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## Stockbridge students attend State FFA Convention, receive numerous awards



Stockbridge FFA members receive their team awards at the State FFA Convention. Pictured (L-R): Savanna Bennett, Klara Hays, Clarissa Hill, Alan Hill, Michaela Hill, Brooke Kunzelman and Laura Humrich. Photo credit Robert Richards

by Eliana Johnson, FFA Chapter Reporter

Since the creation of FFA in 1928, each state individually hosts an annual state convention. This year's State FFA Convention was held at Michigan State University. All 127 chartered FFA chapters and more than 1,000 students in the state of Michigan attended, including the Stockbridge FFA Chapter.

Over the course of all three days, 16 members from the Stockbridge FFA Chapter attended this event. They observed several contests, took various farm tours and participated in multiple sessions, learning everything from public speaking skills to postnatal foal care.

See Stockbridge FFA on page 12.

## Stockbridge Township Hall renovations complete after yearlong construction project



The Stockbridge Township Hall meeting room, kitchen and bathrooms were renovated in 2023 for the first time in more than 50 years. Construction ended in December 2023. Photo credit Mandy Urquhart

\$272,328.68 ARPA funds they received from the state of Michigan. The total cost of the renovation came to \$191,976.51.

"It was more than just a cosmetic face-lift since the meeting room, kitchen and two bathrooms were below grade and subject to severe deterioration if potential problems were not caught in time," said Mandy Urquhart, Stockbridge Township deputy clerk, Planning Commission chair and election coordinator. "Since it had been roughly 50 years since the last update, and the bones of the building were in unknown conditions being hidden behind paneled walls, it was important to dig into the infrastructure and peel back the walls and ceilings of that portion of the building to make sure it stands another 100 years."

The work was completed by Gary Green Construction, the same contractor who renovated the Stockbridge Township Hall offices in 2020.

See Township Hall renovations on page 9.

Information provided by Mandy Urquhart, Stockbridge Township Deputy Clerk

In 2023, after more than 50 years, the Stockbridge Township Hall meeting room, kitchen and two bathrooms were fitted with a much-needed face-lift. The renovations, which started in the fall 2022, were completed in December 2023.

The Township Board budgeted \$200,000 for the renovation out of the

## Sheriff's Office drone leads lost subjects to safety



Photo credit Good Days Digital via unsplash.com

Information provided by the Ingham County Sheriff's Office

On Wednesday, March 20, at approximately 5:45 a.m., Ingham County Sheriff's deputies responded to the area of Seven Gables and Dexter Trail in Ingham Township for three adult subjects who were lost in the state game area.

The three subjects advised dispatch that they were not from the area and they were wet and struggling with cold exposure. Dispatch was able to use What3Words to establish an exact location for the subjects.

Dansville firefighters searched on foot but had difficulty locating the subjects due to the swampy terrain. The Sheriff's Office drone was used to locate the subjects and guide them to the Dansville firefighters. All three subjects were taken by ambulance to a local hospital for cold exposure.

The Sheriff's Office drone team trains regularly and is dedicated to the safety of our citizens. Sheriff's deputies and local fire personnel worked together in cold conditions to bring this incident to a safe conclusion.

April 2024  
*Features*

**Unclaimed Property:** Abandoned money may be owed to you. Learn about the Michigan Department of Treasury's Unclaimed Property Division. See page 3.

**Community Calendar:** Check out our list of community events in April. See page 15.

**Panther Sports:** Check out our coverage of local sporting events and the spring sports schedules. See pages 18-19.

**Early Tick Season:** Michigan's early spring is bringing an early tick season. Learn how to protect your family and pets. See page 20.

# Rural Perspectives: Preaching the word about Jack-in-the-pulpit

by Diane Constable



Diane Gray Constable

If you walk through our wet woodlands this spring, you may find a neat, green wildflower called Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), which gets its name because it looks like a minister preaching in a pulpit. Other names for it are Indian turnip and brown dragon.

The hooded part of the plant (the spathe) forms the "pulpit" and has white or purplish strips. The tiny flowers, or pollen, (the spadix) are on a spike under the pulpit, and they represent "Jack."

A Jack-in-the-pulpit has one or two leaves, with each leaf having three leaflets. A single-leaf plant indicates the plant produces pollen only; those with two leaves will have flowers. The plant will produce a cluster of bright red berries in the fall. It can grow 8 to 24 inches tall and can live 25-plus years.

Flies and other small insects are attracted to the slight odor of decay the plant produces. They act as pollinators by carrying the pollen on their feet and wings from plant to plant.



A Jack-in-the-pulpit has one or two leaves. The hooded part of the plant forms the "pulpit" and has white or purplish strips. Photo credit Diane Constable

This plant is toxic to eat unless

properly cooked and can burn the skin. Few animals eat it, but turkeys and some birds eat the berries, and bears will dig up the small roots in the spring.

**Fun Fact:** The plant usually starts off as a pollen maker, but if the nutrients are abundant, it will change to a flower producer and then change back again if conditions turn unfavorable.

*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.*

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## Panther Cubs PTO sends out an SOS asking the community for a lifeline



Taylor Walz shows off her masterpiece at Family Paint Night. Photo credit Rheaghan Walz

by Tina Cole-Mullins

Recently the Panther Cubs Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) issued an SOS plea and a call to action for support and volunteerism on the group's Facebook page.

"For the last two years, our fearless foursome has given their all, pouring heart and soul into every PTO event," Reaghan Walz shared. Walz is the current president of the Panther Cubs PTO.

In addition to Walz, the "fearless foursome" includes the organization's vice president, Robin Bergman; treasurer, Jessica Lane; and secretary Amanda Scheller.

"Many may not be aware of the dedication and selflessness, uncountable hours and sacrifice that come with being a volunteer, let alone that

of the duties of a board member," Walz said. "Let's face it, the burnout is real, and we can't keep this ship afloat without reinforcements." But the more volunteers who step up, the lighter the load for all.

When asked what board positions are open, if any, Walz explained that all board positions are available each year and that those positions are president, vice president, treasurer and secretary.

She also suggested that current board members are willing to stay on for a time as co-leaders to assist new volunteers who are stepping up to board positions for a first time.

"All we want to do is build the organization so we can offer even more help to our students and teachers," Walz explained.

So what, exactly, does the Panther Cubs PTO do?

Walz explained it this way: "The PTO helps support the Smith and Heritage students and staff in many ways. With funds that the PTO raises, core teachers are offered an allotment each year that can be used for anything to help their classroom. This last year it was \$150 each."

The organization also helps with grade-level allotments in the amount of \$1,200 for each grade. These are commonly used to cover busing for field trips as well as other field-trip-related costs.

The PTO plans many school events, such as Fall Family Fun Night, Summer Kick Off, Winter Carnival and Family Paint Nights. Recently they helped with March Reading Month at both schools. This year, the Panther Cubs PTO was able to give both Smith and Heritage schools \$2,000 each.

The teacher, grade, and school allotments are all made possible through fundraisers spearheaded by the PTO. These include selling Hungry Howie's pizza cards and sponsoring Quartermania, a craft show, and several other events.

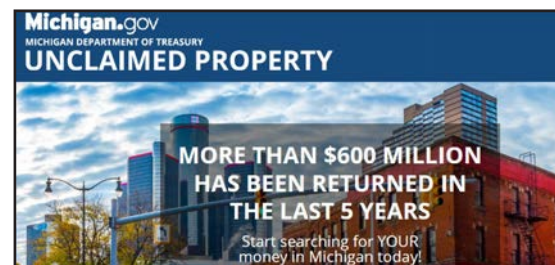
The PTO plans and executes Staff Appreciation Week and coordinates and runs Popcorn Fridays at both Smith and Heritage. Currently, the organization is working on bringing back Kids Night Out, Family Glow Dance, Aces Run and Family Movie Night. The PTO also hosts the four book fairs each year—two at each school. Members and volunteers set them up, work them for a week, and then pack them up. Says Walz, "Personally, my kids have been working book fairs with me since they were newborns!"

See Panther Cubs PTO on page 21.

## Free money! In this case, it may be worth investigating

by Chuck Wisman

How often do we see advertisements for "Free Money!" only to read the fine print and discover the ad is a classic



The [unclaimedproperty.michigan.gov/](https://unclaimedproperty.michigan.gov/) website contains an easy-to-use mechanism to determine whether unclaimed funds exist for you. Image credit: Michigan.gov

rip-off? Actually, a potential source of "free money" exists for some via the Michigan Department of Treasury's Unclaimed Property Division.

Medical firms, insurance companies, utilities, and other businesses routinely submit monies to the state of Michigan when those funds are considered "abandoned." In other words, those business entities have determined they cannot locate the original owner. As a result, the state of Michigan takes possession of those monies in an effort to return those funds to the rightful owners.

This writer assumes the companies offload these monies to the state to end any responsibility for returning the funds to the rightful owner. Oddly, even in the case of folks whom I know have lived at the same address for decades, companies have deemed the monies "abandoned."

The state of Michigan has returned approximately \$100 million a year in the last five years to citizens who have made claim to those previously unclaimed funds.

Upon discovering this program and website some time back, my wife recently received \$350 from unclaimed funds the state was holding. The funds were from travel insurance she didn't even recall. A close friend, whom I referred to the program, received \$530 from unclaimed funds thanks to an insurance plan of which he was unaware. A few other acquaintances have also received unclaimed funds from the state of Michigan.

If the funds remain unclaimed for a certain period of time, they are rolled into the state of Michigan's general fund and are no longer available to the original owners.

The state primarily accomplishes these returns via its website at: [unclaimedproperty.michigan.gov/](https://unclaimedproperty.michigan.gov/)

The website contains an easy-to-use mechanism to determine whether unclaimed funds exist for you. Simply type in your last name (and first name if you wish) and your city/village name. The system will instantly list potential unclaimed funds that may be yours. You may need to scroll the list if there are other names similar to yours. Exact amounts are not listed; instead the site lists an amount range for each of the unclaimed fund records.

If you have funds available, you then fill out an online form and print an affidavit verifying your identity. You may submit the forms online, or you can print and mail them. After a period of time, you will receive a check in the mail from the state of Michigan. NOTE: You can use the form to type in anyone's name and location, and the system will report whether funds are available to that person.

See Unclaimed Property on page 13.

## Tent vs. pop-up camping: Both can be memory makers



When it comes to achieving that "back to nature" feel, there's no better camping experience than tent camping. Photo credit Will Truettner at unsplash.com

by Mary Jo David

More than 40 years have passed from the time we tent-camped on our honeymoon in Maine's Acadia National Park to our recent "snowbirding" adventure in a fifth wheel trailer in the Southwest. Throughout those years, we graduated from tents to pop-ups and then to a travel trailer and, ultimately, fifth wheel RVs.

Perhaps "graduated" is the wrong word, as there are many different perspectives on the advantages and disadvantages of the various

modes of camping. But there's no denying, the lead-up to camping season is a good time to compare and contrast these different modes, so this month we'll focus on tent camping and pop-up camping.

### Tent camping is cozy

Sure, tent camping in Maine in June provides wonderful cuddling opportunities, but there are other considerations besides the romance!

Tent campers can venture to low-traffic areas that don't accommodate motorized vehicles. And when it comes to achieving that "back to nature" feel, there's probably no better camping experience than tent-camping.

Tents are compact and lightweight, a definite consideration if you drive a small vehicle or are planning to do some hiking.

Depending on the size and style of the tent, it can probably be set up in 30 minutes or less. However, some larger tents may require more than one person for set-up, and weather conditions, like high winds, can make it tough to set up quickly.

Tent camping is a great option for avid power boaters who don't want to have to choose between towing a boat or a camper. Instead, they can tow the boat and store a tent in the boat.

Tent companies like to think their tents don't leak, but have you ever met a tent that has remained completely dry during a prolonged rainstorm? Tents are generally water resistant, not waterproof. Tent manufacturing has improved over time to minimize leaking, but many serious tent campers take the extra step of waterproofing a tent before they use it for the first time.

It's just my opinion, but I believe tent camping is better suited for well-organized folks—those who are sure to store canopy, tent, poles, and stakes all together between adventures. It's true, many tents nowadays are free-standing and rely on flexible rods or tubes that inflate. But you'll still find plenty of tents that use poles, and all it takes is one missing pole to throw off a camping experience!

In general, tent camping is also cheaper; parks usually charge less for camping with a tent than with a trailer—even a pop-up trailer.

### Pop-up trailer camping is convenient

If tent camping is so wonderful, why would anyone consider going the pop-up trailer route?

See *Camping* on page 16.

## PACT Act ups eligibility for VA health care for millions of veterans exposed to toxins



*Information provided by Veterans Affairs*

Beginning March 5, 2024, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made all veterans who meet the basic service and discharge requirements and were exposed to toxins while serving our country eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits.

This expansion of care means that all veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror or any other combat zone after 9/11 will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Additionally, veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States also will be eligible to enroll.

VA has prepared this PACT Act Stakeholder Toolkit for you to use and share information about VA's expansion of health care eligibility for veterans.

For more information about the PACT Act, go to [www.va.gov/PACT](http://www.va.gov/PACT) or call 1-800-MyVA411.

Even if you don't need this care today, you might need it tomorrow, or the next day, or 30 years from now. It's quick and easy to apply. And once you're in, you have access for life. Apply now for the care you deserve at [VA.gov/PACT](http://VA.gov/PACT).

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**Trinity Health Q & A**

**Community volunteers needed to advise Chelsea Hospital leadership**

**Information provided by Chelsea Hospital**

*Nancy Ventimiglia is the chairperson of the Patient Experience Advisory Council at Chelsea Hospital. She recently shared information with the Stockbridge Community News to explain what the group does, how it has a direct impact on the care patients receive at the hospital, and more.*



Have you been a patient or had a loved one receive care at Chelsea Hospital? If so, consider volunteering with the hospital's Patient Experience Advisory Council to provide feedback and counsel. Photo credit TrinityHealthMichigan.org

**Q: What exactly is the Patient Experience Advisory Council?**

Ventimiglia: The Patient Experience Advisory Council is a group of volunteers from Chelsea and surrounding communities who have either been a patient or have had a loved one receive care at Chelsea Hospital. We provide feedback and counsel to the hospital based off information given to us by past and present patients to ensure operations run as smoothly as possible and improvements are being made to meet the needs of the patients and their families.

**Q: How does the council help make a difference at the hospital?**

Ventimiglia: We provide the perspective of the patient or family on hospital materials and processes. We also connect with fellow community members and share what we are hearing with hospital leadership. This is incredibly important because each patient has their own unique experience.

**Q: What are the council's main goals and objectives?**

Ventimiglia: Our goal is to provide important perspective, as patients and families, to improve what can oftentimes be a very challenging and confusing experience.

As part of this, we review patient materials to ensure they are updated, relevant and easy to understand. For example, we recently evaluated the hospital's website and made sure it was easy to navigate and find important information. Additionally, when the urgent care opened inside the emergency department in 2022, the community provided us great feedback. We then approached the hospital with this feedback, and it was able to make easy, seamless changes to enhance the patient experience.

All in all, everything we do is aimed at directly benefitting patients and their families. We want to ensure patients and their families are heard and that their opinions and feedback are taken into great consideration when hospital leaders make important decisions that impact present and future care for the community.

**Q: How has the Patient Experience Advisory Council been beneficial for you, personally?**

Ventimiglia: Before I joined the group, I didn't realize all that was going on in the community and how I could play such a significant role in creating positive change. There is a huge sense of pride when you walk into the hospital and see something you had a direct part in has changed for the better. I have met so many kind people, including other members of the council. We all have become friends and it's truly a warm, friendly group to be a part of.

**Q: Is there anything else you'd like people to know?**

Ventimiglia: We are actively seeking members to join the council! If you are passionate about our community and want to make a difference, you may be a great fit. If you are interested in joining, please reach out to our council co-leader, Lori Williams, by emailing her at [lori.s.williams@trinity-health.org](mailto:lori.s.williams@trinity-health.org). We are looking forward to hearing from you!

*Chelsea Hospital is a 133-bed, not-for-profit hospital established in 1970. Located at 775 South Main St. in Chelsea, Michigan, the hospital is a joint venture between Trinity Health System and University of Michigan Health.*



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## Woah Nellie!

# Sometimes you just need to get out of the kitchen

by Mary Jo David

Looking back over the last several weeks, between driving out west, vacationing, road-tripping, recovering from COVID, and then traveling home, after nearly 4,800 miles, all I can say is "Woah Nellie!" Short of cooking up one of Nellie's recipes under the hood of the truck while we were heading north, this month's column required thinking outside of the box. (NOTE: If you are interested in cooking with your car engine, you may want to check out the book called "Manifold Destiny" by Chris Maynard and Bill Scheller.)

After looking through 100-year-old recipes from April 1924, I couldn't help but notice that Nellie featured an inordinate number of unusual recipes. So rather than cooking up a vintage recipe in my test kitchen this month, I thought I'd just share some of the more unusual recipes I came across.

**Stuffed Eggs:** This really isn't such an unusual recipe; it just goes by a different name nowadays—deviled eggs. Not being a hard-boiled egg lover, I'm not one to make deviled eggs. But as I write this, Easter is right around the corner, so I am considering making this recipe for others. Interestingly, Nellie's recipe instructs to brush the cavity of the eggs with melted butter before filling them with the egg yolk mixture. I don't know anyone who does this. Do you? She also recommends adding onion juice to the egg yolk mixture. Never having cooked with onion juice before, I used Google and learned you can grate an onion and then place the grated onion in a coffee filter and squeeze. Voila—onion juice!

**Cream of Salsify Soup:** Say what?! Being intimately familiar with Nellie's recipes at this point, I was quite certain there was a typo in that soup name. But I was wrong (my apologies, Nellie). It turns out, according to the Oxford Dictionary, "salsify" is "an edible European plant of the daisy family, with a long root like that of a parsnip." In the Googling I did, western salsify is considered more of a weed and not very common anymore. It was popular as a root vegetable in the 1800s. From what I can gather, it's like a dandelion, only bigger, and it sometimes goes by the name "oyster plant" because some say it tastes slightly like oysters. Others compare the taste to artichoke. It's not easy to find salsify, but if you Google, you can find a company in Howell (among others) that sells salsify seeds.

**Grape-Nuts for Dessert:** According to postconsumerbrands.com, Grape-Nuts cereal has been an iconic American breakfast since 1897. Leave it to Nellie to discover that Grape-Nuts aren't just for breakfast anymore! She suggested that, mixed with enough chocolate to coat them and served with a bit of cream, Grape-Nuts make a fine "emergency dessert" and one that children will especially love. Hmmm...I envision a bunch of Grape-Nuts floating in a chocolatey-milky soup. But then again, who am I to judge when I haven't tried making these. Warning: Next person to accept a dinner invitation to our house might want to prepare themselves for taste testing an "emergency dessert"!

**Stuffed Turnips:** I'm guessing most SCN readers have at least heard of stuffed peppers and stuffed cabbage, and many have probably cooked them and/or eaten them. But I bet very few have ever tried Stuffed Turnips. I have to say, if I was inclined to cook one of Nellie's recipes using the truck engine this month, this would have been the one! I cook with turnips, but generally only in chicken soup or beef vegetable soup. I think they do add a nice flavor to soup, but I'm not sure how they would taste as a vessel for holding a meat/rice/breadcrumb mixture. Still, there's something about Nellie's suggestion for cutting off the tops and using them as little "hats" for each stuffed turnip that intrigues me. It makes me want to whip up a batch and enter them in the State Fair next year!

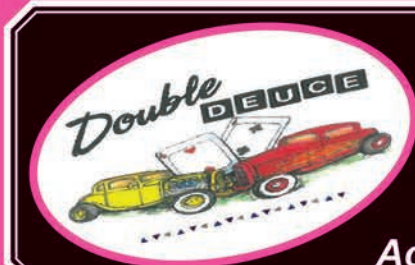
**Cabbage with Cheese:** Last but not least is a recipe that sounds very similar to mac 'n' cheese, except instead of noodles you boil shredded cabbage. Then, like mac 'n' cheese, you add a white sauce and some melted cheese. So, which of our SCN readers is ready to try making this recipe and reporting back on how it tastes? My only thought is: If your house doesn't smell when you're done boiling the cabbage, it will definitely smell when people are done eating it! (Am I allowed to say that? Will the editor fire me? Oh wait, I am the editor!)

So here you have it. A collection of Nellie's most unusual recipes from April 1924. If you're inclined to try any of these recipes, visit the Stockbridge Library and ask to view the old Stockbridge Brief-Sun newspapers, which have been saved to flash drives and are easily viewable on a library computer. Oh, and don't forget to report back on whether the recipe(s) deserves a "thumbs-up" or a "thumbs-down."



**While on the road reviewing hundred-year-old Nellie Maxwell recipes from April 1924 editions of the Stockbridge Brief-Sun, I noticed a number of them used unusual ingredients and/or techniques.** Image credits, left to right: Anton Nikolov (unsplash.com), amazon.com, grapenuts.com,

Vanessa Bucceri (unsplash.com), and Eric Prouzet (unsplash.com)



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Cindy Anderson,  
DVM

## Paws and Claws

# Heartworm disease in pets is preventable

by Cindy Anderson, DVM

Heartworm disease is one of the most common, harmful, and potentially fatal diseases contracted by pets, especially dogs. In fact, more than a million pets in the U.S. have heartworms. It's a severe disease caused by parasitic worms living in your pet's heart, lungs, and surrounding blood vessels. Heartworms can cause severe lung disease, heart failure, damage to other major organs and death in severe cases.

**Transmission:** It only takes one bite from an infected mosquito for your pet to fall victim to heartworms. After the bite, the heartworm larvae invade your pet's bloodstream, traveling to the heart and lungs. Fortunately, heartworms can't be transmitted from one pet to another. Mosquito bites are the only way pets can contract heartworm disease.

**Signs/Symptoms:** The symptoms of heartworm disease vary based on the number of heartworms living inside your pet, how long it's been infected, how its body is responding to the presence of heartworms, and how active it is. Some of the identified signs and symptoms linked to heartworm disease are mild persistent coughing, reduced activity level, fatigue (especially after physical activity), decreased appetite, weight loss, trouble breathing, heart failure and swollen belly from excess fluid.

**Treatment:** Implementing various heartworm prevention measures is one of the best treatments, protecting your pet from contracting heartworms. However, if your pet does happen to contract heartworms from an infected mosquito, the American Heartworm Society has a set treatment protocol that works well to cure heartworm disease. Treatment consists of oral antibiotics and steroids administered at home, along with a series of injections given at the hospital by a veterinarian. Treatment spans over several months and your dog will need to be kept calm for the duration of care. Your dog only will be able to go for short walks to go to the bathroom and should not run, play, or do anything that would cause it to exert itself. If your pet is diagnosed with advanced heartworm disease, veterinarians will guide you through the entire treatment process. They also can give advice on the best treatment options.

**Regular testing:** Heartworm is a very serious and progressive disease, so your pet should be tested regularly for early detection and a better chance at recovery. The test requires taking a blood sample from your pet and testing it for the heartworm antigen released into your pet's bloodstream by female heartworms. Heartworm antigens can be detected in the bloodstream up to five months after being bitten by an infected mosquito. There's also a test that detects microfilariae in your pet's bloodstream, indicating that it is actively infected with adult heartworms. Microfilariae can be detected in your pet's bloodstream about six months after it was bitten, since heartworms typically have a slow development. Regular testing and heartworm prevention measures for your pet are key to avoiding the disease.

For any questions that you may have about heartworm disease, contact Dr. Cindy Anderson and the staff at Lakelands Trail Veterinary Clinic, 4525 S. M-52, Stockbridge, MI 49285, 517-655-5551.

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

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### Who We Are

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

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

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

Articles are posted online throughout the month and are available to view for free at [stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://stockbridgecommunitynews.com)

### Our Mission

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

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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.

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

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## Active Aging

# Let SASC help you reimagine what the word 'senior' means



**Don't be fooled by the stereotype of "seniors" being feeble. Many older adults are in great physical health and have plenty of energy to enjoy life.** Photo credit Anupam Mahapatra on [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)

"senior" conjures up wisdom, positivity, respect and even reverence.

But when used to describe the older-adult age group, "senior" tends to conjure up a different connotation—one that is sometimes negative. To some folks, the word "senior," automatically brings to mind people who are elderly, frail, out of touch, over the hill, dull, tired, and used up.

It's interesting, isn't it? As a society we have an overall aversion to getting older. Birthdays go from highly anticipated and celebrated to dreaded for some.

Many of us go to great lengths to maintain our youthful appearance. Market shelves offer all sorts of hair color options to hide our gray, not to mention the demand for wrinkle creams and chemicals to tighten or plump our skin. We strive to appear youthful as long as possible, because somehow, when it comes to age, "senior" is no longer something we yearn for, not like when we were in school or at work. We too often associate physical beauty only with youth.

While it's true that we sometimes battle the inevitable, unpleasant signs of aging like deteriorating eyesight or hearing, achy joints, and ailments in general, in many ways "senior" citizens have got it made over their younger counterparts.

Socially, many older adults report having supportive relationships, developed over many years, that have added to the fun and love in their lives.

Those of us who have reached the age to qualify for AARP, often find ourselves with a greater sense of community. We take pride in our homes and feel safe and comfortable where we live and in our surroundings. At this life stage, many have reached financial security, and no longer feel the need to pursue material things that we may have prioritized when we were younger.

Don't be fooled by the stereotype of "seniors" being feeble. Many older adults are in great physical health and have plenty of energy to enjoy life and get things done each day. There is also a peace that comes with reaching

maturity. Some seniors say they are more comfortable in their own skin, knowing who they are in life and having a clearer perspective on their values as they age.

It's always been a bit of a mystery, this perception in our culture that growing older, having birthdays, is a bad thing. Instead, we should try to think of each year as a privilege. The longer we live, the better!

Seniors in our community have the honor and joy that comes with spending a considerable amount of time at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center. Older adults who take advantage of this community resource are anything but dull, decrepit, weak, frail, dilapidated or haggard. Many of our members are exactly the opposite; they are lively, energetic, robust, vibrant and spirited. Seniors in our SASC community are knowledgeable, wise, and thoughtful, fortified by life's many experiences. These fine folks are kind, considerate, helpful, patient and often quite humorous.

*See SASC on page 23.*

by Dana Blaszkowski

In education, "senior" is used to specify a higher level of knowledge and growth and reserved to designate the highest classes for those in high school and college. In the corporate world, "senior" signifies advanced experience and expertise and is often considered a career goal, as in "senior executive." Likewise, I use this word to refer to my beloved older sister who is "11 years my senior." In each case, the word





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Rock 'n' Roll Trivia

What is the origin of the 'Happy Birthday' song?



John Robinson

by John Robinson

**Q:** Can you help me find out where the song "Happy Birthday to You" came from?

**A:** The song we all sing at birthdays, now referred to as "Happy Birthday to You," was originally titled "Good Morning to All" and composed in 1893 by sisters Patty and Mildred Hill. They were schoolteachers in Louisville, Kentucky, and wrote it as a classroom singalong. As the years went by, the melody was used for new lyrics celebrating class members' birthdays. The song is currently owned by Warner Communications, who paid \$28 million for it in 1985. The copyright expired in 2021.

**Q:** What was the name of the movie that featured the Badfinger song "Come and Get It"?

**A:** That was from the 1970 Ringo Starr/Peter Sellers film "The Magic Christian." The song, written and produced by Paul McCartney, was originally recorded by McCartney as a demo disc for The Beatles. The song was given to a group called The Iveys that The Beatles had signed to their Apple Records label. "Come And Get It" was recorded by The Iveys, but before the record was released they changed their name to Badfinger. The word "badfinger" was taken from the title "Badfinger Boogie," which was the original working title of The Beatles' song "With A Little Help From My Friends."

**Q:** Please tell me who did the song "Here Comes My Baby." I think it was from the mid-'60s.

**A:** Sure was. "Here Comes My Baby" (originally recorded by Cat Stevens) was the first U.S. Top 40 single for British group The Tremeloes in the spring of '67. It's also actor Jeff Daniels' favorite '60s oldie. After the Tremeloes' leader, Brian Poole, left the band to go solo in 1966, they continued on without him...and began having American hits! They

followed up "Here Comes My Baby" with their summer of '67 hit "Silence Is Golden," a remake of a Four Seasons track. They had a couple of other American chart singles until they fell off for good in 1968.

**Q:** Is Screamin' Jay Hawkins still alive?

**A:** Nope. Hawkins, whose big hit was the '50s R&B classic "I Put A Spell On You," died in 2000 after he had surgery for an aneurysm.

*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.*



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Stockbridge Township renovations page 1

Gary and his crew carefully removed the old walls, floors, windows and old kitchen. They then worked their magic, giving the spaces a more historical feel, well suited for such a grand building. The new features include: leaving the brick exposed, handmade custom register covers and beadboard ceilings.

"The biggest feat was the restoration of the massive 300-year-old wood beams that hold up the building," Urquhart said. "They were painstakingly stripped of paint, restoring them to their natural glory."

A special bonus was the return of the original oak upright piano back to the Township Hall.

All the spaces are now safe and sound and breathtakingly beautiful, with state-of-the-art features.

The Township Board used additional ARPA funds to renovate the Senior Center building and add two additional weather sirens to the area. The board also donated \$25,000 to SAESA for new equipment.

Published in Uncaged, March 2024

## Is Social Media Real?

### Influencers' impact of teens

by Macy Cipta, *Uncaged* Editor-in-Chief

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

After a long exhausting school day, junior Ethan Bradley lays comfortably on his couch scrolling endlessly on his social media feed for hours at a time. Bradley admits to spending over 14 hours on social media every week. At a minimum, six hours is what Bradley spends on TikTok weekly, where he can average up to three hours a day solely on the app. However, he is not alone.

According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the average screen time for teenagers in America is over nine hours. That means if a teenager has a seven-hour school day and spends nine hours on his or her phone, he or she is left with eight hours to sleep. However, school and social media aren't the only things on a teen's schedule - extracurriculars like sports and clubs, after school jobs, trips to get ice cream with friends and more occupy a teen's life. So, how do teens have the time to sit scrolling and why are they spending so much time on their screens?

Studies done by 2017 chief executive of the Royal Society of Public Health, Shirley Cramer, show that social media is just as, if not more, addictive than cigarettes and alcohol, and is now affecting young people's mental health.

Taking advantage of social media's addictive nature can direct students to influencers across platforms and interests such as makeup, sports, fashion, health, wellness and more.

An influencer is someone who has a large social media following built around their personality, talents, or interests and is commonly referred to as a social media influencer. Influencers also frequently post insights into their daily routines and hobbies. Many of them are considered to have the perfect life. According to lawyer-turned-copywriter Haley Zapal, teenagers like to watch influencers because they can provide engaging content and information that resonates with and interests their viewers.

"I spend around three hours a day on TikTok and I'm usually just watching the lives of influencers," eighth grader Allie Dalton said. "I like watching TikTok influencers like Kaitie Richie because she posts not only the realistic side of her life but also the more perfect and put-together lifestyle."

So many young people are seeing the 'perfect' lives that social media influencers reveal on their feeds, but is any of it real?

"You're never going to know someone's whole life," junior high English teacher Hannah Gutsue said. "And if you get to curate what you're putting out there, you're going to put the best parts of you out there. Even when you are showing the real stuff, you get the choice of what you are showing us. So, I think that is really important to take in when you are consuming so much social media."

When people are only seeing what others put on display, it is hard to differentiate what is actually real and what is only posted for likes and views, Gutsue explained.

The time spent on a phone combined with these seemingly perfect lives puts pressure on those watching multiple videos that tell them to look a certain way, have a perfect life and be able to afford everything.

However, this acceptance can only take someone so far before they discover that not everything on their phone is real; sometimes it's all just an act that they become the victim of.

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

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



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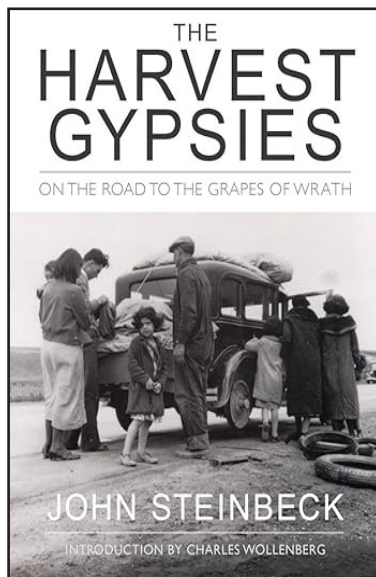
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# Reading Between the Lines 'The Harvest Gypsies' paved the way for Steinbeck's 'The Grapes of Wrath'

by Chuck Wisman



The classic novel of literary realism by John Steinbeck, "The Grapes of Wrath," was published in 1939, later winning a National Book Award and a Pulitzer Prize for fiction. In 1940, it was an Academy Award-winning movie starring Henry Fonda.

"The Grapes of Wrath" tells the poignant story of the Joad family who were Dust-Bowl refugees during the depths of the Depression in the 1930s. The Joads and thousands of others lost their farms due to severe drought, dust storms and poor farming methods in the Great Plains. In search of work and a subsistence income, they migrated farther west, seeking work on the seasonal fruit and vegetable farms of California.

In the 1930s, prior to writing "The Grapes of Wrath," John Steinbeck traveled among migrants who had moved from America's Dust Bowl to California.

Image credit amazon.com

News to investigate and write a series of seven articles describing the migration of the Dust-Bowl refugees sweeping into the Central Valley of California.

So, where did John Steinbeck derive the inspiration and knowledge to write this masterpiece of fiction? Unknown to many readers, the motivation for "The Grapes of Wrath" originated in a somewhat obscure event in John Steinbeck's literary history. It began in 1936, when Steinbeck was hired by the San Francisco

News to investigate and write a series of seven articles describing the migration of the Dust-Bowl refugees sweeping into the Central Valley of California. That investigative series of long-form articles subsequently became a pamphlet titled, "Their Blood Is Strong," and later a book titled "The Harvest Gypsies: On the Road to the Grapes of Wrath." Additionally, both publications contained numerous photographs of the migrants, their families, squatter camps, and Hoovervilles by the famous Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer, Dorothea Lange.

"The Harvest Gypsies" was selected by New York University in 1999 as one of that century's best works of American journalism. In his modern introduction to the book, Charles Wollenberg (former chair of social sciences and professor of history at Berkeley City College) provides a historical context and an excellent overview.

In the lead-up to "The Harvest Gypsies," John Steinbeck teamed with Tom Collins, who managed a federal migrant labor camp in California's Central Valley. Steinbeck and Collins traveled among the migrants, the farms and the camps in an old bread truck. Together, they interviewed the migrants, their families and farm owners while painting a shameful picture of greed, cruelty, and exploitation.

The book is organized into seven chapters to coincide with the seven articles Steinbeck wrote for the San Francisco News in 1936. Each chapter encompasses a different, but related, aspect of the trials and tribulations of the Dust-Bowl migrants and their interactions with the local populace, governments, law enforcement and farm owners.

Steinbeck wrote that 150,000 homeless migrants wandered the roads of California looking for work. He discovered, firsthand, the motivations that led to California's migrant demand.

"The unique nature of California agriculture requires that these migrants exist, and requires that they move about. Peaches and grapes, hops and cotton cannot be harvested by a resident population of laborers. For example, a large peach orchard which requires the work of 20 men year around will need as many as 2,000 for the brief time of picking and packing. And if the migration of the 2,000 should not occur, if it should be delayed even a week, the crop will rot and be lost."

In "The Harvest Gypsies," the author noted the surprising composition of these Dust-Bowl migrants:

"They are small farmers who have lost their farms or farm hands who have lived with the family in the old American way. ... They are not migrants by nature. They are gypsies by force of circumstances."

See Reading Between the Lines on page 21.



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John and Theresa  
Kightlinger

## Ask an Expert What can I expect from an insurance company after a car crash?

by John and Theresa Kightlinger

A recent conversation with one of our readers very clearly illustrates the most common questions and answers between vehicle owners and quality-oriented independent repair facilities. We thought it would be beneficial for our community members to be prepared should the need ever arise to make a claim and have a need for auto-body repair.

Here is the conversation as it happened between the vehicle owner and the independent body shop:

Vehicle owner to body shop: We were hoping to bring our car into your shop for repair; however, I do want to update you with the fact that the insurance company sent me a check for the amount of \$4,276.13, which is \$2,000 less than your estimated cost of repair. I have filed it and will not cash it. I feel the sending of this check is very inappropriate and I am very concerned about this behavior on the part of my insurer. And I ask again — given this behavior on the part of my insurer — do I need to consider hiring an attorney?

Repairer: All your concerns are valid and you posed great questions. I wish this process were easier on everyone; unfortunately, it's not the case. We are aware of your insurer's initial estimate. It is in no way inclusive of all that will be needed to repair your vehicle back to undetectable, pre-loss condition. The initial estimates rarely are. I don't believe there is any reason to hire a lawyer quite yet. That being said, let's chat about a few of your concerns and the options available.

Vehicle owner: I asked you if I would be held responsible for any amount that my insurance refuses to pay. It seems that once you have the car, and have it fully assessed, that you will again negotiate with my insurer. However — with a worst-case scenario that it refuses to pay — what then? Now my car is in pieces in your repair shop. How do I go on from there?

Repairer: In order to get your insurer to adjust its initial estimate, the vehicle will have to be disassembled and all the damage shown to the insurer's adjuster. We have no doubt it will increase its initial estimate, the question is: Will it cover all the necessary repair costs? The answer is there is no way to know until we are in the middle of it. We go through a great deal of research on each and every vehicle and print out the manufacturer's procedures and position statements to review and provide to the insurance company along with our estimate/supplement. The reason we go through all of this is to convince the insurance company of the proper way to repair the vehicle and encourage it to pay what's necessary.

So let's say it doesn't want to pay completely for the correct repairs we decide. If you want us to continue with the repairs, then yes, initially you will be responsible for the difference. Here is the reason. This is your vehicle and the contract to repair the vehicle is between you and us. The insurance company (whether yours or someone else's) has a duty to indemnify you ("to make you whole"), the vehicle owner, as we have no contract directly with the insurer. As far as any potential difference goes, many times that difference will go down because we will continue to send supplements to the insurance company during the repairs with additional documentation and photos and it will generally continue to pay a little more each time reducing the initial difference.

There are some alternatives. You have us complete the proper and thorough repair and pay the difference. During the repair process, you hire a lawyer. In a situation where your damages were caused by another party, the lawyer sends the person that hit you a letter letting them know that you will be pursuing them directly for any out-of-pocket expense their insurance is not covering. Just because they have insurance does not let them off the hook for the loss to your property. The person receiving the letter will most likely call the insurance company to ask what's going on. Many times the insurance company will reassess its position at that point because if it ends up with you suing the person directly for the difference, the insurance company has to pay for and provide the legal defense for its insured in court.

See *Ask an Expert* on page 23.

## Public Hearing Notice – Waterloo Township April 16

The Waterloo Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7 p.m. at the Waterloo Township Offices located at 9773 Mt. Hope Road, Munith, MI 49259. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public comment on proposed text updates to The Township Master Plan, Chapter 2, Farmland Resources and to The Township Zoning Ordinance section 20.25, Onsite Solar Energy Systems, section 21.02, Definitions and section 11.26, Commercial/Utility Photovoltaic Solar Energy Systems. A copy of the proposed text updates may be viewed at The Township Offices during normal business hours. Written comments should be mailed to: Waterloo Township Offices, 9773 Mt. Hope Rd, Munith, MI 49259 or dropped off at the offices during regular business hours prior to April 15, 2024.

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

Ralph Schumacher

Planning Commission Secretary

## Stockbridge FFA page 1

In addition to these activities, several Stockbridge FFA members also received numerous awards. Stockbridge FFA President Clarissa Hill received her State Farmer Degree, which will gain her six credits at MSU.

She also received the Academic Excellence award by maintaining a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher. Vice President Elizabeth Vliet also received her State Farmer Degree and Stockbridge FFA Secretary Megan Mackinder received her Outstanding Junior award by completing numerous community service hours and having an upstanding GPA.

For the chapter as a whole, the Stockbridge FFA received the Building Our Michigan Communities award for working on numerous community service hours and projects within the community. The chapter also received recognition for the #SpeakAgMichigan campaign, in which members placed seventh in the state. Stockbridge also received the Superior Chapter award by meeting the 15 Quality Standards put out by the National FFA organization. A few of these standards include building communities, growing leaders and strengthening agriculture.

The Stockbridge FFA chapter will be eligible for more awards to come at next year's Michigan FFA Convention.



Kelsey Rasmussen

Positive Parenting

# Can too much praise be a problem for our children?

by Kelsey Rasmussen

Imagine your child just did something new and you're so impressed. You're feeling proud! You adore this little person and want to express joy about his amazing new skill. "Good job!" you say with a beaming smile.

Of course it's good for children to have loving adults pay attention to and celebrate their achievements. Reacting with praise is better than missing a moment of connection with our children because we're absorbed in our screens or otherwise.

However, it becomes problematic when "great job" gets so overused that children come to expect this sort of praise for their every action. The Montessori approach distinguishes praise (which is an evaluation or judgment) from feedback (which is a factual observation).

Hearing "good job" too often can shift a child's motivation from her own inner compass toward seeking validation from others.

Alfie Kohn writes and speaks widely on human behavior, education, and parenting. In "Five Reasons to Stop Saying 'Good Job,'" Kohn explains:

- Praise can actually be used to manipulate children when we use it as a bargaining tool to motivate them.
- Over-praising can create praise junkies. "It leads them to measure their worth in terms of what will lead us to smile and dole out some more approval."
- Praise can actually take joy away, as children begin looking to us for reassurance rather than experiencing their own delight at what they have achieved.

Children can become less motivated when they do something for praise, because it removes the meaning for themselves.

Praise can lower achievement. When an activity is tied to pressure to perform, the child's interest or pleasure in the activity decreases or they take fewer risks.

You may be thinking, "OK, so how do I encourage my children without praise?"

Kohn recommends parents either say nothing, narrate what happened, or ask questions.

Simone Davies, a Montessori educator, summarizes alternatives to "good job" with positive, factual descriptions, like the following.

**Describe what you see without the value judgments.**

"You got dressed all by yourself."

"You used blue and yellow paint. I see a swirl over here."

"You worked hard on that."

**Sum it up in one word.**

"You packed your bag and are ready to go to school. That's what I call independence!"

"You helped your grandma with her groceries. That's what I call being thoughtful!"

"You cleaned up your spill without me asking. That's what I call being resourceful!"

**Describe how we feel.**

"I'm so excited for you!"

"It's a pleasure to walk into a room where everything has been put away."

**Activity Highlight:**

Play around with feedback phrases that feel authentic for you. Write your favorite alternatives to "good job" on a few sticky notes and put them around your home to remember to try them out.

**You're Invited!**

Join us April 3 to learn about supporting math at home with Ingham ISD's early childhood coach, Megan Chumbley. As part of Parent University, this session is another chance for families to learn more about topics related to children. Parent University sessions are offered on the

first Wednesday of the month through June 2024.

Dinner, child care and a raffle are provided. We also offer a virtual option if you are unable to attend in person. There is no fee and prior attendance at Parent University is not required. Scan the QR code provided here to register by April 1.

**Sources:**

- "Five Reasons to Stop Saying 'Good Job'" by Alfie Kohn. [www.alfiekohn.org/article/five-reasons-stop-saying-good-job/](http://www.alfiekohn.org/article/five-reasons-stop-saying-good-job/)
- "The Montessori Toddler" by Simone Davies, 2019.

*Kelsey Rasmussen is a mother of twin toddlers and teaches computer science part time at Stockbridge High School. She and her husband moved to Stockbridge from Colorado in 2022 to raise their children in a small town near family.*



Praise can actually take joy away, as children begin looking to us for reassurance rather than experiencing their own delight at what they have achieved. Photo credit Katrina Wright on Unsplash.com

## Unclaimed Property page 3

That way, you can check for available funds for relatives, friends, etc. You should, however, leave it up to that person(s) to submit the claim form.

A detailed article on how to claim your funds also is contained in Bridge Magazine at [www.bridgemi.com/michigan-government/missing-money-michigan-how-get-paid-state-unclaimed-property](http://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-government/missing-money-michigan-how-get-paid-state-unclaimed-property).



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## Clyde's Corner Cheaper by the dozen...but what about 2 dozen!

by Clyde Whitaker

As you read this, you may think it's a case of "Believe It or Not." Let me assure you, it is a true story—to the best of my research and recollections—about my grandfather,

Morgan C. Whitaker, and his two wives named Mollie. (Yes, you read that correctly!)

Morgan was born in Magoffin, Kentucky, in 1876, to George and Susan (Puckett) Whitaker. In 1893, Morgan married Mollie Risner; both were 18 years old at the time they married.

Morgan and Mollie (Risner) Whitaker raised four sons and eight daughters. Sadly, Mollie fell into an icy creek one day and developed pneumonia, which contributed to her death in 1912.

On Aug. 26, 1913, Morgan married another Mollie, Mollie Howard. A year later, my father, James Whitaker, was born, and he was the first of...are you ready for this...four sons and eight daughters that were born of this union.

Yes, if you are keeping up, each of Morgan's wives gave birth to four sons and eight daughters, bringing the grand total to eight sons and 16 daughters. That means my grandfather was father to a total of 24!

So I'd understand if you are thinking this could lend itself to an episode of "Believe It or Not"!

Morgan died in 1949 at the age of 73, which was before I was born, so I never knew him. On the other hand, my grandmother Mollie (Howard) Whitaker lived until 1972, so I have many memories of her.

One thing is certain, with all those kids to raise, it is a safe bet that life was hard back in the late 1800s and the first part of the 1900s for both Mollies. And according to my father, although he was not a tall man, my Grandpa Morgan was very strong. Dad enjoyed telling us kids about the time our grandfather was standing with a bunch of men around the storage buildings on a break at the Krummrey Farm. An empty railroad car happened to be sitting on the track beside the buildings. Legend has it that Morgan walked over to the empty car, hooked a chain to the car, wrapped the other end around his waist, and proceeded to pull that car a few feet down the track!

Now whether that last story is true, I can't be sure. But there is no denying, my grandfather married two Mollies and was the father of 24 children. Believe it or not!

*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.*



Back row, left, Morgan's first wife, Mollie (nee Risner) along with Morgan, and Morgan's mother Susie. These adults are pictured with eight of the first 12 of Morgan's children, along with a few other family members. Photos provided by Marcy Tracy.



Morgan Whitaker pictured in downtown Stockbridge with three of his nieces.



Morgan Whitaker pictured with two of his daughters, Mary (left) and Minnie (right).



Morgan Whitaker's pocket watch. Photo credit Clyde Whitaker

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## Summary of Waterloo Township Board Meeting February 22, 2024

A regular meeting of the Waterloo Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00. The following motions were supported and approved. Appointment of Clerk. Approval of Consent Agenda including January Board meeting minutes, the 2024 Poverty Exemption Resolution, Wagner land division, account updates to include new Clerk, Fire Barn parking area, drain and septic installation, and motion to adjourn. Actions on the solar ordinance and outdoor gathering ordinance were tabled. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Complete minutes can be found on the Waterloo Township website. (<https://waterlootwpmi.gov/meeting-minutes/>).

Bill Richardson, Clerk

## 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

**April 3** - Parent University, 6 to 7 p.m. at Smith Elementary

**April 5** - STEAM weekends at the Stockbridge Library

**April 5** - One Room School Houses of Ingham County (Teens and Adults), 1 to 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**April 9** - Fiber Arts with the Flocks, 2 to 3 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**April 10** - Panther Cubs PTO Meeting, 4 to 5 p.m. at Heritage School cafeteria.

**April 12** - League of Women Voters Town Hall, New Voting Rights under Proposal 2, noon to 1 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**April 12** - Break the Light, 4 to 5 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**April 13** - Indoor Market, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge First Presbyterian Church

**April 13** - Chicken Supper, 5 to 7 p.m. at Plainfield United Methodist Church

**April 14** - Stockbridge High School Jazz Band Welcomes Spring (Sponsored by SAAC), 3 to 4 p.m. at the Stockbridge Township Hall

**April 15-19:** Book Fair at Smith Elementary

**April 16** - Third Thursday Book Discussion, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**April 18** - After Hours Book Discussion Group, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**April 18** - North Stockbridge Cemetery Association Annual Meeting, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the White Oak Township Hall

**April 19** - STEAM weekends at the Stockbridge Library

**April 23** - Fiber Arts with the Flocks, 2 to 3 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**April 24** - Stockbridge Open Craft Night, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library

**April 27** - Stockbridge Lions Club Annual White Cane Collection

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

## Waterloo Township Public Accuracy Test May 7, 2024 Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Public Accuracy Test for the May 7, 2024 Special Election for the East Jackson School District has been scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the Waterloo Township Hall, 9773 Mt. Hope Road, Munith, MI. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to determine that the program and the computer being used to tabulate the results of the election count the votes in the manner as prescribed by law.

Bill Richardson, Waterloo Township Clerk

### STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES March 18, 2024

Stockbridge Township Supervisor CG Lantis called the Regular Stockbridge Township Board Meeting to order March 18, 2024, at 7:00pm at the Stockbridge Township Hall. Members present at the Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting; Supervisor CG Lantis, Treasurer James Wireman, Clerk Becky Muraf, Trustee Terry Sommer, Trustee Ed Wetherell Member absent None Pledge of Allegiance Moment of Silence Sommer Motion to approve the Stockbridge Township Monthly Board meeting agenda as printed Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried Citizen Comments: Discussion Wetherell Motion to approve the Stockbridge Township meeting minutes as printed from February 19, 2024, Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried Muraf motion to accept the Stockbridge Township financial report as printed from April 1, 2023, thru March 18, 2024, Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried Emma Bostwick From Leap did a presentation on resources for Townships. Old Business Wireman motion to table the Stockbridge Library request for an ADA Door Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Stockbridge Township will hold a clean up day on April 27, 2024, from 10am to 2pm or April 20, 2024, Muraf will reach out to granger and make sure that they will have trucks available More to come has things get organized. New Business Muraf motion to Move \$41,525.21 from election budget and put \$22,120.50 in 219 Elm Street, 1,211.72 in line 247-702 Board of review Salary, \$14,212.83 line 265-818 Contracted Services, \$3,980.16 Unemployment Taxes, Sommer Second Roll Call Vote Muraf Yes, Sommer Yes, Wetherell Yes, Wireman Yes, Lantis Yes All in Favor Motin Carried Muraf motion to table updating the Stockbridge Township Hall rental Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Tabled Wireman motion The Stockbridge Township Board does hereby now takes away the imposition of a late penalty charge equal to 3% of the tax on all taxes paid after February 14 and before March 1. Muraf Second Roll Call Vote Sommer Yes, Muraf Yes, Wireman Yes, Wetherell Yes, Lantis Yes All in Favor Motion Carried Sommer motion to pay the Stockbridge Township Monthly bills in the amount of \$58,634.70 Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried Citizen Comment Discussion Lantis Motion to adjourn the Stockbridge Township regular monthly meeting at 8:04PM on March 18, 2024 BM

### UTPD Activity from February 1-29, 2024

**Friday 02/02** - Unknown Accident- Hadley Rd./Barnum Rd., Assist EMS-M 36/Dutton Rd.  
**Sunday 02/04** - Assist Other Agency- Wasson Rd./Weller Rd., Disturbance-Main St./Dewey St.  
**Monday 02/05** - Assist EMS- Arnold Rd./W Lakelands Trl., Death Investigation-Dexter Trl./Dutton Rd.  
**Wednesday 02/07** - Citizen Assist-Webb St./Church St.  
**Sunday 02/11** - Patrol Information-Gregory Rd./Spears Rd., Welfare Check-Hadley Rd./Barnum Rd.  
**Monday 02/12** - Domestic Assault in progress-Stockbridge St./Cass St., Animal Complaint-San Luray Dr./San Souci Ave., Animal Complaint-Twin Ponds Trl./W M36, Intimidation/Threats-Howlett Rd./Doyle Rd.  
**Tuesday 02/13** - Property Damage Accident-Doyle Rd./Doyle Ct., Ordinance Investigation-Webb St./Church St., Domestic Verbal-Howlett Rd./Doyle Rd.  
**Wednesday 02/14** - Citizen Assist-Daymon Dr./Wasson Rd., Suspicious Situation-Main St./Dewey St.  
**Thursday 02/15** - Unknown Accident-M 106/Treelane Dr., DHS Referrals-San Luray Dr./San Souci Ave.  
**Friday 02/16** - Fraud-M 106/Dutton Rd., Welfare Check-Winifred Ct./W Trebesh Cir., DHS Referrals-W M36/Livermore Rd., Welfare Check-San Luray Dr./San Marino Ave, Alarm-Dexter Trl./Dutton Rd.,

Welfare Check-W M36/Livermore Rd., Subpoena Service-Kathryn Ct./Livermore Rd.  
**Saturday 02/17** - Structure Fire-Main St./W Lakelands Trl., Stalking-Barton Rd./Spears Rd.  
**Sunday 02/18** - Subpoena Service-Kathryn Ct./Livermore Rd.  
**Monday 02/19** - 911 Hang up-Plainfield Rd./M 36  
**Tuesday 02/20** - Citizen Assist-Webb St./Church St., Welfare Check-San Luray Dr./San Marino Ave.  
**Wednesday 02/21** - Domestic Dispute-Dutcher Rd./W Schafer Rd  
**Thursday 02/22** - Citizen Assist-Webb St./Church St., Missing person/Runaway-Williamsville Rd./San Luray Dr.  
**Friday 02/23** - Hazard-Main St./Dewey St., Abandoned Vehicle-Kane Rd./Green Rd., Citizen Assist-Devonshire Dr./W M36, Property Damage Accident-Dexter Trl./M 36  
**Saturday 02/24** - Structure Fire-Doyle Rd./Doyle Ct., Tree Hazard-San Marino Ave./San Juan Ct., Lost/Found Property-Webb St./Church St., Larceny-Weller Rd./Wasson Rd.  
**Monday 02/26** - Welfare Check-Pleasant Dr./Woodside Dr.  
**Wednesday 02/28** - Assist EMS-Bridgetts Way/Howlett Rd., Property Damage Accident-Woodside Dr./Lakeview Dr., Burglary in progress-San Marino Ave./San Juan Ct.  
**Thursday 02/29** - Parking Complaints-Gregory Ridge Rd./M 36

From CADL Stockbridge

## Stockbridge Library brings back Seed Library



The Stockbridge Library is bringing back the Seed Library in April and May. Photo credit Jen Theodore via unsplash.com

by Head Librarian Sherri McConnell

The Seed Library is back for April and May. We have a variety of vegetables, flowers, and herbs to fill your backyard garden. In addition, Capital Area District Libraries participates in a statewide program called One Seed, One State which provides a featured seed to seed libraries in Michigan. This year it is a featured herb, dill. If you enjoy fresh dill on salads or you're a pickle fan, stop by and grab a packet.

For local history fans, on Friday, April 5, 1 to 2 p.m., Audrey Martini will share her knowledge of local and Ingham County one-room schoolhouses. The following Friday, April 12, noon to 1 p.m., the library is hosting a League of Women Voters Town Hall. Learn about the new and modified voting rights

like early voting and the permanent absentee voter list that Michiganders have because of the passing of Proposal 2 in November 2022.

For children, you can count on Family Storytime every Wednesday at 10:30 to 11 a.m. Our STEAM Weekends activities are April 5 to 7, making a cloud viewer and April 19-21, decorating a mini-pot and planting a posy.

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

## Camping page 4

The biggest reason, in my opinion, is the benefit of sleeping off of the ground. When our family transitioned to a pop-up, it was unexpected. As in, one day my husband came home and asked if I had \$40 cash because he'd found us a used pop-up camper. (This was pre-ATM days.) You may be wondering, what kind of a pop-up could he buy for \$40? Me, too! I remember reluctantly turning over the money to him and asking that exact question. I recall hearing the words, "Trust me." I think we'd been married five years at that point, so of course I still trusted him!

Next thing I know, we were the proud owners of a 1950s-era pop-up—but this was in the mid-1980s. Picture, if you will, a Korean War era M.A.S.H. tent on wheels!

But that pitiful little box-and-canvas camper was a godsend. It provided a tent-camping experience but with fold-out beds that were up and off the ground—thus keeping our children drier in the rain and warmer than a traditional tent.

Within a few years, we replaced our little pop-up with a newer Jayco pop-up that had all the bells and whistles at that time. That Jayco took us through the best camping years with our kids—right up until they were out of high school. And I daresay, that pop-up had a lot to do with our kids all developing a fondness for camping.

Other benefits of pop-up camping include:

Being able to conveniently store your camping equipment inside the camper. Not just lanterns and marshmallow skewers, but also plates, silverware, pots and pans—you get the picture.

Most pop-ups have many of the conveniences of home: a built-in stove, oven, refrigerator, and even a heater.

While you can certainly make use of sleeping bags in a pop-up camper, the bed configuration enables you to use regular sheets and blankets if you wish.

Pop-up campers typically do not require trucks to tow them. Depending on the weight of the camper, it may not require anything bigger than a sedan or SUV to pull it. But do your homework to be sure your vehicle can handle the weight of the pop-up.

By virtue of the fact that they "pop up," these campers don't typically block the driver's view out the back window, making it easier than towing something larger that requires you to put most of your faith in your mirrors.

Depending on what material the top of the pop-up camper is made from, you may still need to beware of leaks and tears, just as you would with a tent.

Regardless of what mode you choose for camping, the important thing is to select your home away from home with eyes wide open. And do make sure your tent door zips completely and your pop-up sides are securely fastened to the camper's frame. These kinds of precautions can help to ensure your children don't roll out of the tent while sleeping (yes, it happened to my aunt as a child) and that they don't fall out of the pop-up when the canvas comes unsnapped! (Yes, it happened to our youngest son, but he's fine. I promise.)

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Pop-up campers offer many of the conveniences of home—stove, oven, refrigerator, heat, A/C—while retaining some of that tent-camping feel. Image credit Flickr.ace424 shared under Creative Commons license 2.0.





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## Who's buried in these graves in front of the prison on Cooper Street?

by John Robinson

Jackson Prison, Michigan State Penitentiary, Southern Michigan Prison, Michigan Dept. of Corrections...whatever name you are familiar calling it, fine...as long as you know where it is. If so, you are more than likely aware of that little graveyard right out front next to Cooper Street, sort of beneath the water tower, and next to an old guard tower (which needs some repair, by the way).

I remember as a kid, we'd pass by this old cemetery and I figured it was a graveyard where prisoners were buried after they died...but records indicate it was a different story: a group of settlers from the mid-1800s and some deceased prisoners? If so, which is which? Who's who?

This unassuming, small cemetery has a weathered sign out front that reads: "Pease Cemetery – an Early Settlers Cemetery." So what is/was Pease? A lost settlement, postal stop, or just the name of some guy?

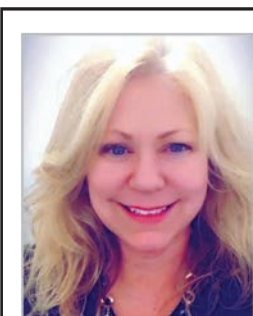
According to a 1930s list of the burials that was compiled by the Daughters of the American Revolution, there are 32 occupied plots here, some without markers. Interestingly, there are three people buried here with the last name "Pease" – Fannie Pease (died 1853), Lyman Pease (1861), and what appears to be their 1-year-old baby girl, Ida Pease (1853). Ida died in February and just seven months later, Fannie passed away, leaving Lyman to live out his years alone. According to People Legacy, Lyman and Fannie had another daughter, Mary Ann, who died in 1848 but was buried elsewhere. This family is where the graveyard got its name from.

In fact, the very first burials that took place here were those of Fannie and Ida Pease in 1853 – the last known burial was Flora J. Wing Cater in 1901.

Blackman Township was organized in 1857. Lyman Pease was indeed the first settler in the territory that became the township, arriving here in 1830 and setting up a homestead on a patch of land that now includes the Cooper Street Correctional Facility, across from the prison.

No records of an actual town-village-hamlet or community of "Pease" seem to exist....if there ever was one at all.

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



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Pease Cemetery, next to the old guard tower at the Cooper Street Correctional Facility in Jackson, Mich. Photos from Google Maps



The word "Pease" is barely visible on a weathered sign at the cemetery.

# STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

## Rival Leslie ends girls basketball season for Panthers

by Mike Williamson

The bid for the Stockbridge girls basketball team's first district title in more than 20 years came to an end at the hands of rival Leslie with a 46-36 loss to the Blackhawks in the district finals at Perry March 8.

The loss ended the Panthers' season with an overall record of 14-10. Seven of those losses came against state-ranked teams.

Much like the first time the two teams met, a slow start doomed the Panthers.

Leslie came out hot from behind the 3-point arch and Stockbridge could not buy a basket, as the Blackhawks jumped out to a 15-1 lead.

Gracee Robidou scored five points in the final minute of the quarter to help cut the lead to 17-7 after one.

The Panthers got right back in it by hitting five straight to start the second with baskets by Alaina Kellenberger and Melina Sayre to cut the lead to 17-12.

Stockbridge got within four at 18-14 with a Kellenberger putback but would go scoreless in the final 3:40 of the half and Leslie went on a 7-0 run for a 25-14 lead at the break.

Leslie led 35-25 after three, but the Panthers would rally in the fourth and a Maddie Dalton jumper cut the lead to 37-33 with just more than 4 minutes left.

That would be as close as the Panthers would get, as Stockbridge went cold and Robidou fouled out with 1:30 left in the game and the Blackhawks sealed the win from the line.

Kellenberger had a big night inside for the Panthers with a double-double of 15 points and 19 rebounds before fouling out of her last game for Stockbridge.

Robidou in her last game as a Panther finished with 11 points and two steals.

Seniors Dalton and Taylor Lockhart both finished with two points, with Lockhart grabbing four rebounds. Sayre added three points, Madisyn Atkins two, and Zoe Buddenborg one.

On March 6, the Panthers reached the district finals by taking down Laingsburg 50-23.

Stockbridge jumped out to a huge first-half lead and never looked back, as they cruised to the win.

Robidou had a big night with five triples and finished with a team-high 20 points.

Dalton had a strong game with eight points, eight rebounds and four assists, while Kellenberger added four points and 16 rebounds.

Lockhart added four points and six rebounds, while Sayre had four points and five rebounds. Emma Monahan chipped in with four points and five rebounds. Madeline Topping had four points and Bella Pybus two.

## Cheyenne Calhoun qualifies for MHSAA Girls Bowling State Finals

by Mike Williamson

Stockbridge senior Cheyenne Calhoun moved on to the D3 state bowling finals by a mere four pins and competed in Jackson March 1 and 2. Calhoun rolled an eight-game total of 1,027 to finish in the seventh spot to qualify for the state finals. Despite rolling her lowest score of day, she was able to hold on to the final spot at the regional at Royal Scot Lanes in Lansing.

Her three highest games of the day were 184, 181 and 178. To go along with games of 170 and 168, her final game of 146 had Calhoun holding her breath about keeping the seventh and final spot, which she did.

Calhoun was the highest finisher for the Panthers, with Emma Toth finishing 54th, Samantha Cowan 58th and Melody Loomis 71st.

The girls finished 10th at the team regional with a score of 1,822, while the boys finished 14th with a score of 2,047.

Calhoun competed in the state finals in Jackson and finished 43rd out of 56 bowlers. She shot a six-game total of 950 with high scores of 196, 180 and 162.



Maddie Dalton ready to receive the ball despite heavy guarding by Leslie defense. Photos provided by Mike Williamson



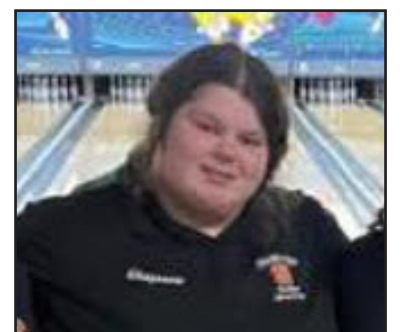
Gracee Robidou drives to the basket against Leslie.



Taylor Lockhart is all eyes on the ball and ready for the rebound.



Alaina Kellenberger prepares to take a shot.



Cheyenne Calhoun. Photo from Facebook.com

# STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

## Panthers fall to top-ranked Laingsburg in district finals

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge basketball team came up just short of a district title as D3 top-ranked Laingsburg ended the Panthers' season with a 57-46 loss March 1.

The Panthers fell behind 16-8 after one quarter, but rallied in the second and took a 22-19 lead with a Joey Ballagh triple.

The Wolfpack bounced back to take the lead just before halftime, but Zach Fletcher banked in a long triple to tie the game at 25 at the break.

Stockbridge took a 29-27 lead in the third, but Laingsburg answered with an 11-2 run to take a 38-31 lead after three.

Stockbridge would get within six in the fourth, but would get no closer, as Laingsburg held on for the win.

Shannon Henderson had a big night with 20 points to lead the Panthers. Ballagh had six and Jacob Dalton two.

The Panthers reached the finals Feb. 28 by rolling over Leslie 66-28.

The Panthers jumped out to a huge lead early and put the game away in the second half.

Henderson led Stockbridge with 13 points. Kegan Collins scored 11 and Ballagh 10. Brock Rochow chipped in with nine and Dalton added six.

The Panthers finished 17-7 overall on the season.



Shannon Henderson goes up for a basket. Photos provided by Mike Williamson



Kegan Collins drives against a defender.



Joey Ballagh shoots a 3-pointer.

### Varsity Softball



- 4-2 Dansville Away
- 4-4 Concord Away
- 4-8 Grass Lake Home
- 4-11 Potterville Home
- 4-13 Concord Inv Away
- 4-18 Springport Home
- 4-25 Quincy Away
- 4-26 East Jackson Away
- 4-27 Leslie Inv Away
- 4-29 Webberville Away
- 5-2 Springport Home
- 5-9 Perry Home
- 5-10 Springport Away
- 5-14 Potterville Away
- 5-15 Lumen Christi Away
- 5-18 Lake City Away
- 5-20 Pinckney Away

### Track



- 4-5 Fowlerville Inv Away
- 4-9 Grass Lake Away
- 4-12 Napoleon Inv Away
- 4-17 Reading Away
- 4-19 Union City Home
- 4-22 Okemos Tri Away
- 4-26 Webberville Inv Away
- 5-3 44th Stockbridge Inv Home
- 5-10 East Jackson Inv Away
- 5-18 MHSAA Regional Home

### Varsity Baseball



- 4-2 Dansville Away
- 4-5 Lake City Home
- 4-8 Grass Lake Home
- 4-11 Potterville Home
- 4-13 Napoleon Inv. Away
- 4-16 Perry Home
- 4-18 Springport Home
- 4-22 Barry Cty Christian Home
- 4-25 Quincy Away
- 4-26 East Jackson Away
- 4-29 Webberville Away
- 5-2 Lansing Eastern Away
- 5-10 Leslie Away
- 5-14 Potterville Away
- 5-16 Maple Valley Away
- 5-17 Lansing Sexton Away
- 5-22 Pinckney Home
- 5-24 Litchfield Home

### Boys Golf

- 4-9 Pinckney Home-Timber Trace
- 4-12 Perry Away
- 4-13 Laingsburg Inv Away
- 4-20 Dicks Sporting Goods Away-Perry
- 5-1 Leslie Home-Timber Trace
- 5-3 Ovid Elsie Inv Away
- 5-8 East Jackson Inv Away
- 5-9 Quincy Inv Away
- 5-17 Springport Inv Away
- 5-23 Lansing Christian Inv Away



### Girls Varsity Soccer

- 4-2 Charyl Stockwell Home
- 4-4 Leslie Home
- 4-9 Pinckney Away
- 4-11 Lansing Everett Home
- 4-18 Jackson Christian Home
- 4-22 Fowlerville Away
- 4-24 Quincy Away
- 4-27 Stockbridge Inv Home
- 4-29 Perry Away
- 5-2 Maple Valley Home
- 5-6 Charyl Stockwell Away
- 5-7 Northwest Home
- 5-10 Springport Away
- 5-14 Dansville Home
- 5-16 Potterville Away
- 5-20 Jackson Christian Away



## Spring 2024 SPORTS SCHEDULE



STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Jennifer Matthews

## Bridge to Wellness

### Early spring brings early tick season

by Jennifer Matthews, RN

The early arrival of spring also may bring an early arrival of ticks and other insects. Stockbridge is part of a confirmed area where Lyme disease can be transmitted by the bite of an infected deer tick, which is also known as the blacklegged tick. A bite doesn't

necessarily mean you will get Lyme disease, but it's important to know the risks and prevention strategies.

In Michigan, ticks are most active during the warmer months, April through September. This is a time to be vigilant about monitoring for ticks. Use these prevention strategies to avoid tick bites and the issues they can cause.

#### Avoid areas known to have higher tick populations.

- Ticks prefer shady moist areas in wooded and grassy locations.
- Stay on trails and avoid high grass, brush, and fallen leaves.

#### Monitor skin and clothes after being outdoors.

- Wear light colors to make ticks more visible.
- Perform daily tick checks. Ticks can hide in areas such as armpits, scalp, and groin.
- Remove any ticks from clothing before going indoors.
- Shower, if possible, after being outdoors.
- Remember to check your pets.
- Use preventative measures to prevent ticks on your pets.

#### Use repellents.

- Insect repellents containing DEET and permethrin are effective for repelling ticks.

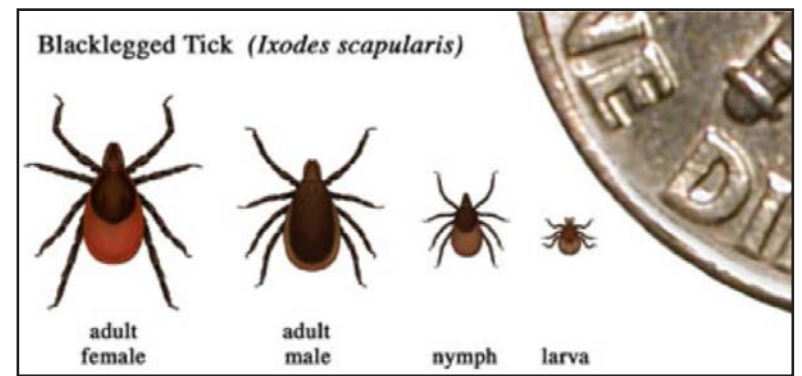
Symptoms can include fever, rash, headache, body aches and fatigue. NOTE: The erythema migrans rash caused by a tick bite is a reddened area that increases in size and often clears in the middle to resemble a bull's-eye.

Many good resources are available online to learn more about minimizing risk, and recognizing symptoms of tick bites and Lyme disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is a good resource for information regarding ticks and the diseases they carry. You also can visit michigan.gov and search for "ticks" or "Lyme disease" to view information specific to the state of Michigan.

#### Sources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- State of Michigan Health and Human Services
- Washtenaw County Health Department

*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.*



The early arrival of spring also may bring an early arrival of ticks. Image credit: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



The erythema migrans rash caused by a tick bite can be a reddened area that increases in size and often clears in the middle to resemble a bull's-eye. Image credit: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Apply to clothing and skin.
- Always read and follow the label directions.

#### What to do if you find a tick on yourself, children or pets.

- Remove the tick as soon as possible.
- Use a pair of tweezers to grip it by its head and mouth to ensure that the entire tick is removed when pulled away.
- If the tick is not attached, a bite may look like a red bump resembling a mosquito bite or a bull's-eye. Tick bites do not typically itch.
- A deer tick needs to be attached to someone for 36 hours or longer for Lyme disease to develop. Continue to monitor if you know you've been bit but are unsure if or how long the tick was embedded.
- See your doctor if symptoms of Lyme disease occur.



thank  
you

The Stockbridge Community News team would like to thank those in the community who continue to send donations in response to our article in the February edition about rising costs. Special thanks to those listed below whose donations were received between February 25-March 22, 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
- Charles & Nancy Wisman
- Linda Walker
- Bruce & Michelle Ferguson
- Richard White
- Jane James
- Dave & Cynthia Avery
- Steven Muraf

## Panther Cubs PTO page 3



Clay Grover helps work one of the book fairs hosted by the Panther Cubs PTO.

A few key activities and events are still on the calendar for this school year, and Panther Cubs PTO would like to encourage community members to volunteer for one of the following: Staff Appreciation Week, the book fair at Smith (April 15-19), the book fair at Heritage (May 20-24), the Family Glow Dance, and the Summer Kick Off.

The Panther Cubs PTO meets once a month on a Wednesday, after school from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Heritage cafeteria. The next meeting, on April 10, will include time for our board member nominations.

"Everyone is welcome to come," Walz said. "You can just show up and you are a member. You can help with whatever you like, whenever you like. We are pretty chill and relaxed. We just like to help support our students and staff."

Walz added a special thanks to all who support the PTO regularly. "Thank you to our amazing crew of popcorn poppers, the incredible staff support provided by Mr. Anderson, who is at everyone's events and whom the kids cannot wait to see. I also want to add special thanks for our board members Jessica Lane, Robin Bergman and Amanda Scheller. Without these ladies, there would be no PTO!"

If you would like to volunteer or become a Panther Cubs PTO board member, contact Reaghan Walz at [reaghan@gmail.com](mailto:reaghan@gmail.com). You also can follow the Panthers Cubs PTO on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/panthercubsppto> to see updates about current events.

*All photos for this story credited to Reaghan Walz.*

## Reading Between the Lines page 11

Much as their services were needed, Steinbeck described how these migrants were not welcomed and growers pulled strings to keep migrant pay low:

"The migrants are needed and they are hated. Arriving in a district they find the dislike always meted out by the resident to the foreigner, the outlander. ... Wanderers in fact, they are never allowed to feel at home in the communities that demand their services. ... It has been the habit of the growers' associations of the state to provide by importation, twice as much labor as was necessary, so that wages might remain low."

Throughout the chapters of the book, Steinbeck described in detail the deprivation of the squatters' camps where malnutrition and disease were rife. The migrants remained ineligible for care from the county-run hospitals or relief agencies since they were not permanent residents. He noted the problem of childbirth was "among the most terrible." There was no prenatal care and the mothers had to work in the fields until physically unable. According to Steinbeck, "In actual birth, the presence of a doctor is a rare exception."

Steinbeck didn't just compose narrative describing migrant conditions. In each chapter, he offered policy recommendations to help ameliorate the exploitation of the migrant and provide a level of dignity to them.

"The Harvest Gypsies" is highly recommended. It's very readable, a unique piece of history, and is only 88 pages in length, including 16 pages of engrossing photographs by Dorothea Lange and others. It's also an excellent example of how an author took something with which he was intimately familiar and turned it into a literary masterpiece.

"The Harvest Gypsies" is available on order from the Stockbridge District Library.

*Chuck Wisman still resides locally on the family farm and is retired from state government after almost 40 years of service.*

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## Outreach in Action

# Regardless of which came first—chickens or eggs—Outreach is grateful to local FFA chapter for its donations of both

by Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall

The timeless conundrum of which came first – the chicken or the egg – acquired a literal meaning at Stockbridge Community Outreach as we tried to recall our first contact with Stockbridge Jr/Sr High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) group.

"I think it was eggs, first, then some produce and eventually chickens," offered Outreach Director Gwen Reid. Reid recently visited the group's classroom to pick up both chickens and eggs to help stock the Outreach pantry. On this particular visit, part of Future Farmers of America (FFA) week, Reid returned with 10 processed frozen chickens and dozens of eggs.

"Our pantry shoppers always choose the FFA eggs over store-bought. They love those eggs," Reid said. "And we love telling people about the student-led FFA."

The group's bounty augments other locally donated eggs to form the core of eggs available to clients who shop the pantry once per month for their families.

"Eggs are a versatile, easy-to-cook, nutritious and delicious source of protein, especially at a time when meat is becoming harder to get in the pantry," Reid explained. "We really appreciate the local community stepping up and helping us feed our neighbors."

The FFA Stockbridge Chapter has been a prominent and consistent donor to the pantry over the past year, giving a total of 129 dozen eggs, 80 pounds of vegetables, and more than 10 broiler chickens.

And the group's local commitment hasn't gone unnoticed. It garnered a Building Our Michigan Communities award at a recent statewide FFA convention, where the Stockbridge chapter was recognized for 192 hours of community service. This is quite an accomplishment for a chapter that went dormant in 1989, was eventually discontinued, and then was revived in 2022 thanks to a renewed interest among students and the community.

Not only has the group supplied food to Outreach, but members read to kids at the Stockbridge Library, helped at the Waterloo Farm Museum's Pioneer Day and introduced fifth-grade students to the revived apple orchard south of the Jr/Sr High School. They even showed the students how to make cider with the apples.

Additionally, the Stockbridge chapter won two silver medals in an FFA Broiler Chicken Contest. But as far as Outreach is concerned, Reid believes all Stockbridge FFA members deserve gold stars!

For more information about the Stockbridge FFA, contact Stockbridge FFA advisor and agriculture teacher Bob Richards at richardsr@panethernet.net or 517-851-7770, ext. 6204.

*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.*



Outreach director, Gwen Reid (center, in green), thanks Stockbridge FFA students for one of the group's many generous egg donations. Photo credit Bob Richards

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## Ask an Expert page 12

It is less expensive for it to just pay to have the car repaired correctly instead of going through all the legal expense. If making a claim against your own insurer, the attorney's letter may encourage it to reassess its position and provide full payment to avoid a lawsuit for breach of contract or other causes such as deceptive business practices, bad faith, etc.

Because of all the variables, it is very difficult to define how long the vehicle will be down for repairs. I can tell you this. It is in our best interest to get the vehicle back to you as quickly as possible because we generally front all the money for the complete repair and do not deposit a penny until you pick it up. Our payday is when your repair is completed. Keep in mind, during the repairs the insurance company should be providing you with a comparable rental vehicle.

Here is another alternative. If making a claim against the at-fault party's insurance company, and it refuses to do the right thing and pay the full amount for your vehicle to be properly repaired, you may then go to your insurance company with the request for it to take over the claim. This gives you a higher degree of leverage, as your insurance company is under contract to restore your property to pre-loss condition. (This is not the case with someone else's insurance company). You will have to pay your deductible – but you also are entitled to access more options to ensure your repair gets done properly.

Here's the final alternative: Let's say we cannot come to an agreement with the insurance company. You can request your insurer to remove the vehicle from our shop and bring it to one of its shops that will have to repair it for what it wrote. The quality of the repairs will be a potential question, but you will not have to pay out of pocket for anything. Now, let's say that the vehicle was repaired by your insurer's shop and the repairs were found to be substandard. Because the repairs were completed at one of its contract shops, your insurance company has to guarantee the repairs performed. Interesting that insurance companies would rather take this long road and end up paying much more than if it just paid to repair it correctly the first time. But unfortunately for the consumer, it happens like this quite often.

Insurance companies have made the process of having your car repaired very complex. We do our very best to be by your side, on your side, every step of the way. I know I have given you a lot of information here, Please feel free to reach out with additional questions or further clarification. We don't just restore damaged vehicles, we restore our customer's peace of mind!"

*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

Remember, age is more a mindset than a reflection of the number of years that have passed since our birth certificate was issued.

Misconceptions abound about senior centers, perhaps largely due to the name "senior" center. You owe it to yourself to come by and spend a little time with our area's most experienced citizens. See for yourself the fun and energy oozing through the walls at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center at 219 W. Elm St. in Stockbridge. You'll be welcomed with a smile and introduced to all of our fun friends!



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

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# 2024 Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation online auction raises nearly \$20,000 through community support

by Hope Salyer

The Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation's annual auction fundraiser was a great success again this year. The event raised over \$19,800 thanks to the participation and generosity of donors and bidders. The auction ran online for one week, from March 10 to March 16, and items were picked up from Heritage School on Sunday, March 17.

More than 190 people registered to bid on the 184 items donated by businesses and individuals throughout the country. Organizations who donated to the auction included the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum, Detroit Tigers, Detroit Red Wings, Oriental Trading Company, Dean Transportation, and many local businesses and individuals.

SAEF has been holding a fundraising event in the month of March for over 20 years, with the exception of 2020 when the auction had to be canceled at the last minute due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to that, SAEF had always hosted an in-person Festival of Tables event with a catered dinner and both a silent and live auction.

The online auction format, used over the last four years, has enabled access to a wider audience, including individuals who travel during the cold winter months and families on spring break vacations. It also has significantly reduced the overhead costs for the foundation.

SAEF would like to bring back the Festival of Tables in a way that supports the online auction and provides the community with a chance to get together. Many ideas have been considered, including collaborating with other local nonprofits, having an event off-site, or focusing on auction pick-up day to hold a party. This year's auction pickup included doughnuts donated by Gee Farms.

Please help SAEF thank their donors by doing business with them when you can. The list of donors is available in the below SAEF ad in this issue of the Stockbridge Community News. If you have ideas, comments or suggestions, please feel free to send them to SAEF via [Stockbridgefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:Stockbridgefoundation@gmail.com).

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