



STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

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Brian Friddle to retire from SCS District



Superintendent Brian Friddle will retire from SCS this summer. Photo from SCN media library

Dear Community Members,
I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve our community and to work with so many people who prioritize student learning. I am planning to retire this summer and begin the next chapter of life. It has been a great privilege to serve the Stockbridge Community School District.

I am grateful for being allowed to support the important lessons provided to our students every day. Our district remains focused on what matters most, providing meaningful learning opportunities for students.

We have faced challenges, celebrated successes, and worked to make decisions in the best interests of our students and community. I am proud of the progress we have made and the strong foundation in place for continued success.

One of the things that gives me great confidence is knowing that this district will continue to prioritize growth, both in learning opportunities for students and in professional development for staff. Because of that commitment, I am confident that we will see great things in the future for the Stockbridge community.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving in this role. I will always be grateful for the experiences, relationships, and memories that were created during my time here.

With gratitude and appreciation,
Brian Friddle
Superintendent of Schools

Stockbridge FFA students bring robotics, research to Dominican Republic



The students pool-test their ROVs, which are designed to traverse where humans might not be able to and stay immersed under water for long periods of time to monitor coral-reef changes. Photo from the Stockbridge FFA Facebook page.

inclined at first, so we had to teach basic skills like soldering and wiring," Gancer said. "But they also surprised us with what they already knew, and that helped the process go more smoothly."

See FFA on page 16.

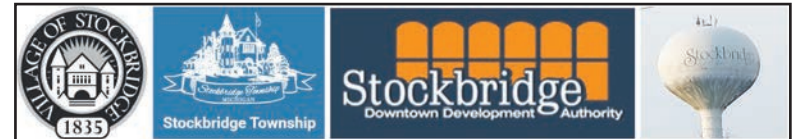
by Melissa McPherson

On Feb. 22, students from the Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School FFA Underwater Robotics Team, escaped the frigid Michigan weather and boarded a plane to the Dominican Republic, but this was no tropical vacation. These students left on a mission that was to be focused on underwater robotics and environmental research.

The first goal of the weeklong trip was to partner with students at the Puntacana International School and teach them how to build underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). These underwater robots are used by scientists to explore marine environments that are difficult for humans to access. William Gancer, one of the seven students who made the trip, said one of the biggest challenges was adapting lessons for students with different levels of experience.

"Some of them weren't very mechanically inclined at first, so we had to teach basic skills like soldering and wiring," Gancer said. "But they also surprised us with what they already knew, and that helped the process go more smoothly."

Village, Township, and SDDA partner to improve severe weather awareness



A new storm chaser camera on the Stockbridge water tower will allow Stockbridge community access to improved severe weather alerts. Photo credit Clyde Whitaker for Stockbridge water tower photo

Information provided by Village of Stockbridge

The Village of Stockbridge, Stockbridge Township, and the Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority (SDDA) are proud to announce a new partnership that will bring an added weather monitoring resource to the community through the installation of a Storm Chasers weather camera on the village water tower.

This collaborative effort was spearheaded by newly appointed SDDA Chair Mandy Urquhart, whose initiative helped bring the three entities together and move the project forward quickly and efficiently.

On March 16, the Stockbridge Township Board approved the purchase and installation of a Storm Chasers weather camera, to be donated to the SDDA. On March 19, the SDDA formally accepted the gift from the township. Later that same day, the Village Council approved a five-year lease agreement allowing the SDDA to use space on the village water tower for the camera.

This quick and coordinated effort reflects the commitment of local leaders to work together on projects that benefit the entire community.

See Severe weather camera on page 13.

April 2026
Features

- 2026 Community Resource Guide:** See pages 4-5.
- Lady Panthers win first district title in 26 years:** See page 10.
- Stockbridge High School Spring Sports Schedule:** See page 11.
- SAEF Festival of Tables Auction Thank You:** See page 20.

Rural Perspectives: Snow buntings will be leaving our area in early spring



Diane Gray Constable

by Diane Constable

The snow bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) is found on our local farm fields only during the winter months. The first part of its scientific name is Greek and refers to its long, straight, hind claw; the second part is Latin for snow white. The word "bunting" comes from Old English and refers to this bird's thick feathering.

Snow buntings have a white chest and belly, with brown and black markings on the wings and back enabling them to blend in with the winter fields. They are sometimes called "snowflakes" because the flocks whirl around like snowflakes as they search the snowy fields for seeds. They use their sense of smell to find weed seeds (eating up to 300 per day) under the snow or along the roadsides. They often sleep within snowbanks where it can be 20 degrees warmer than the air temperature.

The snow buntings arrive in our area in late fall, and in early spring they leave to migrate back to their breeding grounds in the High Arctic.



A snow bunting blends into the winter field with its white chest and belly and the brown and black markings on its wings and back. Photo credit Diane Constable

The males leave first, migrating at night using the Earth's magnetic fields to navigate to the northern Arctic tundra, farther north than most birds. About four weeks later, the females follow. The female makes an open cup nest of moss and grasses far back in a rock hole or crevice. The female sits on the eggs to keep them warm while the male keeps her well-fed. The three to seven brown-spotted white eggs hatch in about two weeks. The newly hatched birds will be able to fly in another two weeks and will live up to nine years. Both parents feed the nestlings.

These tough birds will grow to about 6 inches long, weigh a bit over an ounce, and will be able to withstand minus-40-degree temperatures. During the Arctic summer, the snow buntings eat seeds, insects, and spiders as they walk, hop, and run along the ground.

Fun Fact: The male doesn't have a true molt. But it will rub its head and belly on the snow to wear away the brown tips of its feathers to show its summer breeding plumage, which is overall snow-white with black markings.

As an avid photographer, Diane Constable regularly puts her formal education in both nature and photography to good use. Diane also enjoys gardening and her dogs. She serves on the board of the Ann Arbor Dog Training Club and is editor of the club's newsletter.

Bridge to Wellness

Wellness Coalition shares 2025 survey results and insights for Stockbridge

by Matt Pegouskie

Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition (SAWC) gathered for their regularly scheduled meeting on March 17 to discuss survey results, consider several grant and sponsorship requests, and share updates from their respective organizations.

The first matter of business was a presentation by 5 Healthy Towns Foundation in which representatives shared results from the 2025 5 Healthy Towns survey. The survey, conducted across all 5 Healthy Towns, was available via computer, tablet, smartphone, or public computer stations. The results of the survey will be used by 5HF and the Wellness Coalitions to help guide strategic priorities and granting processes.

See Wellness Coalition on page 18.



At its March 17 meeting, 5 Healthy Towns Foundation shared results from the 2025 5HF Survey. Photo credit Jakub Zerdzicki on unsplash.com

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Faces of Addiction

Building a strong foundation for a new future within the Culture of Recovery



Tina Cole-Mullins

by Tina Cole-Mullins

(Editor's Note: Faces of Addiction is a continuing series about people who experience drug addiction and the difficulty of recovery. By telling their stories, they hope to help others who are struggling and encourage them to seek treatment and healing.)

In our last installment, we closed with a glimpse into the next story rising from inside Andy's Place: the story of Edward "Eddie" Forbes and his wife, Katrina. Their journey is one of the clearest examples of what recovery culture looks like when a strong foundation is added to someone's daily life.

Andy's Place helped create part of that foundation.

Eddie grew up in Stockbridge, where addiction took hold early—alcohol and marijuana in his teens, then cocaine, and eventually methamphetamine. Two decades of use stripped away stability until he was living out of his car.

The shift wasn't dramatic. It was the slow realization that he was out of moves. Nights spent trying to stay warm, days chasing the same cycle, all led to the hollow truth that nothing would change unless he changed.

"I realized not only the damage I did to myself but to the people around me—their families," Eddie said.

He wasn't surviving anymore; he was disappearing. That quiet clarity pushed him toward help and then eventually toward Andy's Place as a resident manager.

He still pauses when he says, "I was homeless on the lot where I became resident manager." It's not just irony; it's the distance between who he was and who he became.



Eddie and Katrina Forbes: A picture of what recovery culture looks like when both bring a strong foundation to the relationship. Photo credit Photography by Leah

Katrina's story runs parallel. Her recovery began in heartbreak—losing both of her children with the termination of her parental rights. Two weeks into a jail sentence, something shifted.

"I realized if I'm not a mother, I'm nothing," she said. "I didn't want this life anymore."

When she was reaccepted into treatment court, she entered a four-month program called SHARE.

"It was a lockdown facility," she said, "but the whole time I was there, I never felt so free."

She also learned a truth she still carries: "When your car breaks down in the addiction world, no one shows up unless they want something. In the recovery community, people will give you the shirt off their back. That became one of my loves."

Healthy relationships came first, then purpose. She worked at ARE Inc., which stands for Activities, Recovery, Empowerment, then she and Eddie became resident managers at Andy's Place. She and Eddie eventually stepped out of their residential roles, got their own place, and found their places in the world. Eventually, Katrina contracted with Jackson County Drug Court as a group facilitator and data entry support.

She goes on to proudly share, "Edward recently started his own construction business this year, as we took a leap of faith, building a life rooted in mutual respect and emotional sobriety."

And here's the part that matters for this chapter: Eddie and Katrina didn't meet in treatment. They met about a year into sobriety—out in the world, when the ordinary rhythms of life were finally settling into place.

"If we had met before, we wouldn't have made it," Eddie told me. "We were two different people back then."

Sobriety didn't just give them a relationship; it gave them the versions of themselves capable of building one.

Today, Katrina serves as director at the ARE Inc. Hillsdale Drop-In Center and is a certified peer support specialist. Eddie has launched his own business. Their relationships—with each other and with their community—are grounded, reciprocal, and honest.

Recovery gave them their lives back, a community, and a future. Post-recovery, they have the support of people who show up without expecting anything in return.

Eddie and Katrina's separate journeys reveal what a strong foundation can make possible inside the culture of recovery. Their stories show that change doesn't come from dramatic moments, it comes from structure, honesty, accountability, and the quiet courage to start again.

See Recovery on page 13.

Voices of Service

UTPD Detective Brad Patton digs in on cases that require deeper investigation



Melissa McPherson

by Melissa McPherson

Detective Brad Patton always knew he wanted to work in law enforcement. He grew up watching "The Rockford Files" and "Adam-12" and would listen to a neighbor's police scanner on the weekends, imagining himself as a crime fighter.

Originally from Hartland, Detective Patton worked for the Brighton Police

Department for several years before he was promoted to detective in 2002. He spent 18 years with the department, including six years on a DEA task force before retiring in 2020.

In 2025, Detective Patton found himself missing the work. He had collaborated with Unadilla Township's Chief David Russell on a few cases and knew working for Russell would be a positive experience. When a position opened up at Unadilla Township Police



Chief David Russell (right) congratulates Detective Brad Patton (left) who was named Officer of the Year by the Unadilla Township Police Department in 2025. Photo from Unadilla Township's Facebook page

Department (UTPD), Patton got recertified through the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) and was hired in April.

Patton handles UTPD cases that require deeper investigation, including fraud and identity theft. In fact, much of his current caseload involves financial crimes and identity theft.

"Every day is different," Patton said. "There's no typical day in law enforcement."

He mentioned that one of the biggest challenges is the role technology plays in modern crime. Particularly when the crime involves children.

"There are so many predators out there," he said. "Parents need to know who their kids are talking to, whether it's on social media, websites, or even in games."

The internet and technology make it easy for people to hide and can make it difficult to identify a criminal. The process takes a long time. It's not like TV where everything is solved in 20 minutes, which is ironic considering the time Patton dedicated to viewing detective shows as a child. Identifying a suspect in a fraud case can take six to eight weeks, followed by the additional work of locating, interviewing, and arresting that person.

See Voices of Service on page 15.



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Stockbridge Community Resource Guide 2026

sponsored by:
Stockbridge Township



Local groups enrich community

The local area is home to a wide array of nonprofit and charitable organizations, all for the benefit of local residents. The information here represents the best efforts of the Stockbridge Community News to compile descriptions and contact information.

Not listed or notice an error? Please accept our apologies and email corrected information to Stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com or mail to the NEWS, P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137. Also, if your organization has an event to advertise or announce free of charge in our "Community Calendar," please contact the email above.

American Legion Mackinder-Glenn Post 510 is the local meeting place for Legion members (veterans), SAL (Sons of the American Legion), ALR (American Legion Riders, a motorcycle group) and the Auxiliary. All groups provide scholarships for relatives of members. Any honorably discharged veteran who served after Dec. 7, 1941, is now able to join the American Legion. Everyone is welcome to attend games, meals and other activities. Phone 517-851-8445.

Cub Scouts Camping, fishing, archery, BB gun shooting, Pinewood Derby races and more for boys in kindergarten through fifth grade. Call/text Mike Stoffer at 734-355-3070 or email stockbridgecubscouts@gmail.com.

Churches: The Stockbridge area is home to a wide assortment of churches and religious organizations. Currently recorded churches in our area are:

First Presbyterian, 101 S. Center. Contact Linda or Kate at 517-851-7015.

Stockbridge United Methodist, 219 E. Elizabeth. Contact: Elizabeth, 517-851-7676.

Sts. James, Cornelius and Cyprian Catholic, Catholic Church Road. Contact Bonnie at 517-589-8492 or bonnie@saintsjcc.org.

Gregory Community Church, 126 Church St., Gregory. 734-498-2541.

Trinity Lutheran, 5758 West Michigan-36, Pinckney 734-878-5977.

Church of Christ, 4783 S. M-52, Stockbridge. 517-851-8141.

Highest Praise Worship Center, 5107 Clinton, Stockbridge. 517-851-7758.

Crossroads Community Church, 950 S. Clinton, Stockbridge. 517-851-7075.

First Methodist Church of Waterloo, Territorial Road, Stockbridge. 517-851-7287.

Good Shepherd Mission, 5050 E. M-36. 517-851-9800.

Jeruel Baptist Church, 11400 Plum Orchard Road, Munith. 517-596-2128.

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 15800 Graves Road, Gregory. 734-498-2601.

Millville United Methodist Church, 1932 N. M-52, Stockbridge. 517-851-7853.

Munith United Methodist, 122 N. M-36, Munith. 517-596-2441.

Plainfield United Methodist Church, 17845 M-36, Stockbridge. 517-851-7651.

Southwest Church of the Nazarene, 14555 Holmes Road, Gregory. 734-498-2682.

Trinity Pentecostal Church, 4935 Freiermuth Road. 517-565-3310.

Unadilla Presbyterian Church, 20175 Williamsville Road, Gregory. 517-851-7296 734-498-7114.

The Stockbridge Community News is pleased to allocate special sections of the December and April print editions to holiday activities hosted by these organizations. In addition, see our online and print "Community Calendar" for specific church activities and events each month.

Friends of the Stockbridge Library is a nonprofit organization raising money to support library programming at the local level by holding an annual Silent Auction, helping with book sales and more. For info, contact P.O. Box 802 or email eileenconti50@gmail.com.

Girl Scouts Enjoy field trips, camping, cultural studies and more. For info, contact Kate Wigent at 517-742-4741, or Membership Specialist Callie Frey with the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan at 517-742-4741.

Happy Hustlers 4-H Club develops citizenship, leadership responsibility and life skills of youth ages 5 and older through positive learning programs. Ask to join on our Stockbridge Happy Hustlers 4-H Facebook page or call/text Michelle Marshall, 517-937-7694.

Munith Rod & Gun Club sponsors American Trapshooting Association (ATA) events and holds trapshooting practice at 5 p.m. on Fridays, April through October. Contact: 517-596-2142, or Facebook at www.facebook.com/munithrodandgunclub.

Munith/Stockbridge Community Pay It Forward Group is a local online outreach project solely aimed at helping our neighbors in need at the micro level. Facebook at Munith/Stockbridge Community Pay it Forward Group or email wakeupstockbridge@gmail.com.

Open Air Market of Stockbridge is held every Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. on the Stockbridge Township Square, May through October. New vendors welcome. Contact OAM, P.O. Box 382, Stockbridge, MI 49285, or OAMStockbridge@gmail.com and see us on Facebook.

Panther Cubs PTO is a nonprofit group of parent volunteers, teachers and administrators supporting the needs of the staff and students of Stockbridge schools.

For more info, see <https://facebook.com/panthercubsppto/>

Shop Rat Foundation promotes and provides hands-on learning opportunities for youth enrolled in grades 6-12 to gain a better understanding of the manufacturing industry.

Can be found at www.shoprat.org. Contact Kelly Burr Kofflin at shopratfoundation@gmail.com, for information.

SRSly Stockbridge is a community coalition supporting youth mental health and preventing substance use. Learn more at srslystockbridge.org.

Stockbridge Area Chamber of Commerce focuses on helping businesses and residents succeed by making the communities of Gregory, Munith and Stockbridge better places to work, live, dine, and play. See www.stockbridgeareachamber.org/ or visit our Facebook page.

Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation enhances the educational opportunities available to all through quarterly grants and scholarships and offers other educational support. Its primary annual fundraiser is the Festival of Tables. Phone 517-851-7188 or visit www.panthernet.net/our-district/saef.

See Community Resource Guide on page 5.



Community Resource Guide page 4

Stockbridge Area Arts Council (SAAC) is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to providing opportunities for area residents of all ages to participate in and enjoy the performing arts and cultural events. Email: stockbridgeareaartscouncil@gmail.com with your contact information to learn more.

The Stockbridge Area Garden Club serves the greater Stockbridge area to beautify public areas, educate people about gardening and support civic projects. Contact risnerco@gmail.com or mail the Stockbridge Garden Club, P.O. Box 612, Stockbridge, MI 49285.

Stockbridge Area Genealogical/Historical Society (SAGHS) is dedicated to preserving and promoting genealogical and historical information throughout the greater Stockbridge area. Offices are in the Stockbridge Township Hall, P.O. Box 966, Stockbridge, MI 49285. For more info, see www.stockbridgeareaghs.org or contact stockbridgeareaghs@hotmail.com.

Stockbridge Area Senior Center (SASC) promotes, educates, and offers activities for the emotional well-being of Stockbridge area senior citizens and their families. Annual membership is \$25. SASC welcomes members and visitors from Stockbridge and the surrounding communities. The Tri-County Office on Aging helps provide lunches at the Center. Visit stockbridgeareaseniors.org, call 517-480-0353, or stop in at 219 W. Elm St. for information.

Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition (SAWC) was created by the 5 Healthy Towns Foundation (5HF) to help improve the overall wellness of the area. SAWC focuses on making healthy connections, eating better, moving more, and avoiding unhealthy substances. To learn more, visit www.5healthytowns.org or www.facebook.com/stockbridgewellnesscoalition or email jormayer76@gmail.com.

Stockbridge Athletic Boosters (SAB) brings parents and community members together to encourage and support athletes and athletic programs in the Stockbridge Community School District. To find out more, see Facebook @Stockbridge Athletic Boosters, or email stockbridgeathleticboosters@gmail.com. Go, Panthers!

Stockbridge Community Education oversees community use of the school buildings and property and also organizes enrichment and recreation programs for all ages. Phone 517-710-4122, website <http://panthernet.net/departments/community-education/> and Stockbridge Community-Education on Facebook.

Stockbridge Community Greenhouse is up and running. Reach out to Josh Nichols at 517-917-3223 or at nicholsj@panthernet.net to share gardening info with students or use some greenhouse space for your gardening needs.

Stockbridge Community News is a volunteer-run, nonprofit, public news and information service operated by volunteers. Our mission is to serve as a hub of quality, consistent local information to build a stronger community. SCN may be reached at P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137 or through email at stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com.

Stockbridge Community Outreach Association offers assistance with pantry food shopping (once monthly), utilities, housing, transportation, and prescriptions for those who qualify. Also has free clothing and household goods, and other programs. For info, call 517-851-7285, www.stockbridgecommunityoutreach.org, email outreach49285@gmail.com or

find us on Facebook. Stockbridge Community Outreach, P.O. Box 682, Stockbridge, MI 49285.

Stockbridge Library is a branch of Capital Area District Libraries serving the Stockbridge area community, including all students of Stockbridge Community Schools who receive free library cards. Computer use, free Wi-Fi, faxing, copying, printing and more. The library is at 200 Wood St., Stockbridge, 517-851-7810, www.cadl.org/about/our-locations/stockbridge.

Stockbridge Lions Club provides ongoing financial support to a wide range of organizations, events and foundations, including scholarships to graduating Stockbridge High School students. Contact Kathleen Mullins at 517-812-6652.

Stockbridge Masonic Lodge is a charitable organization that supports many causes in the Stockbridge area, including scholarship programs at the high school, sponsoring teams through Community Education and Adopt-A-Family for Stockbridge Community Outreach. Contact Greg Uihlein at 734-905-0990 or greguihlein@howardhanna.com.

Their Guardian, Their Voice is a small online forum offering short-term assistance for families in crisis and struggling to feed or care for pets and/or livestock. Also assists with placement, adoption and general medical care. For more info, contact Heather Walling at guardiansvoice@hotmail.com or see Facebook at Their Guardian, Their Voice.

Tide Me Over works to stave off hunger among the most vulnerable students by sending home food in a backpack with children to tide them over the weekend. Donations may be made to the TMO program at Stockbridge Outreach. Questions or comments? Email 56Hollowayc@gmail.com.

Town Hall Players is a hometown community theater group always looking for actors, musicians and other members. See our Facebook page, Stockbridge Town Players. For more info or to sponsor a show, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stockbridgethp/. We can be contacted at stockbridgethp@gmail.com.

Wake Up Stockbridge & Surrounding Communities is an online forum and movement of like-minded individuals with the mindset of community unity and pride. Contact Tina at wakeupstockbridge@gmail.com or via Facebook at Wake Up Stockbridge & Surrounding Communities.

Waterloo Farm and Dewey School Museums, 13493 Waterloo-Munith Road, Grass Lake, MI 49240, is open for weekend tours during the summer. To volunteer or for information, contact WAHS at P.O. Box 37, Stockbridge, MI 49285, email: waterloofarmmuseum.org, call the Farm Museum at 517-596-2254 to leave a message, or see our Facebook page.

Waterloo Natural History Association provides both educational and recreational opportunities for people visiting the park. The Eddy Discovery Center is the nature center for the park at 17030 Bush Road, 3 miles west of downtown Chelsea. Visit the website at www.wnha.org to learn more or call the Eddy Discovery Center at 734-475-3170.

Waterloo Needlework Club makes needlework quilts, knitting and crocheting for people in need. We meet the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Munith United Methodist Church. For info, call Jan, 517-769-2172, powelljanice02@gmail.com or Mary Myer, 517-851-8752. Leave a message, and we'll get back with you.

SCS plans European tour designed to bring world history to life for students

Submitted by Brian Friddle, Superintendent of Schools

Stockbridge Community Schools is expanding experiential learning opportunities with a planned educational tour to Italy and Germany in July 2027. Led by Alyssa Randall, Stockbridge High School social studies teacher, the international experience is designed for students enrolled in world history. The trip will allow learners to connect classroom instruction directly to the places, cultures, and landmarks where history unfolded.

The Europe trip will allow students to move beyond curriculum and classrooms by interacting with historical sites studied throughout the school year. From ancient ruins to cultural landmarks, students will experience history by seeing, walking through, and engaging with locations that they have read about in their textbooks. This hands-on approach deepens understanding and helps students make meaningful connections between the classroom and real-life experiences.

This trip is being organized with the goal of fostering not only academic growth, but also personal development. Traveling abroad encourages students to build independence, confidence, and responsibility, particularly in areas such as budgeting, time management, and navigating unfamiliar environments. Strong relationships between students and staff also are formed as learning continues beyond the traditional school setting.

Randall, who previously participated in a similar international tour as a high school student, shared that the experience was life changing. Being able to stand in the very places discussed in class made history come alive and created a lasting impression. This opportunity is now being extended to Stockbridge students.

An informational meeting was held on Dec. 10 in the Student Success Center, where families learned more about the educational focus of the trip, destinations, safety, and projected costs. The trip is being coordinated through EF Tours, which offers payment plans, safety support, and additional resources for families.

This Europe trip reflects Stockbridge Community Schools' commitment to experiential learning, helping students understand the world by experiencing it.

In addition to student fundraising efforts and family support, community members will have the opportunity to sponsor a student or multiple students in their goal of learning abroad. These sponsorships help ensure that financial barriers do not limit access to this life-changing experience. By investing in students' learning, community members play a direct role in expanding horizons, strengthening understanding, and supporting the next generation of informed citizens.

Stockbridge Community Schools values the strong connection between its schools and the wider community, and this trip represents a meaningful way for local businesses, organizations, and individuals to make a lasting impact. Through community support, more students will have the chance to walk through history, bring their classroom learning to the real world, and return home with knowledge and perspectives that benefit the entire Stockbridge community.

Jon Fillmore earns Auto-Owners Insurance President's Club award

Information provided by Auto-Owners Insurance

On March 12, Auto-Owners Insurance announced that Jon Fillmore of The Abbot & Fillmore Agency, Inc., Stockbridge, Michigan, has achieved the President's Club distinction with Auto-Owners Life Insurance Company for 2025.

The President's Club honors the top-25-producing life, health and annuity agents nationwide for Auto-Owners Life Insurance Company in a calendar year. Auto-Owners, a Fortune 500 Company, currently has over 28,000 authorized agents in 30 states. This is Jon's first time earning the President's Club award.

The Abbot & Fillmore Agency, Inc., has represented Auto-Owners Insurance Company for over 76 years. This has been a winning partnership for Auto-Owners, the agency and the many clients Jon serves.

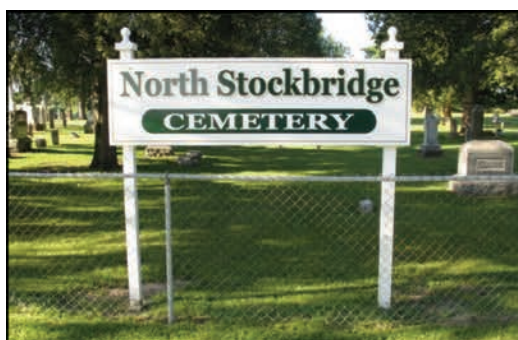
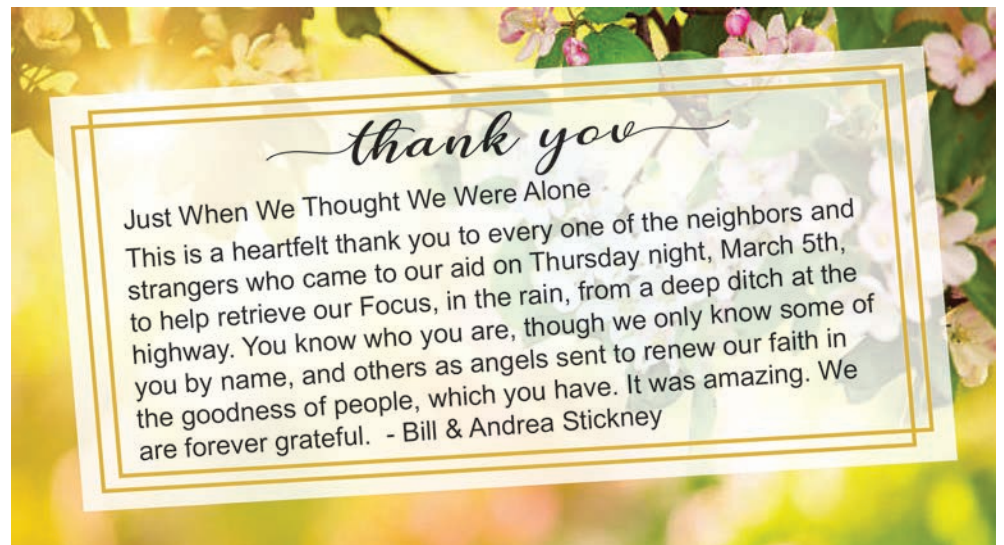


Abbot & Fillmore's Jon Fillmore is one of the top-25-producing life, health and annuity agents nationwide for Auto-Owners for 2025. Photo provided by Auto-Owners Insurance.

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NORTH STOCKBRIDGE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

April 23, 2026 at 7:30 pm at White Oak Township Hall, 1002 S. M52, Webberville

Current lots for sale: full lot (4 burial sites) at \$1,200; half-lot (2 burial sites) at \$700; single lot (1 burial site) at \$400. For more information or to purchase, contact Glen at 517-331-2489 or Chad at 517-206-7854.

Reminder to current and future lot owners: no permanent or movable lot "adornments" allowed without permission from the Cemetery Sexton.

Submitted by: Lora McAdams, Secretary, North Stockbridge Cemetery Association, 517-812-2109

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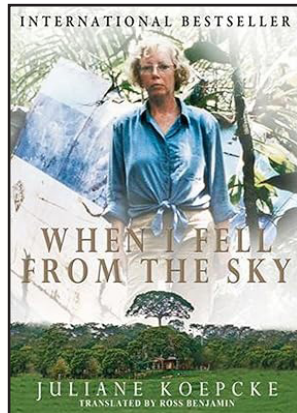
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Reading Between the Lines 'When I Fell From the Sky' is a real-life story of survival and fortitude in the Amazon jungle



by **Chuck Wisman**

On Dec. 24, 1971, Lansa Flight 508 left the Lima, Peru, airport headed to Pucallpa, Peru, carrying 86 passengers and a flight crew. Among the passengers were 17-year-old Juliane Koepcke and her mother, both German citizens.

At approximately 10,000 feet during the one-hour flight, the plane disintegrated in a mid-air explosion. Yet, Juliane miraculously survived a fall of 2 miles into the Amazon jungle still strapped to her seat. Not only did she survive such a fall, but Juliane also managed to persevere in a South American jungle. Much later, she wrote "When I Fell from the Sky," describing her experience.

Making her way in the jungle—alone—with just her wits, torn clothes, one sandal, and without her eyeglasses, Juliane endured a concussion, several deep cuts to her skin and a broken collarbone for 11 days until finding a miner's hut for shelter.

The following is just a short excerpt from her experience:

"From one moment to the next, people's screams go silent. It's as if the roar of the turbines has been erased. My mother is no longer at my side and I'm no longer in the airplane. I'm still strapped into my seat, but I'm alone. At an altitude of ten thousand feet, I'm alone. And I'm falling, slicing through the sky...at 2 miles above the earth."

"When I Fell from the Sky" is an engaging story describing Juliane Koepcke's experiences leading up to and surviving an airplane crash in the Amazon when she was 17. Photo credit Amazon.com

The story actually begins many years before, when her parents, Maria and Hans Koepcke, emigrated from Germany to Peru in the late 1940s. Her parents were well-known zoologists intent upon studying life within the Peruvian (Amazon) rainforest. Juliane was born in Peru; she was raised primarily in Lima and later in the rainforest near Pucallpa. Ultimately, her parents established an important and renowned research station and wildlife preserve at Panguana, which exists to this day.

Initially, the family's living conditions were quite primitive in the rainforest, but this allowed Juliane to experience the jungle in all its complexity and mystery. She learned the joys, intricacies, and dangers of the jungle while becoming more comfortable in its environs. Notably, Juliane never entered the jungle without a pair of boots and a machete.

After the crash, during her 11-day trek through the rainforest, Juliane used every skill at her disposal as well as her knowledge of the rainforest. She rarely saw the sun because the jungle canopy was simply too dense, so Juliane primarily followed streams and rivers hoping they would lead to a large body of water where humans would settle. Often, she had to swim in the middle of a river (with a broken collarbone!) when the jungle became too dense to traverse. This was in spite of river caimans (smaller versions of alligators), poisonous water snakes, bird-eating spiders, and piranha. The water was safe to drink as long as no humans were in the area to foul it. Although her parents had taught her how to light a fire by simply using items from the jungle, it was the rainy season, which made that effort useless.

"When I Fell from the Sky" is an engaging, well-written story of survival, authored by Juliane when she was 56 years of age and translated by Ross Benjamin. The book covers much of Juliane's early life and that of her parents' exploration of the rainforest in Peru. She digresses, in various chapters, from her early life and surviving the crash to her parents' experiences in establishing the research station and, also, how she came to terms with the loss of her mother. Those detours can be a bit disconcerting for readers, but the overall story is well worth the effort. It's a remarkable chronicle of how a 17-year-old young woman survived a horrific crash, yet had the maturity, skills and intestinal fortitude to survive alone in the jungle for 11 days.

The book also contains numerous photographs that help bring this rather incredible story to life.

Note: In January 2026, science.org reported that the Panguana research station, established by Juliane's parents and the oldest research station and jungle reserve in Peru, recently suspended its work due to growing conflicts with illegal gold mining operations.

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



Who We Are

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

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

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

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

Our Mission

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

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Our Writers

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

Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

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

We would love to hear from you!

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

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Outreach in Action

Spring has sprung; let the growing begin

by Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall

A cheery harbinger of spring appeared among the brown boxes and canned goods Outreach usually gets from the Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB): Seed packets! And bright yellow cardboard racks for displaying them!

Outreach volunteers sorted the hundreds of packets and rolled out the racks on March 9 inside Outreach's free clothing room. Note: Many of the packets suggest starting the seeds indoors in March in Michigan.

The seed distribution is but one facet of the food bank's Garden Project, an effort to get more fresh herbs and produce into the hands—and bellies—of low- to moderate-income people in its service area.



Seed packets are available in Outreach's free store. Photo credit Jo Mayer

Another effort: GLFB's Grow & Give Program, in which local gardeners dedicate a portion of their garden to growing herbs and produce for their local food pantry. The Stockbridge Community Outreach pantry welcomes gardeners interested in doing this to stop by for some seeds. Open hours are MWF, 1-3 p.m. or by appointment (Call 517-851-7285).

Planting/Harvesting tips for Grow & Give program donors

Here are some gardener tips gleaned from Greater Lansing Food Bank's Grow & Give webpage, which is located online at greaterlansingfoodbank.org/get-help/garden-project/get-involved/grow-give.

- Plant more of fewer crops—larger quantities of a few items are easier for pantries to keep and distribute.
- Harvest during the coolest time of day, and store in a cool area out of the sun.
- Donate the food within 24 hours of harvest, if possible.
- Label less common produce, such as kale, chard, fancy greens, herbs, turnips and odd-colored squash.

What to grow and how to package for donating

For gardeners considering Grow & Give, the food bank has suggestions on what produce to grow and how to package it for donation:

- **Summer squash:** Refrigerate in a plastic bag until drop off. Do not wash.
- **Cucumbers:** Store in a perforated plastic bag in a cool spot. It's OK to store in the fridge for a few days.
- **Tomatoes and tomatillos:** Do not refrigerate! These may experience loss of color, firmness and flavor if stored below 40°F.
- **Hardy greens (spinach, kale, Swiss chard):** Harvest the outer leaves when plants are sturdy and well established. Leave behind four to six leaves so the plant can continue to grow and produce. Consider dipping greens in cool water before bagging and refrigerate before dropping off.

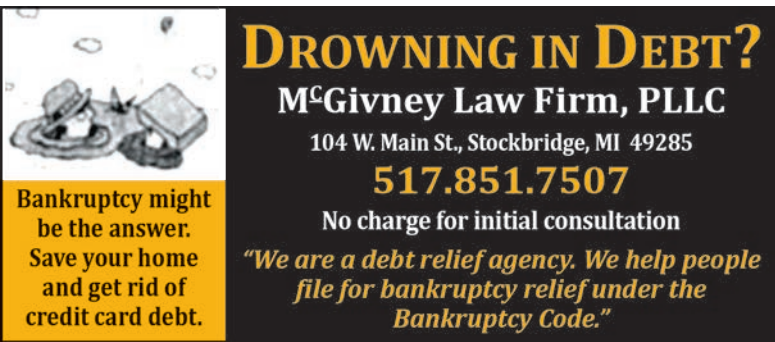
See Outreach on page 13.

Village of Stockbridge Parks and Recreation Plan Survey



We are updating our Parks and Recreation Plan and want to hear from you! Our plan is used as a guide to the development and operation of the Village's parks and other recreational facilities. Integrating input from you is critical. It helps us to prudently allocate our resources. To participate, scan this QR code or visit: surveymonkey.com/r/stockbridgeparks.





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Community Calendar

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays – Prepared Meals for Seniors, noon to 2 p.m. Stockbridge Area Senior Center.

Mondays

- Craft Drop In (Ages 8 and up) at the Stockbridge Library.
- Couch to 5K Training Meet-up at Veterans Park. 6:30 p.m. See ad on p. 16.
- Walking Group, 7 p.m. at Veterans Park.
- Line Dancing, 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge Village Hall.
- First Mondays: American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge American Legion Post.
- Second Mondays: Book discussion, 11 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library.

Tuesdays

- Fiber Arts Group meets for knitting, crochet, weaving, spinning, etc., 3-5 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
- Art Basics, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.
- First Tuesdays: Sons of American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge American Legion Post.
- Fourth Tuesdays: Legion Auxiliary Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge American Legion Post.

Wednesdays

- Yoga, 10 a.m. at the Stockbridge Village Hall. No class 4/1 and 4/8.
- Discovery Storytime (For Babies, Toddlers, and Children), 10:30 to 11 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
- Pop-up food distribution for anyone in need, 1 to 3 p.m. at Stockbridge Community Outreach.
- Bingo, 6 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge American Legion..

Thursdays

- Coffee chats, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
- American Legion Thursday meals, 4:30-7 p.m. Open to the public.
- Ladies Night, 6 to 9 p.m. at Trillium Gardens.
- Celebrate Recovery, Stockbridge at Crossroads Community Church. A welcoming, community-focused format. Dinner (free) is at 6 p.m. Large Group at 7 p.m. Open Share at 8 p.m.

Fridays

- Discovery Storytime (For Babies, Toddlers, and Children), 10:30 to 11 a.m. Stockbridge Library.
- Keep Calm and Carry Yarn, 1 to 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library (Occasional Fridays. Call Library for dates.)
- Cardio drumming, 7-8 p.m. at Village Hall.

Saturdays

- Couch to 5K Training Meet-up at Veterans Park. 9:30 a.m. See ad on p. 16.

Mar. 30 to Apr. 3 - SCS Spring Break Week.

Apr. 1-30 - See page 11 for SCS Spring Sports Schedule.

- **Apr. 1** - Drop-in STEAM Lab, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Stockbridge Library.
- **Apr. 1 (ongoing)** - One Seed. One State at Stockbridge Library. Pick up free calendula seeds while supplies last.
- **Apr. 4** - Little Shop of Horrors Escape Room, 5 p.m. at Trillium Gardens.
- **Apr. 5** - Easter. See March 2026 Print Edition for local Church service ads.
- **Apr. 8** - Garden Club, 6 p.m. at Trillium Gardens.
- **Apr. 10** - Family Movie and Craft Night, 4-6 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library. Movie is "Wall-E"
- **Apr. 11** - Rain Gardens for Beginners, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Stockbridge Library. Adults & Teens.
- **Apr. 13** - Stockbridge Library Book Group, 11-noon. Book: "West with Giraffes."
- **Apr. 15** - Tax Day.
- **Apr. 15** - Music with Ms. Beth, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stockbridge Library.
- **Apr. 15** - Drop-in STEAM Lab, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Stockbridge Library.
- **Apr. 15** - Enhancing Digital Privacy & Security Workshop, 6:30-8 p.m. Defeat Online Ads and Trackers. Village of Stockbridge Meeting Hall.
- **Apr. 16** - Ladies Night, 6 p.m. at Trillium Gardens.
- **Apr. 18** - Reading with Remington, noon-1 p.m. Stockbridge Library.
- **Apr. 18** - Stockbridge Baseball Comedy Show Fundraiser at Wilson Estate Vineyard. Tickets required.
- **Apr. 20** - Reading with Remington, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Stockbridge Library.
- **Apr. 25** - Stockbridge Sewing Group, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Stockbridge Library.
- **Apr. 29** - Drop-in STEAM Lab, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Stockbridge Library.
- **Apr. 29** - 6:30-8 p.m. Enhancing Digital Privacy & Security Workshop.. Restore Privacy and Anonymity to the Internet. Village of Stockbridge Meeting Hall.
- **Apr. 30** - Ladies Night, 6 p.m. at Trillium Gardens.

For an online calendar of more community events visit:

www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.

To add your community events to our free community calendar, email submissions to stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com.

For a full list of library events, visit cadl.org and select the "Events" menu.

Stronger Together: A Safer Stockbridge



The Village and Township of Stockbridge are exploring the creation of a **Police Authority**, a collaborative effort to enhance public safety, improve service efficiency, and better serve our entire community.

By combining resources, this partnership aims to:

- Provide consistent, high-quality police services across both jurisdictions
- Improve response times and coverage
- Maximize taxpayer value through shared resources
- Strengthen community policing and engagement

This is about building a safer, more unified future for all who live, work, and visit Stockbridge.

We want to hear from you! Join the conversation, attend upcoming meetings, and share your thoughts as we shape the future of public safety together.

ONE COMMUNITY. ONE MISSION. SAFER TOGETHER.

#OneStockbridge #CommunitySafety #PublicSafety #StrongerTogether

STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

Girls basketball wins first district title for Stockbridge in 26 years



The girls basketball team won its first district title since 2000 with a win over Dansville. Photo credit Don Lockhart

claimed the title and advanced to the regional finals.

The Panthers overcame a couple of slow starts on their way to hoisting the trophy on their own court Friday, March 6.

Potterville. Stockbridge was the top seed in the district and faced Potterville in the semifinals Wednesday, March 4.

The Vikings started quickly and took an 11-4 lead in the first quarter, but the Panthers battled to cut the lead to 11-8 by the end of the quarter.

Stockbridge continued its run with an 11-0 run to start the second quarter, but Potterville roared back to tie the game at 23 at halftime.

The Panthers defense locked down in the third, holding the Vikings scoreless and Stockbridge took control with a 13-0 run to take a 36-23 lead after three quarters. Stockbridge put the game away with a 13-10 run in the fourth for a 49-33 final to advance to the district finals.

Madeline Topping was a force inside and finished with a team-high 14 points to lead the Panthers.

Melina Sayre finished with 10 points and Zoe Buddenborg nine. Jaylee Chapman chipped in with six points and Bella Pybus five. Emma Monaghan and Makenna Porter added two each.

Dansville. The Panthers faced off against Dansville in the championship game and both teams struggled offensively in the first quarter with the game tied at 8-8 after one.

The Aggies took a 16-14 lead early in the third, but a Buddenborg triple put the Panthers on top 17-16, and Stockbridge would not trail again.

Stockbridge closed out the third with a 13-2 run to take a 30-18 lead after three quarters.

The Panthers held off the Aggies in the fourth, outscoring Dansville 13-10 and celebrated with the Panther student section after receiving the district championship trophy.

Pybus led the Panthers with 13 points, including a huge four-point play that pushed the Stockbridge lead to five in the third quarter.

Buddenborg hit three triples and finished with nine points. Sayre and Topping scored five points each, and Chapman four. Monaghan added three points and Chyanne Lindquist two. Porter and Aliyah Numinen chipped in one each.

New Lothrop. The Panthers advanced to the D3 regional at New Lothrop March 9 and took down the host Hornets 37-35 on a steal and basket by Pybus with three seconds left.

Stockbridge trailed 8-7 after one, but outscored the Hornets 16-6 in the second to take a 23-14 halftime lead.

New Lothrop battled back in the third with a 12-3 run and the game was tied at 26 heading to the fourth.

The Hornets took a 29-26 lead early in the fourth, but the Panthers answered with baskets by Buddenborg and Chapman to tie the game at 30.

The teams went back-and-forth and Monaghan sank a pair of free throws to tie the game at 35 with 1:36 remaining.

With the game still tied at 35, the Panthers turned the ball over with 7.1 seconds left.

See *Girls basketball on page 11.*

by Mike Williamson

It had been a long time coming for the Stockbridge girls basketball team when the Panthers claimed their first district title in 26 years with a 43-23 win over Dansville.

The Division 3 district title is the first for the Panthers since 2000, when "The Magnificent Seven" coached by Mike Daily

Boys basketball season ends in District Finals



Bradley Buddenborg set the school record with 87 3-pointers this season. Photo credit Mike Williamson

by Mike Williamson

The varsity boys basketball team saw its season come to an end with a 58-40 loss to Big 8 rival and league champion Springport in the D3 District Finals in Leslie March 1.

The Panthers' season ended with an 18-7 overall record.

Springport.

Stockbridge could not overcome a slow start, with the Spartans taking an 18-10 lead

after one quarter and building a 35-20 lead at halftime.

The Panthers tried to get back in it in the third, cutting Springport's lead to 45-34 but the Spartans closed it out in the fourth.

Evan Lockhart led Stockbridge with 18 points and three rebounds.

Jay Crow finished with eight points and three assists, while Bradley Buddenborg added six points and three steals.

Remington Christie chipped in with five points and three assists, Tucker Lott two points and four rebounds, Noah Sandecki two points and five assists, and Koen Griffith one point.

Charyl Stockwell. The Panthers opened tournament play with a 73-26 win over Charyl Stockwell Academy Feb. 23.

Stockbridge jumped out to a 33-13 halftime lead and pulled away with a 32-point outburst in the third.

Crow led the charge with 24 points, five rebounds, and four steals for the Panthers.

Buddenborg added 18 points, including four triples and three rebounds, while Christie added nine points.

Griffith, Vince Rogozinski and Lockhart scored six points each, while Kam Gross and Lott scored two each. Sandecki dished out 10 assists for the Panthers.

Leslie. The Panthers advanced to the semifinals and took down rival Leslie 63-42 avenging a regular season overtime loss to the Blackhawks Feb. 25.

Stockbridge built a four-point halftime lead at 34-30, but used a 14-4 run in the third to pull away for the win.

Lockhart and Buddenborg led the way with 14 points each, while Lockhart grabbed a team-high six rebounds.

Sandecki added nine points and four assists, Crow eight points and Christie seven points. Griffith had six points, Lott three, and Aidan Bradley two.

Buddenborg set a new Stockbridge record with 87 3-pointers in a season, as well as tying the school record with eight 3-pointers in a game.

Crow and Buddenborg were selected for the First-Team All-Big 8 for the season, while Sandecki earned an honorable mention.

Three-sport athlete Noah Sandecki signs to play football at Alma College

by Mike Williamson

Stockbridge senior Noah Sandecki recently signed his National Letter of Intent to play football at Alma College.

Sandecki has been a three-sport athlete for the Panthers. He played baseball and basketball along with football.

Being a three-sport athlete, Sandecki had to make a choice about what sport gave him the best shot at moving on to college.

"It was my sophomore year when I realized I could make something of football," Sandecki said.

Sandecki scored 30 touchdowns for the Stockbridge JV team that season and his success carried over onto the varsity.

He was an all-around player for the Panthers, with over 1,200 yards receiving and 300 yards rushing and scoring 16 touchdowns. Despite his offensive success as a receiver and running back, Sandecki was asked to play quarterback his senior season. He didn't miss a beat with the change, passing for 940 yards and 13 touchdowns for the Panthers.

Even with all his high school success, Sandecki's favorite memory is playing football for his dad. "My dad really pushed me to be better and made the sport really fun," Sandecki said. "He made good connections with my friends, and it wasn't all about winning."

Sandecki plans on studying sports business management at Alma College.

"I chose Alma because the Scots are a big family and not just a football team," Sandecki said. "The coaches are amazing, great at making connections, and making you feel welcome and wanted."

What really got Sandecki interested in football was NFL star Odell Beckham Jr. "He made me fall in love with football. Watching him catch the ball the way he could amazed me."

Sandecki is one that future Panthers should pattern their games after. "They should know that I always put 100% into playing a sport, because if you don't, what is the point in playing?" Sandecki said.



Noah Sandecki (maroon shirt) signs to play football at Alma College this fall. Photo provided by Shannon Sandecki

Girls basketball page 10

Pybus stole the in-bounds pass and laid the ball in with 3.5 left to put the Panthers up 37-35 and the Hornets could not get a shot off before the final buzzer.

The Panthers were led by Pybus with 12 points, which included the game-winning shot and three triples in the first half to give Stockbridge the halftime lead.

Buddenborg added 11 points. Chapman and Monaghan scored four each. Topping had three, Sayre two, and Porter one.

Pewamo Westphalia. The Panthers advanced to the regional final March 11 to face third-ranked Pewamo Westphalia and fell 35-20.

PW's defense was the story all night, giving the Panthers fits. Both teams struggled early with the Panthers taking a 3-2 lead, but PW scored the next six to take an 8-3 lead after one.

The lead grew to 13-3 early in the second and PW led 19-8 at halftime.

The lead grew again to 15 at 24-9 in the third. The Panthers trailed 26-14 after three, and could not rally in the fourth.

Buddenborg led the Panthers with nine points. Topping finished with five points, while Monaghan, Chapman, and Pybus scored two each.

Stockbridge finished with a 19-7 overall record. Melina Sayre and Madeline Topping earned First Team All-Big 8 honors. Zoe Buddenborg and Emma Monaghan received honorable mention awards.

Spring 2026 • SPORTS SCHEDULE

Girls Varsity Soccer

- 3-25 5:30 PM @ Leslie
- 3-26 5:30 PM vs Potterville
- 4-6 5:30 PM @ Springport
- 4-8 5:30 PM @ Quincy
- 4-11 9:00 AM @ Perry
- 4-13 5:30 PM @ Bronson
- 4-15 5:30 PM vs Maple Valley
- 4-22 5:30 PM vs Springport
- 4-27 5:30 PM vs Quincy
- 4-29 5:30 PM vs Bronson
- 5-4 5:30 PM @ Maple Valley
- 5-5 5:30 PM @ Jackson Christian
- 5-8 5:30 PM @ Jonesville
- 5-14 5:30 PM @ Napoleon
- 5-18 5:30 PM vs Dansville

Track

- 4-7 4:00 PM @ Leslie
- 4-15 4:30 PM vs Springport
- 4-22 4:30 PM @ Maple Valley
- 4-29 4:30 PM @ Concord
- 5-1 3:00 PM Stockbridge Invitational
- 5-6 4:30 PM @ Quincy
- 5-8 2:00 PM @ East Jackson Dome Classic
- 5-16 9:30 AM Regional Meet
- 5-20 1:00 PM Big 8 Championship @ Union City

Varsity Softball

- 4-7 3:45 PM vs Reading
- 4-11 9:00 AM @ Perry (Perry Invite)
- 4-14 3:45 PM @ Quincy
- 4-21 3:45 PM vs Concord
- 5-5 4:15 PM vs Bronson (Home)
- 5-7 4:00 PM vs Father Gabriel Richard
- 5-9 12:00 PM @ Lake City (Overnight Trip)
- 5-12 4:15 PM vs Union City
- 5-14 4:00 PM vs Durand
- 5-16 9:00 AM @ Dansville (Aggie Invite)
- 5-19 4:15 PM @ Springport
- 5-20 4:00 PM @ Pinckney (Doubleheader)
- 5-22 4:00 PM vs Bangor (Olivet University DH)

Boys Golf

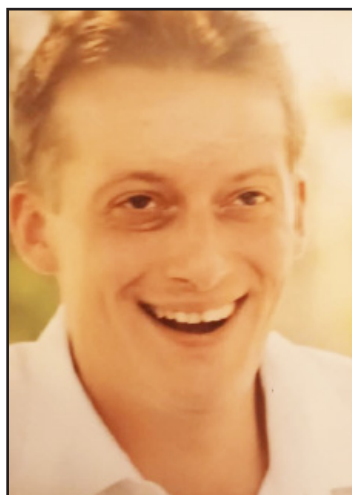
- 4-9 3:00 PM @ Pinckney
- 4-11 9:00 AM @ Laingsburg (2 teams attending)
- 4-13 4:00 PM Big 8 Jamboree @ Concord
- 4-20 TBA Jamboree @ Springport
- 4-21 4:00 PM Big 8 Jamboree (Home)
- 4-27 TBA - Turtle Creek
- 4-29 9:00 AM @ Springport (JV @ Burr Oak)
- 4-30 4:00 PM Big 8 Jamboree @ Bronson
- 5-4 12:00 PM Jamboree @ Maple Valley
- 5-5 9:00 AM @ Ovid-Elsie (2 teams attending)
- 5-12 4:00 PM Big 8 Golf Jamboree @ Quincy
- 5-14 9:00 AM Springport Invitational @ Burr Oak
- 5-19 9:00 AM @ Springport (Arbor Hills GC)

Varsity Baseball

- 4-7 3:45 PM vs Reading HS (Home)
- 4-11 10:00 AM vs Lake City HS (Home)
- 4-14 3:50 PM @ Quincy HS - 3:50 PM
- 4-16 6:00 PM vs Father Gabriel Richard (EMU)
- 4-21 3:45 PM vs Concord MS/HS (Home)
- 4-28 3:45 PM @ Maple Valley HS
- 4-29 4:00 PM @ Leslie HS
- 5-5 4:15 PM vs Bronson Jr/Sr HS (Home)
- 5-7 4:00 PM @ Lansing Sexton (DH)
- 5-9 9:00 AM @ Addison HS (Red Bat Classic)
- 5-12 4:15 PM vs Union City HS (Home)
- 5-14 4:00 PM vs Durand HS (Home)
- 5-16 9:00 AM @ Dansville HS (Aggie Invite)
- 5-19 4:15 PM @ Springport HS
- 5-22 4:00 PM vs Bangor HS (Away)(DH @ Olivet University)

Obituaries

Ronald Muzyn Clifton



Ronald Muzyn Clifton
Apr. 28, 1971 to Feb. 24, 2026

Ronald Muzyn Clifton, age 55, passed away on February 24th, 2026. He was born on April 28th, 1971.

Ron is preceded in death by his father, Rev. Jon Ronald William Clifton, and his mother, Janet Mae Eldridge Clifton.

He is survived by his two sons, Jon R. Clifton and Elijah M. Clifton (Stockbridge), whom he loved dearly. He is also survived by his siblings: George D. Clifton (Ann Arbor); Rosemary B Holcomb (Pittsburgh, PA); John H. Holcomb (Pittsburgh, PA); stepmother Mary Lou Clifton Borden (Haslett); stepsister Ann (Corey) Bloxom (Haslett) and stepbrother Rich Borden (Lansing).

Ron enjoyed working on cars, playing video games, listening to music and time spent in deep conversation. He cherished the time he spent with his sons, often getting lost for hours playing Magic: The Gathering, Minecraft, Monopoly and other video and board games.

A private memorial service is planned with a burial in Oaklawn Cemetery.

Michael Ulanowicz



Michael Ulanowicz
Aug. 13, 1968 to March 17, 2026

Mike Ulanowicz, age 57, passed away on March 17, 2026. He was born on August 13, 1968, in Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

Mike grew up with a strong sense of community and adventure. He was a proud member of Boy Scout Troop 329 and a standout stud triathlete for the Stockbridge Panthers. His passion for sports extended into his love for travel baseball, where he spent many years playing throughout the Jackson area.

Above all, Mike was a loving and generous person who deeply cared for his family and friends.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Michelle Ulanowicz; stepson Bo (Autumn) Lewis; and his cherished grandchildren, Aria, Bronson, and Benton.

Mike built a distinguished 30-year career in the orthopedic implant industry, where he was respected as both a salesman and a quality design expert. His dedication, knowledge, and integrity left a lasting impact on colleagues and customers alike.

Outside of work, Mike was an avid outdoorsman who found joy in deer and turkey hunting, ice fishing, golfing, and taking pride in his lawn care. He embraced life with enthusiasm and appreciated the simple pleasures of time spent outdoors.

He is also survived by his father, Frank Ulanowicz of Stockbridge, MI; stepfather Billy (Lillian) Smith of St. Ignace, MI; brother Patrick (Mary) Ulanowicz of Adrian, MI; aunt Sharon Risner of Dansville, MI; niece Brittney (Joe) Dulbs of Tecumseh, MI; nephew B. (Jenna) Ulanowicz of Adrian, MI; two great-nieces and one great-nephew; and stepbrothers Jared, Jamie, and Billy Jr. Smith.

Mike was preceded in death by his mother, Linda Smith of St. Ignace, MI; his grandparents Leo (Betty) Ulanowicz of Munith, MI; and Harrison (Lena) Leverett of Jackson, MI.

A Celebration of Life will be held later. Additional details will be shared closer to the date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Mike's memory may be made to Henry Ford Hospice or the organization of your choice.

Mike will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, wonderful smile, and the lasting impression he made on everyone who knew him.

Gordon Richard Outwater



Gordon Richard Outwater
Aug. 6, 1947 to March 1, 2026

Gordon Richard Outwater, age 78, of Stockbridge, MI passed away on March 1, 2026 at Optalis Health in Ann Arbor while receiving hospice care. Born on August 6, 1947 in Wayne, Michigan, Gord lived a life filled with many stories.

He served our country from 1968 to 1969 in the United States Army as a Specialist 4th class-technical expert. He was awarded a Purple Heart and honorably discharged after being wounded in the Vietnam War. As a civilian he was a talented electrician and he cared for his

mother in her later years.

Gordon is survived by his son Kevin Outwater of Boulder, CO and his grandson Noah Outwater of Benson, NC. Gordon is also survived by brothers and sisters Terry, Craig, Joan, Dan, Brian and Cathy. Preceded in death by his wife Barbara Shevrovich Outwater and son Jason Outwater, as well as his father William Outwater, mother Norma Sessions Outwater, and brother Patrick Outwater.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on April 10, 2026 at St. Mary Catholic Church, 10601 Dexter-Pinckney Road, Pinckney, MI 48169

Please make gifts to Disabled American Veterans in his memory.
<https://support.dav.org/campaigns/Gordon-Outwater>

The Village Hall Has an Event Space for Rent



SPACE FOR ALL OCCASIONS:

- 501c3 Entities get a discount
- Licensed, fully equipped kitchen
- Parties, graduations, showers, weddings, reunions, meetings, picnics



Hall Rental Hours:

Sun - Thurs: 9 am to 10 pm
Fri & Sat: 8 am to Midnight

Rental hours are dependent on availability.

Maximum Occupancy: 100

Note: At all times the Village noise ordinance must be observed.

Rental Rates for Village Residents:

\$75 refundable deposit
\$50 hourly for the first 6 hours
\$500 for all day (8 am -12 am)

LOCATION: 118 N Center St and Veterans Park, Stockbridge

BOOK WITH US: 517-851-7435

Rental Rates for Non-Village Residents:

\$150 refundable deposit
\$75 hourly for the first 6 hours
\$650 for all day (8 am -12 am)



"Dear Gabbie" is written with the simple hope of bringing a few smiles to your day and is not meant to replace the advice of professionals ... especially your mom!

Dear Gabbie,

Twice this week, our evenings out at a restaurant were interrupted by a screaming child. In both cases, parents took the child out of the restaurant then brought them back in only to have them start screaming again. We're talking SCREAMING...not screaming! I can't help wondering why parents insist on bringing children out to eat when they can't behave.

Signed,

The Scream

Dear Scream,

I experienced a similar situation recently, and I admit I couldn't stop the grimace on my face when the child's scream hit decibels that rivaled an ongoing smoke alarm in tight quarters! But I quickly gained control of myself and remembered back to a time when I couldn't always predict how my children would behave out in public.

Of course it's every parent's dream to raise children who are perfectly behaved in public (and at home, for that matter!), but the reality is, most little ones are utterly unpredictable. Take, for instance, a child who might be completely thrilled to receive a balloon from a roving clown at a restaurant and another who is absolutely terrified—by the clown, the balloon, or maybe just the shape of the chicken nuggets they've been served!

No matter what, all families do, occasionally, deserve an evening out, so my initial advice is to try to grin and bear it. (Ideally, parents should think ahead and pack a few distractions for their children.) In your examples, the parents obviously recognized their children were disruptive and they did attempt to take them outside to calm them. While I would stop short of saying anything to the parents in the restaurant, we can only hope that those who already know their children are not going to behave in a restaurant would refrain from taking their children out until they reach an age at which they can be reasoned with—like maybe 21! ☺

Gabbie

Severe weather camera page 1

Village President Jill Ogden praised the partnership and the value the camera will bring to local residents.

"This is a wonderful addition to the community, especially given the uncertain weather we have seen across the state recently," Ogden said. "I want to thank Mandy Urquhart for championing this initiative. This collaboration will provide our community with an extra layer of protection when it comes to identifying and preparing for severe weather events."

"This project is a great example of what can be accomplished when local partners work together with a shared goal," said Stockbridge Township Clerk Becky Muraf. "By supporting this effort, we are helping provide residents with another useful tool to stay informed and aware during changing weather conditions."

The weather camera is expected to enhance local awareness of developing weather conditions and support community preparedness during severe weather events.

For more information, please contact the Village of Stockbridge or Stockbridge Township.

Outreach page 8

- **Winter squash:** Harvest before frost (or before a string of cold nights below 50°F) and cure for at least a week before storage, allowing any bruises or cuts to heal.
- **Onions, leeks, shallots, garlic:** Cut tops after two weeks of field/bench curing before storage.
- **Carrots:** Trim tops to within one-half inch before storing.

NOTE: Be sure to store produce, herbs and greens separately from ethylene-producing crops, like apples, since exposure to ethylene can cause bitter flavors and faster ripening. Store apples in their own crisper drawer inside a loose, perforated plastic bag.

What about food safety? Can I get sued for donating food?

According to the GLFB website, people who donate food are protected under the Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act. However, it is a good idea to practice safe harvesting techniques, such as cleaning hands, sterilizing harvesting equipment (clean knives and clean bags), and sterilizing kitchen surfaces. (GLFB recommends 1 teaspoon of bleach to 1 gallon of water for a good and simple sterilization spray). It's also best to compost or discard fruits and vegetables that look diseased or questionable.

The best time for Outreach to receive fresh produce is on Monday mornings before open hours, but Outreach asks that gardeners call 517-851-7285 or email (outreach49285@gmail.com) and make an appointment for when to drop off produce.

Spring is upon us—let the growing begin!

Our local food pantry, crisis, and referral center is 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. Contact us at Outreach49285@gmail.com, 517-851-7285, or find us on Facebook.

Recovery page 3

They didn't meet in chaos; they met in sobriety, as versions of themselves capable of building something steady and real.

Next month, we step deeper into Katrina's chapter—the heartbreak that shaped her turning point, the work that rebuilt her purpose, and the leadership role she now carries in the recovery community. Her story shows what happens when someone not only finds sobriety, but grows into the kind of person who helps others find it, too.

Resources:

Andy's Place, Jackson, Michigan. Individuals can now apply through a referral from a recovery specialist or program. To apply for residency at Andy's Place: andysangels.net/about-us/

Watch for **ARE Inc. and the Hillsdale Drop-in Center** to be discussed in more depth in a future "Faces of Addiction" installment.

Clyde's Corner will return in next month's edition!

Staff Spotlight: Smith Elementary math interventionist Kim Porter jumped at the opportunity to help more students



Mary Jo David

by Mary Jo David

In 2023, Smith Elementary introduced SpringMath, a teacher-led program to promote math through "paired learning." Smith's math teachers are supported through math interventionists—like Kim Porter and her other Smith counterpart, Bonnie Rattai—who work, one-on-one, with math students to help them get on track with their math goals.

Math students in grades K through 2 work on class-wide skills with their teachers. These skills are then complemented with one-on-one time spent with an interventionist who typically spends 15 minutes a day with the students. Parents of children in these grades may have noticed their kids are spending more time with pencil and paper and less time working independently on screens, and that's on purpose.

In its review of SpringMath, TrustRadius.com says, this program relies on "show-what-you-know" learning, and explains that "the program also offers embedded coaching and support for each teacher." That's where Porter's job comes in.

"I see about 22 kids each day—one every 15 minutes," Porter explained. "I love helping the students and encouraging them to see what they can and cannot do." For kindergartners, that might mean accomplishing a specific skill in one minute. For older kids, that might mean mastering subtraction from 0 to 15 in under two minutes.

"They know they're going to work when they come see me, but it's not boring. I try to do something different every day to make math more fun, and they love earning the rewards," she said.

Porter began working for Stockbridge schools about eight years ago as a paraprofessional. When the math interventionist position opened up two years ago, she viewed it as an opportunity to help even more students. In a typical 15-minute time slot with a student, Porter might begin with some warm-ups using flashcards followed by a timed exercise that meshes with that individual student's learning plan. If there's additional time, they may follow up with a game of War (the card game that helps young students master number values).

Growing up in Gregory, Porter attended Stockbridge schools; she has fond memories of playing on the volleyball team from middle school up through high school. Currently, she is working on her accounting degree at Southern New

Hampshire University. She is the youngest of six children by two minutes (she has a twin brother). Her dad, William Porter, retired from Stockbridge schools where he worked as a janitor and then in maintenance. He and Porter's mom, Cindy, are the proud grandparents of 17 grandkids, including Porter's own daughter, Kaley Hetrick, who will be graduating from Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School this June. This tight-knit family is a focal point for Porter during her time away from school.

Continuing in the supportive tradition she appreciated when she was growing up, Porter comes to work each day looking forward to spending time with her students during their 15-minute sessions. She works hard to identify what strategies work best with students, whether it's finger counting, using dash marks on paper, or some other technique.

"Sometimes it's tough finding the right technique, but it's so rewarding to watch a child catch on to a concept," Porter said.

She also shared some things parents can do with their kids at home to help strengthen math skills. These include counting from 1 to 20 with kindergartners or playing a little game that challenges them to remember what number comes before the number 3 or what number follows the number 5. As kids advance to first and second grade, focus more on finding excuses to use their adding and subtracting skills at home.

Porter loves that her one-on-one time with her students makes them happy. Sometimes they see her in the hallway during the day and look for reassurance by asking, "You're coming down to get me today, right?"

She said it's hard to describe the feeling of watching a student who has worked and worked for over a month to master a concept and then they finally get it.

"I think I'm more thrilled than they are. I'll be jumping out of my seat, and they look at me funny and say, 'Oh, I did that?' and I say, 'Yes. YOU did that!' and their smile makes it all so worthwhile!"

All photos provided by Kim Porter. See additional photos at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.



As a math interventionist at Smith Elementary, Kim Porter works with about 22 kindergarten through second grade students every day—one every 15 minutes.



Following in her mom's footsteps, Kaley Hetrick (left) will soon be graduating from Stockbridge High School.

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Published in Uncaged, February

Sickness hitting schools hard

by Aidin Schipul and Denton Doyle, Reporters, Uncaged News

As temperatures fall, local schools are seeing a rise in student absences and mid-day sick checkouts, school staff said.

"It's definitely been more noticeable this time of year," office secretary Kim Killinger said.

School staff have reported a substantial number of students out sick. Killinger said many absences are related to illness, and the biggest attendance issue lately has been "students are signing out of school sick mid-day."

This is significant because this easily shows that some students aren't just skipping the whole school day.

"I've been noticing around 10 students gone per day," Assistant principal Ben Kruse said.

However, school nurse Jennifer Matthews says there are an "average of 40 students per day" although the number attributed specifically to illness is more like "5-10 students gone for illness each day,"

"If you are sick you should rest. Illness can be prolonged when we don't take the rest that our bodies need," Matthews said. Some students try going to school even if they are sick, this doesn't help them or others, as the sickness needs to be fought with rest. School is not an easy environment to rest in because it is treated as a work environment. When you are in a work environment you are typically not able to rest.

Published as-is from the original page in Uncaged.

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. For more information on SAEF, visit www.panethernet.net/our_district.



Emma L. Smith Elementary School
Kindergarten & Young 5s

Enrollment

is open for 2026-27

WE OFFER:
Science of Learning,
recess twice a day,
PE, STEM, art,
music weekly, MTSS
process, PBIS

Tours are available by
appointment daily.

SCAN
to register

**To register call 517-851-7735 or
visit: panethernet.net/parents-students/enrollnow/**

TIPS TO AVOID GETTING SICK

Washing your hands can help prevent the spreading of germs among friends and family.

Increasing the amount of sleep you get every night can help your body have lots of energy and help you from getting in a slump and increasing your chances of getting sick.

Eating healthy foods can promote good energy and bacteria in your body strengthening your immune system making it not as easy to get sick.

Refrain from going to school when you feel sick or are running a fever to prevent getting other people sick.

ILLUSTRATIONS
GRADY GIDDINGS

Voices of Service page 3

Despite the challenges, Patton finds the work rewarding.

"The best part is telling a victim that you've solved their case and charges are pending," he said. "It puts an end to their worry."

Outside of work, Patton enjoys working on construction projects. He and his wife, Jessica, have even flipped three homes together and hope to take on another project in the future. The couple have been married for 33 years. They met in seventh grade but didn't get together romantically until after they had both graduated high school. Now they have two grown daughters.

Though the job can expose him to the worst in people, Patton makes a conscious effort to leave that behind at the end of the day.

"In law enforcement, you see the bad side of people," he said. "But when you get home, you try to shut that off so you can live a normal life." After more than two decades in law enforcement, what keeps him motivated is the challenge itself.

"I enjoy putting the puzzle pieces together and figuring things out," he said.

Patton also emphasizes that a career in law enforcement is about more than a paycheck.

"It's about making a difference in someone's life and being a positive influence," he said.

For Patton, the meaning of service is simple but powerful: being there for someone in need and helping prevent harm before it happens.

THANK
You

- Denise and Larry Allen
- Steven Muraf
- William and Andrea Stickney
- Richard White

The Stockbridge Community News thanks those in the community who continue to send donations. Special thanks to those listed here whose donations were received in the mail between Feb. 20 - March 22. 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 P.O. Box 83, Gregory, MI 48137

To donate, visit
[www.gofundme.com/
stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://www.gofundme.com/stockbridgecommunitynews.com)

FFA page 1

While working with the students, Gancer also discovered new ways of doing things that he had never thought of before. These new insights should streamline future processes and ultimately make building the ROVs a little easier going forward.

The ROVs will be used to explore critical environmental issues—particularly the health of coral reefs. During a visit to a local coral research lab, students learned that only about 1% of the region's coral remains, compared to 30 years ago. Scientists there are working to restore reefs through coral "fragging" and rehabilitation programs that might, someday, help restore the reefs in their natural environment.

Gancer emphasized the importance of coral ecosystems. "Coral reefs provide a home for about half of ocean species," he said. "Without them, we could see major impacts on marine life, sea levels and even global climate."

The ROVs that the students built together are critical to furthering research about coral reefs because they can help get to places where humans might not be able to, and they can stay underwater for a longer time to monitor any changes.

Beyond the science, the trip also included cultural immersion. Stockbridge students visited during the Dominican Republic's Independence Day celebrations and observed differences in school structure, including a stronger emphasis on group learning and community. In return, the students from Stockbridge shared their own educational experiences and what it is like living in Stockbridge. Despite initial concerns about language barriers, Gancer said students quickly connected.

"They're more similar to us than I expected," he said. "We've stayed in touch since coming home."

For many participants, the experience reshaped their view of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Gancer said he now sees STEM as more than just an area of study.

"I always thought that STEM was kind of just limited to one group of people, who really like math and science." But through this trip, Gancer discovered that STEM can influence so many different things, including the environment.

FFA advisor Robert Richards said the trip stood out because students took on the role of teachers rather than tourists.

"They weren't there sightseeing—they were there to teach skills to students their own age," Richards said. "That requires a completely different level of understanding and confidence."

Students also worked on public speaking and communication skills, delivering multiple presentations to audiences ranging from elementary-aged students to adults.

Funding the trip presented another challenge. The school was unable to help pay for the trip, so the team had to raise 100% of the funds themselves. In just six weeks, they were able to raise about \$15,000, much of that coming from local businesses.

"That's part of the learning experience," Richards said. "If they don't raise the money, the trip doesn't happen."

For Gancer, the fundraising efforts were more than worth it. The trip was life changing. Because of his experience there, he is now considering going into a biology-centered engineering field and wants to continue helping with the research into the coral reef.

Looking ahead, the FFA Underwater Robotics Team hopes to return to the Dominican Republic in 2027. Future plans include building more advanced ROVs to assist with coral monitoring and helping partner schools develop hydroponics and aquaponics systems. Stockbridge students are also hopeful that students from the Puntacana International School may visit Stockbridge in the future, continuing their partnership and cultural exchange.

Community members interested in supporting future trips can donate to the Stockbridge FFA program through the school. For more photos of the Stockbridge students' visit to the Dominican Republic and to see other FFA student activities, visit facebook.com/Stockbridge.FFA.MI.

See additional photos at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.



Puntacana International School students and Stockbridge FFA students work together to build underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) that can be used to further coral reef research. Photo from the Stockbridge FFA Facebook page.



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Stockbridge Parks & Recreation COUCH TO 5K WALK/RUN PROGRAM

Train for **A DAY IN THE VILLAGE Be Fit 5K Fun Run** held on June 20.
Program starts 1st week in April and continues to 5K event in June. Participants are expected to train on their own 2x weekly and meet 1x weekly at Veterans Park on Mon @ 6:30 pm or Sat @ 9:30 am. Info: StockbridgeParks@vosmi.org or Village of Stockbridge FB Page.



Active Aging

More than luck: SASC recognizes initiative in action

by Alexa M. Ten Eyck

There is a quiet moment on a dewy spring golf course, just before the first swing, where the path ahead feels peacefully challenging.

A golfer steps up to the tee, settles in, and takes the shot. The ball lifts into the air before landing cleanly in the fairway.

Every golfer hopes to land on the fairway for obvious reasons. The short grass between the tee and the green offers the clearest path toward the hole. Reaching the fairway does not guarantee a perfect round, but it puts the player in position. From there, the next shot becomes easier to strategize.

That is the value of the fairway. It creates direction. It gives a position to work with.

The same idea goes beyond the course. Progress in all things depends on positioning. Placing time and effort into situations where the next step becomes clear is, in its own way, both peaceful and challenging.

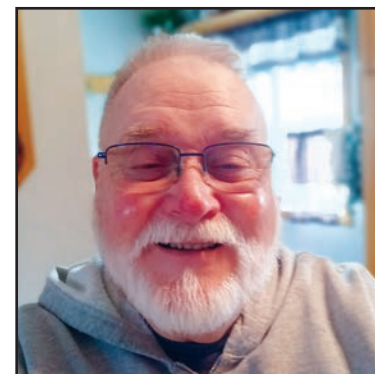
At the Stockbridge Area Senior Center, that kind of positioning happens as the Marketing and Promotion Committee creates direction. Under the leadership of Stu Kenewell, the committee will strengthen outreach and bring greater visibility to upcoming opportunities. As one of his first undertakings, Stu successfully secured the date for the upcoming golf tournament at Timber Trace Golf Club in Pinckney: Friday, June 5.

To carry forward this success, a few things still need to fall into place for the event. Golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and contributions for the silent auction are all opportunities for the Stockbridge community to get involved.

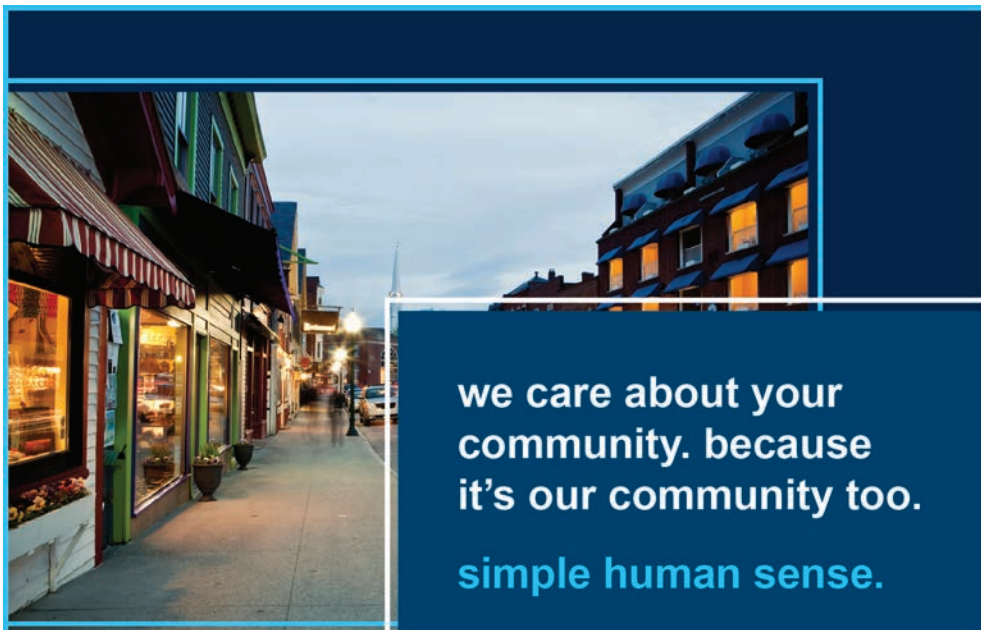
SASC invites all within the Stockbridge community to tee up for the 2nd Annual SASC Golf Tournament and experience their own fairway, one that begins with a quiet moment where the path ahead feels peacefully challenging.

Those interested in any level of involvement should reach out through the center's Facebook page or call 517-480-0353 to contact the team for more information.

Alexa M. Ten Eyck is the board president of the Stockbridge Area Senior Center (SASC)—a great place to spend time. Experience firsthand a sense of connection and well-being at SASC. Visit stockbridgeareaseniors.org, call 517-480-0353, or stop in at 219 W. Elm Street for information.



As one of his first responsibilities leading SASC's Promotions and Marketing Committee, Stu Kenewell secured Friday, June 5 as the date for the 2026 golf tournament at Timber Trace. Photo credit Stu Kenewell



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STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2026

Stockbridge Township Supervisor Cg Lantis called Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting to order on March 16, 2026, at 7:00pm at the Stockbridge Township Hall. Members present at the Stockbridge Township Board Meeting; Supervisor CG Lantis, Clerk Becky Muraf, Treasurer James Wireman, Trustee Ed Wetherell, Trustee Terry Sommer Member absent None
 Pledge of Allegiance
 Moment of Silence
 Wetherell motion to accept the Stockbridge Township meeting agenda as printed Sommer Second Discussion add Spartan Irrigation under old business All in Favor Motion Carried
 Citizens Comments None
 Wetherell Motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Board meeting minutes from February 16, 2026, as printed Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried
 Wetherell Motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Financial report as printed Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried
 Stockbridge Police report 68 calls in Stockbridge Township. Stockbridge Township and Village of Stockbridge is looking at creating a Police Authority to be voted on by the people at the August 2026 election
 Old Business
 Wireman moves to go into closed session under MCL 15.268(1)(e), to consult with the attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with case number 25S130412-ON Muraf Second All in Favor Motion Carried
 Wireman motion to close close session and open open session Muraf Second All in Favor Motion Carried
 Muraf motion to authorize the Stockbridge Township attorney to enter into a consent judgement order
 Wireman Roll call vote Muraf yes, Wireman Yes, Sommer Yes, Wetherell No, Lantis No Majority in favor motion carried
 Muraf motion to table Stockbridge Township Hall Rental until April 13, 2026, at 12:00PM when Stockbridge Township will hold a special meeting to discuss Hall Rental Wireman Second All in Favor

motion carried
 Spartan Irrigation is turning irrigation system on in mid-April
 New Business
 Muraf motion to donate upto 15,000.00 to Harvest Fest for 2026 Wireman Second Roll Call Vote Wetherell Yes, Wireman Yes, Sommer Yes, Muraf Yes, Lantis Yes All in Favor Motion Carried
 Muraf motion to spend up to \$5,000.00 for a weather camera to be placed on the water tower contingent on SDDA and Village of Stockbridge approval for placing on water tower and SDDA for taking over maintenance after installation Wireman Second Roll Call Vote Wetherell Yes, Wireman Yes, Sommer Yes, Muraf Yes, Lantis Yes All in Favor Motion Carried
 Stockbridge Township is planning a Clean up day on June 6, 2026, from 10am to 2pm. Muraf is going to call and make sure all companies are available that day
 Muraf motion to increase Stockbridge Township General Clerk pay to \$20.00 an hour along with giving all Stockbridge Township officials a 2.5% raise. Wireman Second Roll Call Vote Wireman Yes, Muraf Yes, Wetherell Yes, Sommer Yes, Lantis Yes All in Favor Motion Carried
 Muraf motion to amend the Stockbridge Township Budget as follows move \$4100.00 from line 262-702 put \$600.00 on line 247-702, \$500.00 on line 278-932 and \$3000.00 to line 445-963 Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried
 Muraf motion to have movie night on May 8, 2026, July 10, 2026, August 14, 2026, September 25, 2026 and Halloween Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried
 Muraf motion to approve resolution to adopt an ordinance to impose a moratorium on the issuance of Permits, Licenses or Approval for Data Center Wireman Second Roll Call Vote Muraf Yes, Sommer Yes, Wetherell Yes, Wireman Yes, Lantis Yes All in Favor Motion Carried
 Sommer motion to pay the Stockbridge Township monthly bills in the amount of \$43,062.70 Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried
 Citizen Comments Discussion
 Lantis adjourns the Stockbridge Township regular monthly meeting at 8:52PM
 BM

Positive Parenting

Why is it so hard to protect our children online?



Kelsey Rasmussen

by Kelsey Rasmussen

Put bluntly: Safeguards to keep children safe online are inadequate. Dr. Lauren Girouard, an expert in digital literacy and psychology, explains this in her public lecture "Exploring Digital Privacy from a Child's Perspective," during the University of Michigan's

Privacy@Michigan series.

Despite parents' eagerness to protect their children online, Dr. Girouard reports 20% don't know where to begin. One in six parents say they do not use parental controls at all, and for those who do, children routinely bypass "age gates" by clicking a button to claim they're older than they are. Half of children ages 10-12 have some sort of social media; one quarter of 8-year-olds in the U.S. have a social media account despite the requirement to be at least 13.

Teachers and nonprofit organizations like Common Sense Media may be well-intentioned, but their tools quickly become outdated. Government faces intense lobbying from Big Tech, and regulations lag. Following are some eye-opening facts.

- By age 2, over 50% of American children have their own tablet.
- By age 5, the average screen use is 3.5 hours per day.
- 1 in 5 teens say they are on TikTok and YouTube almost constantly.

Wellness Coalition page 2

Survey results

Survey highlights pertaining to Stockbridge included the following:

- A significant increase in respondents from Stockbridge.
- Increases in people reporting their physical and mental health as "excellent" or "very good."
- Increased physical activity rates compared to years past.

A major highlight—and another positive one—was the increase in the number of people indicating they are involved in the Stockbridge community. In 2020, 31% of respondents said they weren't involved in any sort of social club, service group, faith-based group or wellness center. In 2025, that number decreased to 26%. It's worth noting, involvement with social clubs increased from 10% in 2020 to 16% in 2025. Perhaps that can be attributed to a growing Stockbridge Area Senior Center?

Notable trends

Two trends worth watching include the following:

- The number of Stockbridge area residents who reported that distance is always or usually a barrier for them buying the variety or quality of produce they would like.
- An increase in the number of people reporting marijuana usage.

Sponsorship requests

After the data presentation, SAWC recommended three \$500 sponsorship requests (these have been approved) and one \$1,500 grant request (under consideration) to be funded by 5 Healthy Towns Foundation. The requests include the following:

- \$500 for A Day in the Village 5K run.
- \$500 for A Day in the Village event.
- \$500 for Stockbridge Area Senior Center's golf outing.
- \$1,500 for construction of a gaga ball pit at Heritage School.

The next coalition meeting will be on May 19 at 4:30 p.m., at the Stockbridge Village offices.

This column is sponsored by the Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition (SAWC). Matt Pegouskie is the community investment manager.

- 3 in 4 American parents share photos of their children on their own social media accounts. Of those, 81% use real names of their child(ren) and 25% of those do so on profiles that are public (meaning anyone with internet access could see the posts).

Dr. Girouard cautions parents about seemingly innocent things. Imagine a guest at your kid's birthday party posts a photo to her public profile of your baby holding her "3" balloon and grinning through icing-covered cheeks. Cute, right? Posting that photo revealed your precious child's age (the balloon), birthday (the date posted), and location (the metadata in the photo) to anyone online across the globe.

So what? The threat landscape is serious and rapidly changing. On Feb. 19, Kristen Setera of the FBI Boston field office published an open letter to parents warning of sickening online threats to children, especially 10- to 17-year-old girls, by nihilist violent extremism groups. They identify, groom, and coerce children into producing and sharing graphic content, then blackmail victims into doing increasingly horrible things to themselves. And sometimes to their siblings.

Big Tech is not a reliable protector of our most valuable national resource—our children. Social media companies earn big bucks on ads to children. They do so by profiling users and selling that data in real-time auctions to advertisers behind the scenes. It's hard to imagine the scale and speed of these transactions. Even a "private" profile does not protect you from profiling and efforts to nudge your behavior (stay online longer, buy something, feel outrage, etc.)

See Positive Parenting on page 19.



By age 5, the average screen use for children is 3.5 hours per day. Photo credit Kelsey Rasmussen (Wolf image generated by AI)

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Positive Parenting page 18

The financial gain social media moguls earn for co-opting our children's attention is staggering:

- Annual global revenue from ads to children ages 12 and younger: \$11 billion.
- Annually, YouTube earned \$959 million; Instagram \$801 million; FaceBook \$137 million.
- Half of SnapChat's revenue comes from users under 18 years old.

Fines for violating children's privacy pale by comparison:

- Europe fined TikTok \$368 million (2023).
- YouTube paid \$170 million for collecting children's data without parental consent (2019).
- Epic Games (Fortnite) paid \$520 million in FTC settlements (2022).

And the list goes on.

Imagine a 21st-century Brothers Grimm fairy tale: Can a big, bad wolf wander from the Black Forest to lurk behind screens, gobbling up children's ability to develop safely and privately? It doesn't really matter whose device it is—even Mommy's phone reeks of stranger danger and manipulation.

Activity Highlight:

- With your child, hunt around the house to name everything that connects to the internet or AI. Explain how any "smart" or voice-activated toy is not your friend. It is not a he or she, but rather, an it.
- Double-check all of your social media accounts and those of your children to ensure view settings are private rather than public. Although their faces will still be recognized, profiled, and sold to data brokers online, private profiles reduce their exposure to sadists.
- Limit the currency Big Tech mines from your children—attention and ownership of their minds—at the expense of their ability to develop a self. Replace screen time with hands-on activities: Build something, start a hobby, read, paint, play sports, go outside.

To watch Dr. Girouard's presentation, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjXe7cQhW-o
Kelsey Rasmussen is a local resident and full-time parent of preschool-aged twins.

Letter to the Editor

I often hear people on television and everyday conversations say, "God." The second commandment is to honor God's name. I caught myself saying his name and I thought "You aren't praying or talking about God so you are using his name in vain." I made an effort to stop misusing his name. Many people don't realize how commonly His name is thrown about. I hope this will be a wake-up call to try to do better.

Thank you, Connie Shaerer

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Junior High Quiz Bowl Team shares the curiosity buzz with sixth graders



Seventh and eighth grade team members stand ready to assist sixth graders in learning the game. Photo credit Katie Fox

explain how the team works, share their individual roles and responsibilities during competitions, and talk about what it's like to prepare for competitions throughout the year.

The highlight of each visit is a chance for sixth graders to try the game for themselves. Students get to answer fast-paced trivia questions from a wide variety of subjects, including history, science, literature, geography, pop culture, and more. With buzzers ready and teamwork encouraged, the sixth graders quickly discover that Quiz Bowl is as much about collaboration and curiosity as it is about knowledge.

The goal of the visits is to spark interest, build confidence, and help younger students see the many ways they can get involved when they move up to the Jr./Sr. High School. These sixth graders will have the opportunity to officially join the team in September of the next school year. Welcome aboard—almost!

Feel free to contact Michelle Szilagyi at the Jr./Sr. High School for more information.

See additional photos at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.

by Michelle Szilagyi

Every Tuesday in March, Junior High Quiz Bowl team members have been visiting Heritage Elementary to introduce sixth grade students to one of the exciting opportunities awaiting them at the Jr./Sr. High School. During these sessions, team members

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Stockbridge Police: Service Log for February 2026

Submitted by Chief Randolph Krause on March 9, 2026

Calls For Service: 92

Service Call Types:

Animal Complaint: 1

Property Damage Accident (PDA): 2

Civil Disturbance: 2

Hazardous Situation: 1

Various Administrative Calls: 20

Noise Complaint: 3

School Crossing Guard: 27

Police Assist to EMS/Fire: 10

Assault: 1

School Checks: 12

Traffic Stops: 5

Retail Fraud: 1

Welfare Check: 2

Vacation Check: 1

Vehicle Lockout: 2

Unspecified: 2

- 5 Healthy Towns Foundation
- Aaron & Dorothy Craft
- Ace Hardware of Stockbridge
- Adiska Contracting
- Adiska Family Dental
- Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase
- Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum
- Arbor Hills Golf Club
- Ashcott Electrical
- Barbara Lance
- BCI
- Becker Fabrication
- Belfost Construction
- Belle Tire
- Ben Topping
- Big Chuck's Pizza
- Bob Evans
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- Bramlett Hardware & Heating
- Bruce Brown
- Cal Hodgson
- Carson Services
- Ceramics Clayland
- Certified Tractor & Auto Repair
- Chapman Family Farm
- Chelsea Lumber
- Chelsea Milling Company (Jiffy)
- Choice Farm Market
- Choice One Bank
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- Cindy Lance
- City Limits
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- Meijer, Store# 30
- Michael McIntyre, AVB Construction
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- Mike & Lyn St. Dennis
- Mugg & Bopps
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- Nina Herrst Photography
- Old Nation Brewing Company
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- Open Air Market of Stockbridge
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- Outback Steakhouse - Jackson, MI
- Pam and Kies Nowak
- Paul Crandall
- Polar Insulation
- Ralph Schumacher
- Redbear Bikes
- Reed Barbering
- Rush Lake Hills Golf Club
- Sam's Club
- Sobie Company
- Sommer Farms
- Staffan Mitchell & Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Homes
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- Stockbridge High School
- Stockbridge Wellness Center
- Susan Crow
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- The Home Depot
- The Purple Rose
- The Snider Family
- Tim and Kara Boring
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Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation Mission: To fund programs and projects that create or enhance educational opportunities available to residents within the boundaries of the Stockbridge Community School District.

Thank You!



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Total raised was \$23,420.83