artisan Gifts & Wares

Produce Honey Textiles

Jams/Preserves Soap Eggs

Baked Deliciousness

Beeswax Goods

And much more!

At the Chelsea Depot
125 Jackson St. Chelsea, MI
www.chelseafarmersmkt.org

Staff Spotlight: A well-deserved shout-out to Smith Elementary secretary Misty Welch



Don Porter

by Don Porter

This month Staff Spotlight is circling back to Smith Elementary to feature Misty Welch, school secretary.

Welch grew up with her mom, dad and two younger sisters in neighboring Chelsea on North Lake just a short distance from Unadilla. Their home included living quarters for her great-grandmother. According to Welch, this was a special time for her, and she describes her great-grandmother as "her person." No doubt her person had a positive influence on the adult Misty was to become.

Welch met her husband while attending school in Chelsea. They've been together for about 16 years and have been married 11 of those years. She and her husband have two daughters and bought their first house in Stockbridge.

While attending Chelsea High School and graduating in 2008 she was able to take classes for early childhood education. It was during that experience that she learned how much she enjoyed working with children. But following high school, she attended Baker College where she received a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Upon completion, she still knew she wanted to work with children, so she considered going back to school to get a teaching degree. While her daughter was in kindergarten at Smith, she saw the posting for the position of school secretary and decided to apply. She thought of this as "a perfect way to use my degree, work with children and be in the same building as my daughter."

Welch has now been at Smith Elementary for four years and has a number of positive experiences since joining the team there.

"I truly love my job," says Welch. "I don't get just 25 students in a class; I get a school full! I get to help students every day with various needs—whether they're sick, trying to get papers organized, or I just give a smile and wave as they walk by."

Smith's secretary prides herself on presenting a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for everyone.

"I get to work in an environment full of fantastic co-workers who all have the same common goals of providing the best educational experience and atmosphere for students," she said. "It is a joy to watch them come in the first day of school—no matter what grade—and then see the growth at the end of the year."

When away from work, Welch enjoys being a wife and mother. Her other interests include cooking, camping, and watching her girls participate in sports.

Smith Elementary has weekly Shout Outs and recently one anonymous contributor had this to say about Welch:

"I want to shout from the rooftop how amazing Misty is! Misty always jumps at an opportunity to help others. She takes care of every kiddo like they are her own. Misty is the heart of the office, and we are super lucky to have her with us."

Smith Elementary Principal Brad Edwards agrees, and he added his own thoughts about working with Welch.

"Misty Welch is the heart and the face of Smith Elementary School. She makes students, families and staff all feel welcome and taken care of, and that is what you want from a building secretary. She is definitely a do-it-all person. Nothing phases her. She's always laid back, cool, calm, and collected."

In my own 30 years as a school administrator in Stockbridge, I had the privilege to work with well over a dozen secretaries. It is a demanding job, and they must wear a lot of hats. All of the individuals whom I worked with were terrific and cared about their school and their job. Misty Welch sure seems to fit that mold, and Stockbridge is fortunate to have her.

I found this poem about school secretaries, and after interviewing Misty Welch, it hit the mark.

Endless phone calls you will take.
Endless deadlines you will make.
Answering questions, all day long.
Making sure, nothing goes wrong.
Your organization is beyond compare.
Knowing exactly what to find and where.
Your smile reaches far and near,
And tells all they are welcome here.
Thank you, Secretary, for all you do.
We would be lost without you!

—Author Unknown

Don Porter is a former Stockbridge Schools deputy superintendent. He also served as assistant principal at the Jr./Sr. High School, and then principal at Smith Elementary, Katz Elementary, and Heritage School. He and his wife, Tammy, live in Stockbridge and enjoy fly fishing, golf, traveling, and working in the yard.

Rock 'n' Roll Trivia page 9

Q: I'd like to know please about the Ricky Nelson song "Fools Rush In." I know it was a remake and I'd like to know who did it first.

A: "Fools Rush In" was a No. 12 hit for Ricky Nelson in the fall of 1963. It was originally a No. 1 hit for Glenn Miller and His Orchestra in 1940. It also hit the pop charts for Brook Benton in 1960 and Etta James in 1962.

Q: I've been a longtime fan of Sweet's music and wanted to know if you could just give me a little info on how they started!

A: The British band Sweet left us with a total of nine chart singles from 1971-1978, the most popular being "Little Willy" (1973), "Ballroom Blitz" (1975), "Fox On The Run" (1975), and "Love Is Like Oxygen" (1978). They originated in 1965, with members Brian Connolly and Mick Tucker from the band Wainwright's Gentlemen. In 1968, the two left to form a new band, which they named Sweetshop but soon shortened it to Sweet, so they wouldn't be confused with an already-established band called Sweetshop. Their music style was an attempt to combine bubblegum music with a harder edge, like The Who or The Rolling Stones, along with harmonies like The Hollies. They also dabbled in Glam Rock (dressing like Queen) but soon dropped it. They were dry on the charts for a two-year period between 1973-1975. Connolly was attacked in 1974 before going onstage, resulting in a bruised throat so he couldn't sing. The band stayed low until they came back big with "Ballroom Blitz" in the summer of '75.

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.

Outreach in Action

A weekly Outreach playgroup has sprouted for parents and children

by Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall

A seed was planted last year when the new diaper bank in Chelsea began to deliver diapers to Outreach for Stockbridge clients with babies and young children. And in February 2024, a seedling sprouted—Outreach started a weekly playgroup for parents and children!

Outreach was fortunate to have former kindergarten teacher Diane Tandy agree to serve at the helm of this new project, which is designed for Outreach clients with young children.

Tandy, a member of the Outreach board of directors, has a sparkling track record for rolling up her sleeves to pitch in for Outreach. She has been a core member of the team that prepares over 100 Tide Me Over bags weekly. (Tide Me Over began more than a decade ago and is responsible for sending packed food bags home with preschool, elementary and older students as a weekend food supplement.)

Tandy infuses the new, one-hour-per-week Outreach playgroup with excitement and enthusiasm. She hopes to help parents make new connections, learn useful parenting tips, and play and learn with their children.

A part-time worker at the drop-in child care program at Chelsea Wellness Center, Tandy brings experience and skills to the new Outreach effort. Her own personal collection of books and toys helps outfit the room.

Tandy bristles a bit at the idea that this new undertaking is "just" a playgroup.

"Play is learning! It is the work that children have to do in order to make sense of their world. They need to touch things, manipulate them and, particularly, learn how to share them with others," she says.

Tandy adds, "I'm hoping that parents have some fun and learn some beneficial ways to interact with their kids. Meeting new adult friends who can support each other through the challenge of raising responsible, healthy, and happy kids is also an important part of this program."

The Outreach team has scrambled to find just the right equipment and furniture for this new venture and will fill out the room at the Stockbridge Activity Center as the program moves forward. But, thankfully, the most important part is covered—we have parents and children and a loving, caring, knowledgeable teacher!

Mark your calendar: On Tuesday, March 5, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Smokehouse 52 BBQ in Chelsea will host a buffet dinner as a fundraiser for Stockbridge Community Outreach. Some of the proceeds will help pay for costs associated with the new playgroup. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information, please contact Outreach at 517-851-7285 or online at www.stockbridgecommunityoutreach.org.



"Play is learning," and the Outreach playgroup room has been set up with that in mind.

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.



Former kindergarten teacher and Outreach board member Diane Tandy prepares for the Outreach playgroup—a new endeavor for Outreach clients who have young children. Photo credits Jo Mayer

Boyd Heating and Cooling, Inc.

Bryant Dealer
"Whatever it Takes"

New Construction / System Replacements
<http://www.boydhc.com>



Mike Boyd - Owner
517.851.7557 office
517.812.7127 cell
3410 Morton Rd., Stockbridge







we care about your
community. because
it's our community too.

simple human sense.



517-851-7777
InsuranceMichigan.com
 Instant Quotes at InsuranceDog.com

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Ask an Expert page 12

Improved fuel efficiency. AI technology also can help improve the fuel efficiency of automobiles, reducing their carbon footprint and saving drivers money on fuel costs. With the help of AI algorithms, vehicles can optimize their fuel consumption based on driving conditions, such as speed, traffic and road surface. AI also can adjust the engine's performance and optimize the transmission to reduce fuel consumption.

Advanced infotainment systems. AI algorithms can learn about the driver's preferences and adjust the music, temperature and seating position accordingly. AI also can provide drivers with real-time traffic updates, weather forecasts, and other useful information.

Advanced infotainment systems are becoming increasingly common in modern cars, with many cars now featuring touch screens, voice commands and other interactive features. These systems can help drivers stay connected and informed while on the road, improving their overall driving experience.

Predictive maintenance. AI technology can monitor the vehicle's health and detect potential issues before they occur, preventing breakdowns and reducing maintenance costs. Predictive maintenance systems use AI algorithms to analyze data from the vehicle's sensors and identify potential problems before they become serious.

Personalized advertising. With the help of AI algorithms, vehicles can display personalized advertisements to passengers based on their interests and preferences. This could be a major revenue stream for car manufacturers, as well as a way to enhance the driving experience for passengers.

Better traffic management. AI algorithms can analyze traffic patterns and adjust traffic flow to reduce congestion and improve efficiency. Traffic management systems use AI to monitor traffic patterns and adjust traffic lights and other infrastructure to improve traffic flow.

Improved navigation. AI algorithms can provide drivers with real-time navigation updates, including information about traffic conditions, alternative routes and estimated travel times.

Navigation systems also can learn about the driver's preferences and adjust the route accordingly, such as avoiding toll roads or highways.

Efficient delivery systems. AI-powered delivery systems can optimize delivery routes and schedules, reducing the time and resources required to deliver goods. With the help of AI algorithms, delivery vehicles can optimize their routes based on factors such as traffic conditions, delivery location, and package size.

Improved customer service. AI technology also can help improve customer service in the automobile industry, making it easier for customers to get the help they need. With the help of AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants, customers can get answers to their questions quickly and easily, without having to wait on hold or speak with a representative.

Conclusion. AI technology has the potential to revolutionize the automobile industry, improving safety, efficiency and customer satisfaction. While many of these applications are still in the early stages of development, the future looks bright for AI-powered automobiles.

As technology continues to advance, we can expect to see even more exciting developments in this field, making driving safer, more efficient, and more enjoyable for everyone.

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.

SASC page 8

It does take some dedication and time, but in the end, when you can see how it benefits so many people in a positive way, you will be glad you made the choice to join the board.

The members of the Stockbridge Area Senior Center board of directors are SASC ambassadors, always representing the organization in their personal and professional lives, telling the story of the center and garnering support through membership, volunteerism, and encouraging in-kind and financial contributions.

If board service appeals to you, please consider reaching out to one of our Stockbridge Area Senior Center board members to learn more. You may call 517-480-0353 or email sasc49285@gmail.com.

We are currently seeking members with specific skillsets to round out our leadership team. We'd love to explore the opportunity with you.

Stacey Glemser is vice president of the board of directors of the Stockbridge Area Senior Center (SASC)—a great place to spend time. Visit stockbridgeareaseniors.org or call 517-480-0353 for information.



Yes! We offer Subscriptions

Have an out-of-town family member or friend who would enjoy reading the Stockbridge Community News?



Give the gift that keeps on giving. Purchase a 12-month subscription for only \$35.

Email us at:

StockbridgeCommunityNews@gmail.com

or mail form with check to:

Subscriptions
PO Box 83,
Gregory, MI 48137

*A great gift idea
for family and
friends!*

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

— Subscription Form —

A 12-month subscription may be purchased for \$35.



Name

Address

Email

Payment Type: Cash Check

Please mail this form along with payment to: Stockbridge Community News, P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137. Make checks payable to SCN.

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

— Donation Form —



Name

Address

Email

Amount

Please mail donations to: Stockbridge Community News, P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137. Make checks payable to SCN. Donations may not be tax deductible.

thank
you

The Stockbridge Community News team would like to thank those who have sent donations after our notice in last month's issue. Special thanks to those listed below whose donations were received between February 1-24, 2024. We truly appreciate the support of our community, and we look forward to continuing to provide a quality, local paper. Donations can be sent to Stockbridge Community News at P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137

- Denise & Larry Allen
- Bradly & Barbara Atkin
- David Auge & Sandy Wright-Auge
- Kathleen Comisiak
- Donald Hannewald Construction
- Patricia & Robert Fineman
- Rebecca Glenn
- Mitch & Wendy Hause
- Gloria Heeney
- Ronald Hoffman
- Robert & Carol Mayor
- Fred & Jill Moon
- Duane & Judith Newland
- Camilla Noah
- Angelo & Ruth Anne Parente
- Corey Peña
- Kathleen Peterson
- Jaryn & Justin Richardson
- June & Bernard Risner
- Linda & Clair Risner
- David Rowse & Kristen Fillmore
- Ralph Schumacher
- Connie Spadafore
- Christine & Duane Walker
- Larry & Jane Wilkin
- Gary & Marlene Young



All proceeds to support
Stockbridge Athletic Boosters and
Stockbridge Athletics

**Thank you sponsors for your
generous support!**

**Abbott & Fillmore -
InsuranceMichigan.com**
Belfost Construction
Boyd Heating & Cooling
Bramlett Heating and Cooling

Anonymous
Classic Pizza
Dragline Works
FiveOneSeven Salon/Spa
George and Sons Tire, LLC

Cassie Horstman**
Jason's Tech Services
JWC Concrete
Mike and Tina's Party Store
MC Creative Design**

**Caskey-Mitchell
Funeral Home**
**Carney's Complete
Auto Service**
Chelsea State Bank

Modern Moxie
Nick Proctor
Ralph's Gun Shop**
Secret Crisis Comics
The State Bank

Chelsea Wellness Center
Eaton Community Bank
**Mike Groeller
(Hungry Howies)**
Tracey Hernly & Co.

Stockbridge Area
Wellness Coalition
Stockbridge
Hometown Pharmacy
Stockbridge Lions Club



**MEDINA'S
TAKE OUT**

My Body Shop
**Ransom & Salow
Brothers Farm**
The Rush TV*
TWO MEN AND A TRUCK

www.chrisyoungcomic.com
Gordie Kunzelman*
Hind Sight, Inc.*
Mugg & Bopps*
Stockbridge Jr/Sr High School*

*In-Kind Donation **In-Kind and \$ Donation