

## Final candidates identified in Stockbridge schools superintendent search

### Interviews set for June 2

**by Mary Jo David**

In the unfolding search process for a new school superintendent, the Stockbridge School Board has identified two finalists for the open position:

- Aaron Shinn, high school principal, Milan Area Schools.
- Jeffrey Trapp, junior/senior high school principal, Stockbridge Community Schools.

Finalist interviews will be held on Tuesday, June 2, following an open house at 5 p.m. where community members will have a chance to speak with candidates. Shinn’s interview is scheduled for 5:35 p.m. and Trapp’s interview for 7 p.m. These will take place in the School Success Center at the Jr./Sr. High School in Stockbridge.

### District gathered stakeholder input: A recap

Prior to any interviewing taking place, a series of meetings and workshops were held for planning and gathering stakeholder input from school board members, school staff, the community at large and school administration in the district.

Kacie Kefgen, a consultant with the Michigan Association of School Boards has been assisting the Stockbridge school board in its search efforts.

“I see my role as helping to ensure the integrity of the process so conditions are the best they can be for the Stockbridge School District to make the strongest choice for school superintendent,” explained Kefgen, who has assisted districts with processes like this since 2016.

*See Superintendent on page 17.*

## NEW COLUMN!



**Around the Open Air Market**  
**Bringing family fun and fresh energy to the market**

**by Amanda Hanson**

*Editor’s Note: Amanda Hahn had recently been introduced as the Open Air Market assistant manager. Unfortunately, due to a family relocation, Hahn had to resign. Amanda Hanson, previously the market’s event coordinator, has now moved into the position of OAM assistant manager.*

Hello Stockbridge Community!

My name is Amanda Hanson, and I’m incredibly excited to be named assistant manager of the Open Air Market of Stockbridge to help bring new family activities, children’s events, and community experiences to our market season.

I’m a mom to two wonderful daughters who keep life busy, adventurous, and full of creativity. As a family, we love spending time outdoors, gardening, biking, and finding ways to stay connected to our community. Those experiences are a big part of what inspires me in both my personal and professional life.

Professionally, I work in youth programming and child care leadership, where I’ve had the opportunity to create engaging activities, family events, and welcoming spaces for children and families of all ages.

*See Open Air Market on page 18.*



## American Legion Post 510 holds Memorial Day Service at Oaklawn Cemetery



**Incoming Post Commander Steve Witkowski welcomes those in attendance.**



**Jen McClure sings "The Star-Spangled Banner." Photos by Judy Williams**

**by Judy Williams**

Memorial Day dawned sunny and bright in Stockbridge this year. Perhaps those who have gone before us managed to pull some strings to ensure the Memorial Day Service at Oaklawn Cemetery would have the best of weather conditions after a week of clouds, rain, and cooler-than-average temperatures.

Whatever the reason for the perfect day, our community has the Mackinder-Glenn American Legion Post 510 to thank for another heartfelt Memorial Day service honoring the area’s deceased veterans, especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

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

## June 2026

**2026 Stockbridge High School Prom Coverage:** See pages 4-5.

**Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School Honors Night:** See pages 10-13.

**Annual A Day in the Village Event Schedule:** See page 25.

**Stockbridge High School Class of 2026 Top Ten Seniors:** See page 28.

# Rural Perspectives: Enchanting ruby-throated hummingbirds known for varied flight patterns with wings moving up to 53 times per second



Diane Gray Constable

by Diane Constable

The ruby-throated hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) is our smallest bird, and one of the most enchanting. It is the most common hummingbird in the United States and can be found anywhere east of the Mississippi River in woods, old fields, along streams, and in our yards.

The male hummingbird has deep-green back feathers and a ruby-red throat that sometimes looks black, but at certain angles sparkles in the sunlight. The female (pictured here) has



a white throat and golden-green back feathering. She is a bit larger than the male. They have claw-like feet that help them cling to flowers and stems, but their short legs are not built for walking. They must shuffle along to move about on branches or the ground.

They are best known for their flight patterns. Their wings move up to 53 times per second in a figure-eight motion, which allows them to maneuver

This female ruby-throated hummingbird slightly favors nectar from red, orange and bright pink flowers. Photo credit Diane Constable

left, right, forward, backward, up, or down, and even enables them to hover and fly upside down.

The migrating males return first in the spring from their winter homes in Florida, Mexico, and Central America. They will fight with other hummers to defend their territory and food sources. Females also defend favored food supplies. Using their long tongue, they feed on nectar with a small preference for red, orange, and bright pink flowers. The tongue is also useful for catching small insects on the wing or grabbing them from leaves and spider webs. They eat mosquitoes, fruit flies, small bees and spiders.

They also can be seen at hummingbird feeders that, ideally, contain three-fourths water and one-fourth sugar. The water does NOT have to be dyed red to attract them.

They like to nest in pine, oak and birch. The nest is made with spider webs, dandelion, thistle down, and animal hair and decorated with lichen on the outside. It is about 2 inches by 1 inch and will hold one to three eggs, which hatch in about two weeks. The female is the sole caregiver of the chicks. At about 22 days, the chicks leave the nest. Hummingbirds will grow to a length of 3-3.5 inches and weigh 0.1- 0.2 ounces with a wingspan of 3-4 inches, and they live about 9 years.

Fun Fact: Hummingbird hearts beat 1,260 beats per minute, taking 250 breaths per minute—one of the highest metabolic rates of any animal. In cool weather it will go into a stupor until the temperatures warm up.

*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.*

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## Plainfield Church hosted final service on May 17

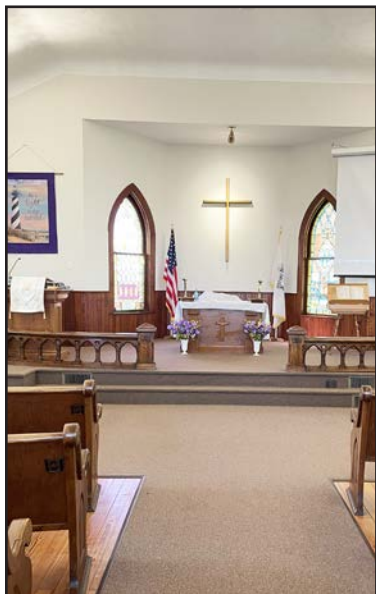


Photo credit Sue Wagner



Photo credit Leanne Humrich, in honor of her grandmother Isabelle Donohue.

The 174-year-old Plainfield United Methodist Church held its final service on Sunday, May 17. Sue Wagner and Leanne Humrich were in attendance. In Leanne's case, she was there to honor her grandmother Isabelle Donohue. Both women submitted photos to memorialize this local house of worship.

## Monthly Unadilla Farmers Market to be held across from the Little Red Schoolhouse



View of the Little Red Schoolhouse from the Unadilla Community Park, the site of the new farmers market in Unadilla Township. Photo credit Amber Smith

by Amber Smith

Between the lush trails of Livingston County and the legacy farms of Stockbridge lies a little place called Unadilla. You may have passed through on your way to Chelsea, or perhaps you frequent the Unadilla Store. If you haven't taken the time to experience Unadilla, now is your chance!

The Unadilla Township Parks and Recreation Committee is hosting the first-ever Unadilla Farmers Market at the Unadilla Community Park across from the Little Red Schoolhouse (where Joslin Lake, Hadley, and Barnum roads come together in Unadilla

Township). The committee consists of Unadilla Township residents Julie Weiland, Yvonne Hopkins, and Amber Smith. Hopkins, who has previously led the Gregory Trailhead market, is spearheading the project.

"A market in Unadilla is a great way to bring our neighboring towns together and support our local businesses. Unadilla is as much Ingham County as it is Livingston," Hopkins said.

In an effort to promote township businesses and engage the community, the Unadilla Farmers Market will be held once a month on the same Fridays as the Unadilla Store's Classic Car Shows throughout the summer.

*See Unadilla Market on page 21.*

## Bridge to Wellness

## Summertime in Stockbridge: A great time to enjoy the outdoors

by Matt Pegouskie

Summer in Stockbridge is just around the corner! In recent years, Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition (SAWC) has worked with various partners within the Stockbridge Community School District borders to make it easier to add physical activity and fresh foods into residents' warm weather adventures.

Here's a short list of local places and events you can check out this summer to move more and eat better. All are supported through SAWC grants and programs.

*See Bridge to Wellness on page 19.*



Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition (SAWC)-sponsored projects have made it easier for area residents to add physical activity and warm weather adventures to their days. Photo credits Unadilla Twp. Parks & Recreation, Stockbridge Parks & Recreation, Munith Community Park (OneBigConnection.org)

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Group shot: Seniors on the Stockbridge Township Hall steps.



A mix of attendees from grades 9 through 12 in front of the Stockbridge Township Hall.



Kayden Kunzelman and Ethan Salzer



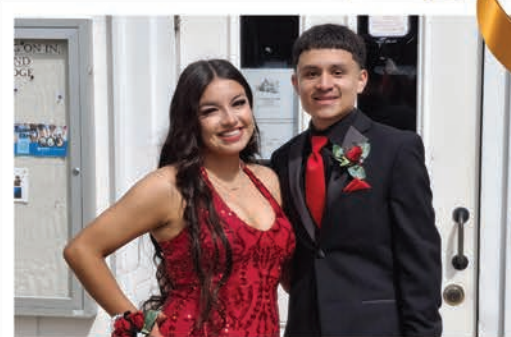
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Justyna Szycka and Kathryn Titus

Ashlee Buddenborg, Emma Monaghan, Bella Pybus,  
Madisyn Atkins, Emily Satkowiak

Alana Porzio and Wyatt Pierce

Kayden Kunzelman, Owen Cipta,  
Brooke KunzelmanS  
H  
S



## Clyde's Corner

### This couple has a sweet story, honey and all

by Clyde Whitaker

Hello again everyone, here's a little something different for my story this month. I think a lot of you already know our friends Loie and Shirley Craft for the honey they sell out of their house here in Stockbridge, but there is more to this story.

Loie was born in Luna, Kentucky, and moved up to Fitchburg when he was 4 years old. Shirley was born in Battle Creek and moved to Stockbridge in 1958 to marry Loie. They were married in June 1958 at the Church of God in Stockbridge. This year marks 68 years of marriage. Congratulations!

I asked Shirley how they met, and she said at the Church of God here in Stockbridge. When I asked her about their first date, she thought for a moment. Then she said that Loie had some chickens at his house in Fitchburg, and he had to go feed them one day. Well, she rode with him to go and feed the chickens, so she guessed that was their first date.

Loie and Shirley are well known for the honey they sell by the quart. Loie has been a beekeeper for over 50 years. In his working years, Loie worked at Hydramatic in Ypsilanti for 30 years, retiring in 1995. Shirley was a homemaker, helping Loie as he needed it.

Shirley said that, one time, Loie was roofing the house and asked Shirley for some help. Shirley said, "I can get up there, but I can't get down."

Loie said, "I'll push you off" (jokingly, of course)! Shirley did go up the ladder to help Loie and was able to get down just fine.

When I asked them what was the secret to a long marriage, Loie laughed and said, "Just listen to what she says."

Shirley said you just have to put up with each other and make faith and God the cornerstone of your life.

Hobbies for Loie and Shirley include doll collecting and collecting kerosene lamps. Doll collecting started about 10 years ago by Shirley. The kerosene lamp collecting was started about 50 years ago by their children, because they wanted to have money so they could afford presents for their parents.

See Clyde's Corner on page 14.



Shirley and Loie Craft will mark their 68th year of marriage on their anniversary this June. Photos by Clyde Whitaker



Loie and Shirley Craft collect kerosene lamps and dolls. Both are large collections and carefully displayed.



The Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation would like to congratulate and recognize the SAEF-managed 2026 Scholarship and Award Recipients!

**Congratulations Class of 2026  
Scholarship & Award Winners!**

- **Richard C. Howlett Education Scholarship**  
McKenna Williams
- **Munith-Fitchburg American Legion Post 525 Memorial Scholarship**  
Shelby OKoney
- **Don E. Krummrey Memorial Scholarship**  
Tayla Trapp
- **Thomas D. Basore Memorial Physics Excellence Scholarship**  
Bradley Rowe
- **Darwin D. Snider Memorial Scholarship**  
John Salyer
- **Deputy Grant Whitaker Memorial Scholarship**  
Elizabeth Creps

- **Donna E. Schumacher Memorial Scholarship**  
JayLee Chapman, Tayla Trapp
- **Laura M. Goodin Memorial Scholarship**  
Shelby OKoney
- **Hannah Lorraine Glair Memorial Scholarship**  
Daniel Villegas-Castaneda
- **Talan Tolliver Memorial Scholarship**  
Wendy Cowan
- **Chris C. Kruger Memorial Scholarship**  
Elizabeth Creps
- **Bruce Wm. Brown Scholarship** Bradley Rowe, Daniel Villegas-Castaneda

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.



- **Suzi Greenway Memorial Scholarship**  
Maddie-Lynne Bickley-Ford
- **John Graven Technology Scholarship**  
Noah Beauregard
- **Jeff Becker Memorial Scholarship**  
JayLee Chapman, Brandon Hamlett
- **John Twining Memorial Scholarship**  
McKenna Williams
- **Legacy of Inclusion Scholarship**  
Grady Giddings, Liam Dolan

Congratulations Class of 2026. We wish you success, joy and adventure as you continue your education! Best of Luck to the entire Class of 2026!

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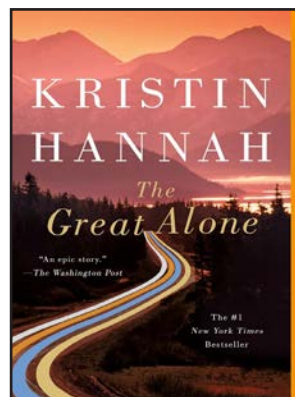
  
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## Reading Between the Lines 'The Great Alone' is a gripping story of resilience in a rugged, majestic land

by Mary Jo David



Through the eyes of a resilient teen-turned-young-woman, Kristin Hannah describes life in a land of extremes. Image credit [kristinhannah.com](http://kristinhannah.com)

Many who are familiar with popular fiction have heard of Kristin Hannah. "Firefly Lane" (2008) and later "The Nightingale" (2015) both skyrocketed in popularity and have maintained their hold as commercial successes over many years. "Firefly" became a popular Netflix series in 2021 and "Nightingale" is probably the novel for which Hannah is most well known, followed closely by "The Women" (2024).

As an avid reader, I recommend other book lovers try to insulate themselves from ubiquitous, fawning reviews of popular titles that jump to the top of bestseller lists and immediately become go-to books for book clubs everywhere. It's rare for a novel to live up to that kind of hype, which was the problem I had when I read Hannah's "The Women" (reviewed in this column in September 2024). I admit it is happening again with Allen Levi's "Theo of Golden," a good book, but not one I'd classify as "the best ever," as so many readers had, by the time I read it. But I digress.

It just so happens, I am a Kristin Hannah fan. I enjoyed all three of her books mentioned above, and I endeavor to make my way through many more of her titles. This spring, I picked up "The Great Alone," a Hannah book I hadn't heard much about. Most of the book is set in the mid-1970s, near Homer, Alaska, in a fictitious village called Kaneq along the rugged Kachemak Bay.

The Allbright family moves to Kaneq after burning all their bridges in the Seattle area. The main character, Leni, is 13 when she moves to Alaska with her dad, Ernt, and her mom, Cora. Ernt—a Vietnam POW—returned after the war with extreme PTSD, although that diagnosis didn't exist at the time. Due to her dad's inability to adjust to societal norms, Leni moved from school to school and was never able to form strong friendships. When her dad gets word that he's inherited land and a cabin in Alaska from an old army buddy, Leni and her mom do what they always do—they jump on the bandwagon and support Ernt's latest adventure, moving to the Last Frontier.

As they set out on their journey in an old VW van, the Allbrights have only each other. Cora has been estranged from her parents since she left as a pregnant teen to marry Ernt, leaving Leni with no memories of paternal relatives and very few of her maternal grandparents in Seattle. Initially when they arrive in Kaneq, Leni and Cora are astounded by the lack of services and how hard the families in Kaneq work to stay alive. Ernt, for his part, sees only possibilities. Folks who live in Kaneq are basically homesteaders who have moved to Alaska to be off the grid, a concept that greatly appeals to Ernt.

Those in the village and outlying areas are skeptical when the Allbrights first arrive, but they are quick to reach out and help the new neighbors get situated in their cabin and on their land—always with an eye to the looming winter. To their credit, the new homesteaders do their best to adjust. Ernt seems to turn a corner; the long summer days and the hard physical labor have him thinking less about his next drink and more about readying the homestead for winter. Cora, who throughout the book is depicted as a petite beauty who responds to her husband's every need, manages to step up and learn to garden and cook with whatever they can grow, hunt, or catch. And, for the first time in her life, in the midst of chores and schoolwork, Leni makes a best friend.

As winter approaches, the story becomes heavier. Ernt, who already suffers from paranoia, has befriended Earl, the father of his war buddy, and he is becoming deeply entrenched in the conspiracy theories Earl is peddling. Cora, who bears the brunt of Ernt's anger, has to do more tip-toeing around her husband. As the days get shorter and the nights get longer, it's Leni who becomes the adult in the family.

See 'The Great Alone' on page 15.



### Who We Are

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

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

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

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

### Our Mission

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

### Our Board of Directors

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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

# Donations to Outreach can help seniors minimize tax repercussions

by Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall



**Stockbridge Community Outreach has benefited as donations from Qualified Charitable Distributions have grown over the past few years.**  
Photo credit Kelly Sikkema on unsplash.com

Thinking of making a donation to Stockbridge Community Outreach? First, thank you, and before you write that check, consider your options. A variety of vehicles exist that can make your contribution both easy and effective. One example is a “QCD” or Qualified Charitable Distribution—a way to take

money from an IRA (Individual Retirement Account) or similar retirement account without having it taxed as income, and instead giving it to a charitable organization.

“We’ve used the QCD option to discharge the Required Minimum Distributions from our IRAs for the past several years,” said longtime Outreach board member and donor, Kelly Schmidt. “It is painless and easy to make charitable donations without incurring additional tax liabilities.”

Upon turning 73, all those who have any of the account types listed below must, by law, withdraw a portion annually—this is called a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)—even if they don’t need or want the funds at that time.

- Traditional IRAs.
- Traditional 401(k)s and other workplace retirement plans, such as 403(b) and 457 accounts.
- Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) IRAs.
- Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees (SIMPLE) IRAs.
- Profit-sharing plans.
- Other defined contribution plans.

These withdrawals will be subject to state and federal taxes because when the funds were put into the account(s) originally, they were pre-tax dollars.

But if the withdrawal goes directly from an IRA or other account to a qualified charitable organization, no taxes will be levied on the withdrawal—that’s the Qualified Charitable Distribution.

Stockbridge Community Outreach has benefited from this rule and has seen this type of donation grow over the past few years. And you don’t have to wait until you’re 73 years old. QCDs can be made as early as age 70.5, even though RMDs are not required by law at that age; some people choose to do this to reduce their tax burden.

*See Outreach on page 15.*

## Art Show at Historic Township Hall

Visit the free Stockbridge Area Arts Council Art Show during A Day in the Village, Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20. Stop in before or after you shop the wonderful local artisans’ wares and enjoy the catered food, if the kids — busy with the rides, shows and games — will let you!





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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.
- Walking Group, 7 p.m. at Veterans Park.
- 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.
- Pickleball, 6:30 p.m. at Veterans Park, beginners welcome.
- 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

- Pickleball, 9 a.m. at Veterans Park, beginners welcome.
- Yoga, 10 a.m. at Village of Stockbridge Meeting Hall. (No class on 6/10).
- 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.
- LEGO Group (ages 6-18), 4 to 5 p.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.
- Open Air Market of Stockbridge, 4 to 7 p.m. on the Stockbridge Township Square (see ad on page 21).

### Saturdays

- Yoga in the Park, 9 a.m. at Veterans Park.

### Sundays

- Adults, all ages Cardio Drumming. 7 to 8 p.m. at the Stockbridge Senior Center.

**June 2** - Art Basics, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Village of Stockbridge Meeting Hall.

**June 2** - Finalists interview for Stockbridge Schools Superintendent. Public invited to attend. See article on page 1.

**June 4** - Morning Trivia, 9:30 to 10 a.m. at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center.

**June 8** - Stockbridge Book Club, 11 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Library. Book: "The Berry Pickers."

**June 8** - Stockbridge School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School. Budget adoption.

**June 10** - Storytime with Goats, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library.

**June 11** - Drop-In STEAM Lab, 10 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Library.

**June 12** - Art with Ms. Tiffany, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library.

**June 13** - Stockbridge Sewing Group, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library.

**June 15** - Reading with Remington, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library.

**June 16** - Art Basics, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Village of Stockbridge Meeting Hall.

**June 17** - Music with Ms. Beth, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library.

**June 17** - Neighborhood Zoo: Scales & Slime, 11 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Library.

**June 18** - Morning Trivia, 9:30 to 10 a.m. at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center.

**June 19** - A Day in the Village on the Stockbridge Township Square. (See ad on page 25).

**June 19** - Unadilla Farmers Market, 4 to 8 p.m. at Unadilla Community Park.

**June 20** - A Day in the Village on the Stockbridge Township Square. (See ad on page 25).

**June 20** - Be Fit 5K Walk/Run, 8 a.m. 120 S. Clinton St. Stockbridge. (See ad on page 3).

**June 20** - Waterloo Farm & Dewey School Blacksmiths, Soldiers, and Log Cabin Weekend, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (See ad on page 2).

**June 20** - Stockbridge Area Arts Council's A Day in the Village Art Show, 4 to 5 p.m. at the Stockbridge Township Hall (See ad on page 8).

**June 21** - Father's Day.

**June 21** - Waterloo Farm & Dewey School Blacksmiths, Soldiers, and Log Cabin Weekend, noon to 4 p.m. (See ad on page 2).

**June 22** - School Board work session meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School.

**June 25** - Drop-In STEAM Lab, 10 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Library.

**June 25** - Dinolympics Reading Program, 11 a.m. to noon at the Stockbridge Library.

For an online calendar of more community events visit: [www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com).

To add your community events to our free community calendar, email submissions to [stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com](mailto:stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com).

# Honors Night Underclassmen Honors - May 21, 2026



Principal Jeff Trapp  
welcomes parents,  
families, and friends to  
the SHS Honors Night.

## ACADEMIC AWARDS

### Class of 2027 Top Two GPA in the Class

Emily Satkowiak (3.9886), Ashlee Buddenburg (4.0), William Gancer (4.0), Emma Monaghan (4.0), Kira Puckett (4.0), Madeline Topping (4.0)

### Class of 2028 Top Two GPA in the Class

Michael Bergman (3.9078), Alexander Avis (4.0), John Fox (4.0), Charlotte Hays (4.0), Zoie Spadafore (4.0)

### Class of 2029 Top Two GPA in the Class

Jacob Lester (3.945), Karrigan Smith (3.945), Rachel Avis (4.0), Lucy Chapman (4.0), Daulton Diffenbaugh (4.0), Alexis Fletcher (4.0), Bryson Khozouie (4.0), Evan Killinger (4.0), Elyse Makushik (4.0), Makenna Porter (4.0), Klayre Smith (4.0), Lucy Spreeman (4.0), Lillian Topping (4.0), Tanner Trapp (4.0), Makenzie Wetzel (4.0), Mikayla Winklepleck (4.0),

## ART

**ART I** Leighton Bremiller, Brooklyn Jerome, Kamiryn Swarthout

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

**ENGLISH 9** Rachel Avis, Lucy Chapman, Vida Corona, Daulton Diffenbaugh, Alexis Fletcher, Evan Killinger, Makenna Porter, Tanner Trapp, Mohamed Zeinab

**ENGLISH 10** Charlotte Hays, Zoie Spadafore

**ENGLISH 11** Carsen Lewis, Bralynn Philipp, Kayleigh Risner

## AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION

Ashlee Buddenburg, Madeline Topping  
**YEARBOOK** Jacob Broesamle, Morgan Rice, Mikayla Winklepleck, Katelyn Rusnock

**JOURNALISM - MIPA** Brianna Rupert, Aidan Bradley, Victoria Tolbert

## MATH

**ALGEBRA 1** Alexis Fletcher, Eloise Hawkins, Parker Sandecki, Kipp Vogel

## ALGEBRA 2

John Fox, Carson Lowe, Madeline Topping

**GEOMETRY** Bryson Khozouie, Kaleb Regan, Makenzie Wetzel

**PRE-CALCULUS** Ashlee Buddenburg, William Gancer, Annabelle Lane, Haley Warren, Emily Satkowiak

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

### ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY

Zoie Spadafore

**BIOLOGY** Rachel Avis, Alexander Avis, Michael Bergman, Lucy Chapman, Daulton Diffenbaugh, Alexis Fletcher, John Fox, Charlotte Hays, Bryson Khozouie, Evan Killinger, Elyse Makushik, Teagan Patterson, Makenna Porter, Karrigan Smith, Zoie Spadafore, Lucy Spreeman, Lillian Topping, Tanner Trapp, Makenzie Wetzel, Mikayla Winklepleck, Addison Wright

**PHYSICS** John Fox, Taurin Phillips, Emily Satkowiak

## SOCIAL STUDIES

**US HISTORY** Daulton Diffenbaugh, Alexis Fletcher, Elyse Makushik

**GOVERNMENT** Alexander Avis, John Fox, Charlotte Hays, Teagan Patterson, Leighla Pidd, Gabriella Ramalia, Zoie Spadafore, Victoria Tolbert, Hannah Weinman

**WORLD HISTORY** Aidan Bradley, Owen Cipta, Carsen Lewis, Haley Warren

**AP WORLD HISTORY** Eliana Wells

## SPANISH I

Makenna Porter, Alexa Satkowiak

## SPANISH II

Ashlee Buddenburg, Lillian Topping

## BAND

William Gancer, Haley Warren

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Arabella Allison, Aidan Bradley, Zoe Buddenburg, William Gancer, Ella Hardesty, Laura Humrich, Annabelle Lane, Emma Monaghan, Bralynn Philipp, Kira Puckett, Rein Puckett, Emily Satkowiak, Madeline Topping, Lillyan Trent, Haley Warren

## ATHLETE AWARDS

### JUNIOR SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Kayleigh Risner, Anya Harden, Isabella Pybus, Ethan Salyer, Leni Lassnig, Aidan Bradley, Annabelle Lane, Ella Hardesty, Haley Warren, Lillyan Trent, Zoe Buddenburg, Kira Puckett (4.0), Madeline Topping (4.0), Emily Satkowiak (4.0), Emma Monaghan (4.0), William Gancer (4.0), Ashlee Buddenburg (4.0)

### SOPHOMORE SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Montanera (Arnau) Vives, Aliyah Numinen, Gabriella Ramalia, Alysinn Hardrick, Leighla Pidd, Alexa Satkowiak, Zoie Spadafore (4.0), Charlotte Hays (4.0), John Fox (4.0), Alexander Avis (4.0)

### FRESHMEN SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Evan Lockhart, Bradley Buddenburg, Jonathan Hayes, Remington Christie, Eloise Hawkins, Emmett Huhman, Parker Sandecki, Makayla Williamson, Evelynnn Johns, Kipp Vogel, Karrigan Smith, Jacob Lester, Mikayla Winklepleck (4.0), Makenzie Wetzel (4.0), Tanner Trapp (4.0), Lillian Topping (4.0), Makenna Porter (4.0), Evan Killinger (4.0), Bryson Khozouie (4.0), Lucy Chapman (4.0), Rachel Avis (4.0)

### RECORD BREAKER

Bradley Buddenburg - 3pt in a game  
Bradley Buddenburg - 3pt in a season

**STOCKBRIDGE**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

photos by Joan Tucker & Tom Tucker

\*MIPA: Michigan Interscholastic Press Association



# Honors Night Underclassmen Honors - May 21, 2026



## Congratulations Students!



# • May 21, 2026



**Talan Tolliver Memorial Scholarship\*** Wendy Cowan  
**John Twining Memorial Scholarship\*** McKenna Williams

## ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

### Scholar Athlete Awards

Gavin Suter, Kaley Hetrick, Nuriah Zeinab, Grant Howlett, Shelby OKoney, Tessa Hoskins, Tayla Trapp, Daniel Villegas, McKenna Mezo, Brandon Hamlett, Wendy Cowan, Madison Rusnock (4.0), Bradley Rowe (4.0), JayLee Chapman (4.0)

**MHSAA Scholar Athlete** Madison Rusnock, Bradley Rowe

**BIG 8 Scholar Athletes** JayLee Chapman, Wendy Cowan, Brandon Hamlett, Grant Howlett, Shelby OKoney, Gavin Suter, Tayla Trapp, Daniel Villegas, Xavier Zimmerman

**Record Breakers** Noah Sandecki (Record: Steals in a game), Brandon Hamlett (Record: Rushing TDs in a game)

**Phil Harris Awards for Outstanding Athlete:**

Male Athlete: Noah Sandecki

Female Athlete: Shelby OKoney

**Jeff Becker Memorial Awards\*:**

Female Honoree: JayLee Chapman

Male Honoree: Brandon Hamlett

## ART

**Art 1** Tabitha Ward, Grady Giddings

## BAND & SOUSA AWARDS

**Senior Band** Bradley Rowe, Gavin Suter, Wyatt Coon, Wendy Cowan

**SOUSA Award** Wendy Cowan

**Choir** Chloe Bell, Aiden Collins, Terrence Cordero, Grady Giddings, Tessa Hoskins, James Lukenich, Alana Porzio, Airiana Smith,

Savannah Swarthout, Tabitha Ward, Gianna Watts

**National Choral Award**

Terrence Cordero

**Student Success Center Excellence**

Nuriah Zeinab

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

**Journalism** Infinity Bills, Brandon Hamlett, Shelby OKoney, Kameryn Gross, Taylor Steele

**Yearbook** Tayla Trapp, Madison Rusnock, Liliana Ramalia, McKenna Mezo, Nathan Chrisinske

**MIPA** Jackson Gauthier, Aidin Schipul, Denton Doyle, Melina Sayre, Leni Lassnig, Brandon Hamlett, Shelby OKoney, Infinity Bills, Elizabeth Creps, Nathan Chrisinske, Taylor Steele, Grant Howlett, Kameryn Gross

**English 12** Madison Rusnock

**AP Literature & Composition** Makayla Bruening-Elrod, JayLee Chapman, Wendy Cowan, McKenna Mezo, Kate Ludwick, Bradley Rowe, Tayla Trapp

**Senior Portfolio Excellence & Scholarship** Kate Ludwick

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

**German** Aiden Collins

## MATH DEPARTMENT

**Algebra 2** Pablo Coria-Chavez

**Precalculus** Kate Ludwick

**AP Calculus** Aiden Collins, Justyna Szycka, Wendy Cowan, Bradley Rowe, JayLee Chapman

**Senior Math Award** Bradley Rowe

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

**Anatomy & Physiology** Infinity Bills, Leni Lassnig

**Astronomy** Kate Ludwick, McKenna Mezo

**Environmental Science** Bradley Rowe, Daniel Villegas

**Physics** Shelby OKoney, Wendy Cowan

## SOCIAL STUDIES

**US History** Justyna Szycka

**Senior Leadership** Noah Beauregard, Makayla Bruening, Brandon Hamlett, Grant Howlett, Kate Ludwick, McKenna Mezo, Liliana Ramalia, Bradley Rowe, Madison Rusnock, Noah Sandecki, Melina Sayre, Airiana Smith, Alecia Smith, Gavin Suter, Tayla Trapp, Daniel Villegas, Xavier Zimmerman

**Student Council Awards & Scholarship** Shelby OKoney, JayLee Chapman, Wendy Cowan

**Senior Leadership Award** JayLee Chapman

**Senior Student Council Scholarship** JayLee Chapman

## EXCELLENCE AWARDS

**Leadership- Unified Basketball** Liam Dolan, Daniel Villegas, Keagan Porter, Jayson Conant, Bradley Rowe, Kameryn Gross

## LINKS AWARDS

**LINKS**

Megan Rice, Taylor Steele, Shelby Palmer



**STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

*All photos taken by Joan Tucker and Tom Tucker*

Asterisks (\*) indicate SAEF-managed scholarships.



Woah Nellie!

## Is your rhubarb crop in overdrive? Try 'Rhubarb Nut Bread' for the win!



Mary Jo David

by Mary Jo David

This month we're circling back to the "Book of Favorite Recipes" compiled in 1988 by the First United Methodist Church of Waterloo. The copy I'm using belongs to SCN board member Nancy Wisman, and at this point, she's probably wondering if she'll ever get it back. Relax, Nancy, it's right next to the check I owe to our board president from February and the 2025 award I need to deliver to one of our SCN

editors. No worries!

As I mention almost every year around this time, my rhubarb plants are in overdrive. Mine are what I like to think of as "heirloom plants," gifted to me from Patrice Johnson, of Stockbridge, who said they were from her mom, Willah's, plants. From what I've heard, Willah Weddon was a force to be reckoned with, and it appears she certainly knew her way around growing rhubarb.

This spring, I have big plans to put up plenty of strawberry rhubarb jam, but it's newspaper deadline time. So in an effort to stay ahead of the rhubarb crop for the short term, I cut a few stalks for this month's Woah Nellie recipe: "Rhubarb Nut Bread," submitted by Linda Wittman. You can find it in the Breads, Rolls, Pies, and Pastries chapter, among some rather unfamiliar recipes, like "Limpa," "Poppyseed Bocht," and "Schnitz-Brod."

"Rhubarb Nut Bread" is pretty straightforward. Being a technical writer in my past life, I would have handled the first instruction a bit better. "Mix until crumbly" doesn't say a lot! But I figured out this instruction was referring to the topping ingredients, so let's pretend it says, "Mix Topping ingredients until crumbly. Then set aside."

After that, you simply mix all the other ingredients in the order given and pour the batter into greased and floured loaf pans. Ahhh—but what size loaf pans? This is an omission I see often in recipes for quick breads. Upon eyeballing the batter, I decided to go with two 8-1/2-by- 4-1/2-inch pans, and these were perfect. (The measurements indicate the opening at the top of the pan.) I also learned a long time ago to grease the loaf pans, then cut a piece of waxed paper to fit just the bottom of the pan. Grease that piece of waxed paper once it's in place, and lightly flour the inside of the pan.

See Woah Nellie! on page 25.

### RHUBARB NUT BREAD

Linda Wittman

|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 1/2 c. brown sugar            | 1 tsp. baking soda     |
| 2/3 c. melted shortening or oil | 1 tsp. vanilla         |
| 1 egg                           | 2 1/2 c. flour         |
| 1 c. sour milk                  | 1 1/2 c. diced rhubarb |
| 1 tsp. salt                     | 1/2 c. chopped nuts    |

#### Topping:

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1/2 c. sugar | 1 Tbsp. butter |
|--------------|----------------|

Mix until crumbly. Mix all ingredients in order given. Pour into 2 well greased and floured loaf pans or 9 x 13 inch cake pan. Top with topping - bake at 350° for 45 minutes to 1 hour or until done. Do not overbake.



Much like zucchini bread, when using a small dice for the rhubarb in this "Rhubarb Nut Bread," the fruit (it's actually a vegetable!) cooks down and adds the moisture needed for the recipe. All photos by Mary Jo David

## Clyde's Corner page 6

I have to say this was the largest collection of dolls and kerosene lamps I have ever seen. They are neatly displayed and show the love Loie and Shirley have for their collections.

Here's an idea: Next time you go for honey, ask to see the displays. I know they would enjoy showing them to you.

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



Loie and Shirley Craft's collections of dolls and kerosene lamps have grown over the years. Photo credit Clyde Whitaker



Jeff Caskey
Brad Caskey

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Published in Uncaged, March 2026

## Klayre Smith wins gold in creed speaking

by Xavier Zimmerman, Reporter, Uncaged News

Stockbridge High School student Klayre Smith is making an impact in archery and in FFA. At just 15 years old, she has been competing in archery nationally for seven years and is a member of the 2026 U15 USA Archery Team. This year, she won the Easton Youth and Collegiate Tournament and earned a gold medal at the S3DA Easton Indoor National Championship.

But her achievements don't stop there. Smith is also the first student from Stockbridge since 1951 to advance to the Michigan State Convention Leadership Contest in Creed Speaking.

"It's honestly such an honor knowing that I'm the first student since 1951 to advance to states in a leadership contest makes me really proud of our chapter," Smith said.

Smith admitted that it can be a lot to balance archery, FFA, and online classes.

"Balancing everything definitely takes planning, sacrifice, and a lot of trust in God," Smith said.

Growing up, Smith's mother constantly told stories about hard work, responsibility, and the importance of agriculture in everyday life. To Smith, this shapes how she sees the world around her.

## Outreach page 8

A QCD can provide several potential benefits. It may be a good giving strategy for donors who:

- Are required to take a minimum distribution from an IRA, but don't need the funds and would face increased tax liabilities if they took the distribution as income.
- Would like to reduce the balance in an IRA to lower future required minimum distributions.
- Would like to make a larger charitable gift than they could if they simply donated cash or other assets.
- Have identified which charities they want to support immediately with a substantial gift.
- Want reduced Medicare Premiums: Lowering your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) can help avoid higher Medicare Part B premium surcharges.
- Do not wish to make their contribution to a foundation or donor-advised fund.

### To make a gift to Outreach (or another qualified organization) using your IRA:

- Contact your IRA administrator.
- Provide instructions in writing to transfer the amount you wish to donate directly to the qualified 501[c][3] charitable organization of your choice and include the group's Federal Tax ID Number (Outreach's is 38-2609279).

Schmidt's final piece of advice: "Of course, any potential donors should consult with their financial advisor / tax advisor."

NOTE: To confirm that a charity is a qualified recipient of a QCD, check the IRS site, [apps.irs.gov/app/eos/](https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/)

### Sources:

- [fidelitycharitable.org/guidance/philanthropy/qualified-charitable-distribution.html](https://fidelitycharitable.org/guidance/philanthropy/qualified-charitable-distribution.html)
- [aarp.org](https://aarp.org)



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](mailto:Outreach49285@gmail.com), 517-851-7285, or find us on Facebook.

"FFA means a lot to me because agriculture has always been part of who I am," Smith said, highlighting her lifelong connection to farming through 4-H and her family's agricultural background.

She sees her participation in FFA as a way to help the world develop leadership skills.

"I hope FFA continues to help me develop as a leader, whether I pursue something directly in agriculture one day or use those skills in archery or another career," Smith said. "Agriculture feeds and supports the world, and I want to always be an advocate for that."

With the support of her parents, coaches, and faith, Klayre is aiming high in both archery and FFA, proving that dedication and hard work can lead to incredible achievements. Smith delivered a top-tier performance on March 5, winning a gold rating that indicates the performance was of superior quality.

*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.panthernet.net/our-district](http://www.panthernet.net/our-district).*



## 'The Great Alone' page 7

And so it goes from year to year as the Allbrights survive four years in The Great Alone.

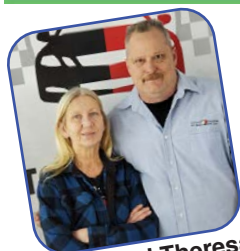
Until the day that everything falls apart. And the story doesn't end there.

Hannah does a phenomenal job describing life in a land of extremes, including the beauty of summer and the harshness of winter. Readers can almost feel the sensory impact of the high and low temperatures and sunlight that extends for 16-18 hours in summer and barely squeaks out for six hours in the winter.

Emotional extremes are also prevalent in "The Great Alone." Friendships are that much stronger when neighbors depend on each other for survival. And the anger—that's extreme as well. Through Ernt and Cora, Hannah conveys what it must be like to live with a domestic abuser and why, so often, people stay in these situations.

Yes, readers will find themselves anxious and on the edge of their seats as the toxic Allbright family dynamics come to a head. But to her credit, Hannah manages to weave a gripping story of resilience about a rugged but majestic land so many of us have not experienced firsthand (although Hannah has).

I daresay many readers come away from "The Great Alone," speechless but better off for the experience of having read it. I know I did.



John and Theresa  
Kightlinger

## Ask an Expert Why OEM safety inspections matter after a collision

by John and Theresa Kightlinger

By now, most drivers understand that modern vehicles are packed with advanced safety technology. But what many people don't realize is that even after a vehicle appears fully repaired following a collision, some of those safety systems may no longer function as intended without proper inspections.

According to collision repair experts, post-collision OEM safety inspections are becoming increasingly important as vehicle systems grow more sophisticated. These inspections are designed by original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to determine whether critical safety components can safely remain in service or if hidden damage may exist beneath the surface.

"A lot of people think if there's no warning light on the dashboard, everything is fine," said Gerry Rosenbarker, general manager of Mohawk Collision Center in Schenectady, New York. "That's just not how these systems work anymore."

OEM safety inspections often involve much more than a basic scan or visual inspection. Depending on manufacturer requirements, shops may need to partially disassemble components, perform measurements, inspect mounting points and recalibrate safety systems.

These inspections can include steering columns and steering components, air bags and supplemental restraint systems, seat belts and retractors, occupant detection systems, radar sensors and seat mounting points.

Experts say some problems may not trigger a dashboard warning light, but can still affect safety in a future crash.

"We find seat weight sensors out of calibration all the time," Rosenbarker said. "It's not going to throw a code. But that sensor determines whether an air bag deploys for a 60-pound child or a 200-pound adult. If it's off, that's a huge problem."

One challenge facing repair shops is the inconsistent language used by automakers in repair procedures. Some manufacturers clearly state inspections are "required," while others use softer terms such as "recommended," creating confusion for shops, insurers and customers alike.

Payment for these inspections also remains a point of contention. Insurers sometimes dispute whether the inspections are directly related to the collision repair, leaving shops and customers caught in the middle.

Still, repair professionals say the long-term risks of skipping inspections far outweigh the cost or inconvenience.

"You're putting your name on a vehicle that's going 70 miles an hour down the road," Rosenbarker said. "If something fails in the next accident, you own that."

As vehicles continue to evolve, experts say shops that follow OEM repair standards and clearly communicate the importance of those procedures to customers will be best positioned moving forward.

Because, ultimately, the true test of a repair does not happen when the vehicle leaves the shop — it happens during the next collision.

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

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## Superintendent page 1

Weeks before the first round of interviews, two stakeholder input meetings were held for the community-at-large. Others were held for school staff and administration. The meeting schedule was posted on the school's website. The community turnout was far from stellar at the communitywide meetings: One community member attended the April 20 meeting; eight attended the Zoom meeting on April 21.

An online survey in March and April resulted in 137 responses from stakeholders. Kefgen was encouraged by the number of survey responses, explaining that it is important to hear back from at least 10% of the district through the survey process.

### Newspaper sought candidate responses before interviews

Earlier in the search process, on May 6, the Stockbridge Community News reached out to the school district to request candidate contact information after the job posting closed May 11. The SCN board hoped to request responses from candidates to a short list of pertinent questions so those responses could be published before preliminary candidate interviews.

Unfortunately, the slate of superintendent candidates was not made public until May 21.

For the responses to be useful, SCN would have needed to receive them no later than Sunday, May 24. As a liaison between the school board and the newspaper, Kefgen felt it would be asking a great deal of the five candidates, on short notice, to spend a holiday weekend composing responses to the newspaper's questions. For that reason, SCN was unable to put forth questions to the candidates before interviews began May 26.

### First-round interviews completed

Twenty-two potential candidates applied for the Stockbridge superintendent opening. The school board identified five candidates to participate in first-round interviews on May 26 and 27. The interviews were open to the public and all candidates were asked the same questions; these were not provided to them in advance. Approximately 25-35 audience members turned out to observe the following interviews:

#### Tuesday, May 26, interviews:

- Andrea Redman, curriculum director/high school principal, Leslie Public Schools.
- Paden Hunter Stalter, senior director of student success, Lansing School District.
- Daniel Boyer, superintendent/special education coordinator, Evart Public Schools.

#### Wednesday, May 27, interviews:

- Aaron Shinn, high school principal, Milan Area Schools **\*\*FINALIST.\*\***
- Jeffrey Trapp, junior/senior high school principal, Stockbridge Community Schools **\*\*FINALIST.\*\***

Candidates each had one hour to respond to 12 pre-scripted questions developed by the school board, with Kefgen's assistance. Audience members were encouraged to fill out feedback forms after each interview, paying particular attention to candidate strengths and weaknesses. When each candidate left the room, feedback forms were collected and board members took turns sharing with the audience some of their own thoughts on the candidate strengths and weaknesses. Every school board member was provided copies of all the audience feedback forms collected each night.

### Questions posed by the SCN board

Not willing to give up on the questions the newspaper had hoped to pose to candidates, SCN received confirmation that Kefgen would make available the following SCN-drafted questions to the school board for consideration for finalist interviews on June 2.

- Please share one or two ideas you have for promoting a positive public perception of the Stockbridge School District within and outside the community.
- Many in the district are concerned about teacher and support staff retention. In your experience, what are the three primary incentives for retaining teachers in a school district?
- How would you handle an incident in which a student publicly threatens the safety of a staff member at one of the district's schools?
- What is your opinion on state-mandated testing, and do you have a strategy for raising the district's test scores?

A school district is often the heart of a community, especially one the size of the Stockbridge area. Students represent the future; therefore, it is crucial for the public to be involved in the superintendent selection process. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 2, 5 p.m., to attend the finalist interviews for Stockbridge Schools Superintendent.

The school board projects the new superintendent will begin work in the district on July 1.

## Active Aging

# Clearing space, creating opportunity

## Join us at the SASC Rummage Sale in June



Be sure to stop in at 219 W. Elm St. in Stockbridge for the Stockbridge Area Senior Center's upcoming Rummage Sale, June 25-27. Photo edited from SCN Media library

by Alexa M. Ten Eyck

Warm weather has returned to Stockbridge! Barn doors stand open. Closets, sheds, basements, and storage rooms benefit from a spring cleaning after the winter spent behind sealed doors. This change of weather naturally brings about a familiar, much-needed process of clearing space.

Research on well-being indicates the spring-cleaning process supports emotional clarity and daily functioning. Meaning: Reorganizing or letting go of unused belongings reduces the weight of clutter and accumulation by creating room for something new.

Those items purged during a spring-inspired clean-out still hold value. Community garage sales and rummage sales reflect the process in a practical way. While one household clears space, another discovers something meaningful or useful. Items receive a second purpose rather than remaining in storage. Dusty books remain endlessly readable. Carefully preserved board games bring life and togetherness to a gathering. Anything from kitchenware to decorations, electronics, or sports equipment can be given a second life.

Communities also benefit when value circulates rather than being stowed away. The Stockbridge Area Senior Center's upcoming Rummage Sale fundraiser reflects this spirit. Between June 25 and 27, community members can browse donated items to discover something useful, meaningful, or new to them. All community members can clear space by donating acceptable items to SASC before the sale begins.

The process doesn't stop there. At SASC, your space-clearing donations help support health and well-being programs through at-will contributions. Rummage sale contributions support classes, educational activities, guest speakers, social events, and programming that benefit the well-being of the Stockbridge area senior citizens and their families.

See SASC on page 21.

## Positive Parenting

# When children grieve, and what I learned while helping my teens



Dr. Erin Clifton

by Dr. Erin Clifton

Some experiences in parenting are completely unexpected. You're left feeling caught flat-footed and wholly unprepared. Having to walk my teenagers through the death of their father was one of them.

I quickly realized there is no perfect roadmap for grief—especially for children. Sometimes it manifests as tears. Sometimes it is silence. Other times, it is anger over something seemingly small. Honestly, grief in adults isn't much different. But adults have additional years of sitting with uncomfortable emotions and we have more language to understand and describe what is happening in their bodies.

So in this situation, I saw my role as helping them find language for what they may be feeling. I opened the door by talking about what I was feeling—and I was feeling so much. Most of the time, it was conflicting emotions: deep sadness along with frustration, compassion with resentment, relief alongside anger about how he hurt the boys he left behind. The most important realization was that we can hold opposing views and emotions at the same time, and that's OK.

Society often wants grief to look clean, respectful, and uncomplicated. But grief is rarely tidy, nor is it linear, especially when it comes after years of difficult circumstances, mental health struggles, and self-destructive behavior.

I learned quickly that being honest mattered more than being perfect. I admitted I didn't have all of the answers, but I was there to listen. I also told them that all of their feelings were valid and that nothing about the situation was their fault. They were allowed to feel all of it guilt-free: sadness, confusion, love, disappointment. None of these emotions cancel each other out.

One of my biggest learning experiences was realizing that, developmentally, teenagers often tie memories strongly to physical objects. Did anyone else just memory-jump to the loads of stuff we collected in our teenage bedrooms and hung on our walls? The boxes of belongings and random keepsakes don't always make sense to me, but they don't have to. My job is simply to preserve them, and maybe years from now, more things can be let go.

I also learned that bereavement services exist throughout our state. One of those resources was available through our McLaren insurance and is called "Child Bereavement Services." This opened the door to knowledgeable social workers, support programs, and counseling services specifically geared toward children.

Children do not need their grief erased. They need willing adults to sit beside them in it. Not to rush it. Not to fix it. Not to force meaning from it. Just to stay present so they are not alone.

See Positive Parenting on page 26.



**A perfect roadmap for grief does not exist, especially for children. It can manifest as tears, silence, or anger.** Photo credit Richard Stachmann on unsplash.com

## Open Air Market page 1

One of the things I value most is creating moments that people remember—the simple, meaningful experiences that bring a community together.

That's exactly what I hope to help build here at the market.

The Open Air Market of Stockbridge already offers something truly special: a warm, welcoming gathering place filled with local vendors, fresh products, and friendly faces. My goal is to build on that strong foundation by creating family-friendly activities and traditions that add even more excitement and connection for our community.

From kids' activities and seasonal contests to interactive events and special themed nights, I hope families leave the market not only with local goods, but with happy memories made together.

I'm also excited to encourage partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and community members who may want to bring something unique and special to the market for our younger visitors. Whether that's hands-on activities, demonstrations, crafts, games, learning experiences, or community booths, I would love to help create opportunities for more people to get involved in making the market an exciting place for families and children.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to be part of something so community centered, and I look forward to meeting many of you throughout the season. Be sure to stop by, say hello, and join in the fun. We have some exciting things planned!

See you at the market!

*The Open Air Market is held on Fridays, May through mid-October, at the Stockbridge Township Square. Hours are from 4 to 7 p.m.*



**Make time to visit the Open Air Market for fun Friday browsing!** Photo credit Facebook.com

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# Bridge to Wellness page 3

## Move more

- Beckwith Preserve: Nature trails, benches.
- Be Fit 5K: Family-friendly 5K, June 20 (coincides with Stockbridge's A Day in the Village), register at [runsignup.com/Race/MI/Stockbridge/PositivelyChiropracticBeFit5kFunRun](https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Stockbridge/PositivelyChiropracticBeFit5kFunRun).
- Munith Community Park: Playground equipment, covered pavilion, basketball court, little library, bike repair station, access to Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park.
- Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park: Access to trail, playground, restroom, equestrian trailer parking, bike repair station, basketball court.
- Stockbridge Veterans Park: Playground, basketball courts, pump track, skate park, covered pavilions, sand volleyball, pickleball and tennis courts, bike repair station, walking path, restrooms.
- Unadilla Township Community Park: Ballfield, covered pavilion, playground, walking track, story walk.
- Unadilla Township Hall Playground (across from Township Hall): playground, ballfields.
- Village of Stockbridge Parks and Recreation: Offering a variety of activities at Veterans Park and other locations within the village. Follow the Village at [facebook.com/StockbridgeMI/](https://facebook.com/StockbridgeMI/) for up-to-date information.

## Eat better

- Open Air Market of Stockbridge: Friday nights, May through Mid-October, from 4-7 p.m. The market currently meets on the Township Square and will move when construction begins on the roads adjacent to the square. For more information, follow the market on Facebook at [facebook.com/OpenAirMarketofStockbridge/](https://facebook.com/OpenAirMarketofStockbridge/).
- 5 Healthy Towns Farm to Table Fabulous Feast: Sunday, Sept. 13, 4-6 p.m. Grass Lake County Park. All proceeds from the event go back to support local farmers markets in the 5 Healthy Towns area, including the Stockbridge Open Air Market. Visit [5healthytowns.org](https://5healthytowns.org) for ticket information.

## May Meeting Recap: Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition

Eleven members of Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition met on May 19 to hear updates on projects currently underway or recently concluded and to vote on several grant proposals. The following people shared updates on particular projects:

- Rachel Stanley: The Stockbridge Area Senior Center.
- David Rowse: Several projects involving the schools, including trail maintenance, soccer infrastructure, and the school running club.
- Matt Pegouskie: Safe Routes to School Planning.
- Wendy Walz: Upgrades to Munith Community Park.
- Heather Armstrong and Debbie Prigge: The Village's growing Parks and Recreation programming.
- Jo Mayer: Community Outreach's Meal of the Month program.
- Stacey Glemser: The 2025 Market Bucks program.

The coalition also recommended four projects or sponsorships for funding from 5 Healthy Towns Foundation. These included project grants for the 2026 Open Air Market of Stockbridge Market Bucks program (\$2,500) and summer programming for the Village's Parks and Recreation department (\$1,700). A \$750 sponsorship for Diaper Bank support and a \$500 sponsorship for the 2026 Farm to Table dinner were also approved.

The next SAWC meeting will be July 21 at 4:30 p.m. at Stockbridge Village Hall.



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

# Staff Spotlight: Heritage School is fortunate paraprofessional Robin Bergman found her way out to the country and Stockbridge



Melissa McPherson

by **Melissa McPherson**

Robin Bergman always knew she wanted to work with kids, but she never expected to live out in the country.

"I grew up a city girl, the idea that I would someday live in a house with land, taking care of all these animals never even crossed my mind," she said as she tossed feed to her chickens.

Bergman, a paraprofessional at Heritage School, was born in Chicago, but her family moved to Michigan when she was just a toddler. They moved around for a while before finally settling in Westland. Bergman attended high school in Livonia where she was a volunteer for an early literacy program reading to elementary school students, but she says that her love of teaching didn't start there.

The oldest of three sisters and many cousins, Bergman relished being the one to offer advice and help them when they needed it.

Bergman always thought she would be a teacher and briefly attended the University of Michigan-Dearborn, where she studied early elementary education. But a number of factors got in the way of her finishing her degree.

Shortly after getting engaged to her husband, Scott, Robin was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the immune system. Scott stood by her side through nine months of chemotherapy and radiation. The two have been married for 17 years, a number she never forgets because it is also the number of years she has been cancer free.

Before coming to work for Stockbridge Community Schools, Bergman spent 12 years as a stay-at-home mom to her three children. Her daughter Gabrielle, 20, works as a cosmetologist; her sons Michael, 15, and Lucas, 12, attend school in Stockbridge. She also ran her own small business, called My Little Lady and Gentleman, selling handmade children's clothing and crocheted children's toys through Etsy and at craft shows.

In 2021, Bergman saw a job opening for a paraprofessional at Heritage and thought the job would be perfect for her. Not only would it allow her to work while her kids were at school, ensuring she still got as much time with them as possible, it would also allow her to work with kids—not as the teacher she'd always imagined, but maybe something close.

As a paraprofessional, Bergman works one-on-one with students who need a little more assistance to get through their school day. Besides helping her students complete their education-related tasks, she also helps them navigate the complicated social network of elementary school. In this way, she provides a built-in support system for every

**Paraprofessional Robin Bergman works with students who need a little more assistance to get through their school day at Heritage School.** Photos provided by Bergman

student she works with.

Year-to-year, Bergman never knows what her job will look like. Some years she works with several students, moving from classroom to classroom and helping as needs arise. Other years, she works with just one student, helping to navigate more complicated needs. The hardest part of the job, for Bergman, is moving on.

"There is no guarantee that I will work with the same student every year," she said. "You spend so long creating a bond with them that it is hard when you have to move on to the next kid that needs you."

On the other hand, she says the best part of the job is seeing how well her students do once her time with them is over.

"Watching them grow and seeing and hearing about all their accomplishments is amazing, and knowing that I had a small part in that is really rewarding."

It isn't just the students she is assigned to that Bergman has a positive impact on. She is known for her caring and fun nature and easily develops relationships with many of the students at Heritage, offering a joke or sometimes just lending an ear when needed.

"My son really struggled with anxiety," one parent explained, "and even though, officially, he wasn't her student, Ms. Robin let me know that she was looking out for him. It really helped a lot knowing she was there when I couldn't be."

Bergman is also in charge of the Crochet Club, which meets after school on Tuesdays. The club was started two years ago after some encouragement from a few students and the school social worker.

"I was surprised at how many students wanted to be involved," Bergman said. "My mom taught me to crochet when I was eight, and it has been so much fun to pass that on to students."

When asked what advice she has for anyone considering a job as a paraprofessional, Bergman's advice is simple.

"You have to be kind and caring, but most importantly, you have to remember that every child is different and needs a different response."

To parents whose children might need extra support, her advice is to stay involved and to be as vocal as you can about what your child needs and the goals you and your child have for their life.

*See Staff Spotlight on page 21.*



**Robin Bergman with her husband, Scott, and their children, Lucas, Michael, and Gabrielle, at Walt Disney World in Florida.**

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*"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,

I was behind a driver towing a wide load. Why did he need to go 20 miles under the speed limit? ... Why have drivers stopped using their turn signals? ... Why are drivers looking at their phones when they should be watching the road?

Signed,

Question Congestion

Dear Question Congestion,

First, I should explain, the questions above came from three different submissions. Yes, dear readers, if ever we were to pick a topic that generates the most "pet peeves," it would have to be driving.

I am of the opinion that, in general, driving peeves require the patience of both the peeved and the peever! By that I mean, if you are someone who regularly forgets, or just flat out refuses, to use your turn signal, well, you need to do something about that. On the other hand, if you're the one getting peeved by someone not using their turn signal, perhaps it would lower your blood pressure if you thought of each case as an exception to the rule. In other words, maybe this is the one and only time that person forgot to use his turn signal.

I once recall arriving home very exasperated because I had been forced out of my lane so a driver could pass me at a ridiculously high rate of speed. When I shared this with "Mr. Gabbie," he reminded me of a time I had rushed home because I thought I had left the teakettle turned on on the stove (thankfully, I had not). Since that time, I try to give other drivers the benefit of the doubt.

Wouldn't it be nice if passing an optional Courtesy Quiz resulted in your car tabs costing \$10 less when you register your vehicle? Or maybe there's a market for products that could help us be kinder, gentler drivers. I've often thought having two horns on our vehicles would be great—one that sounds like a soft "beep-beep" when you want to gently remind someone that the light has turned green and it's OK to go. The other would be a loud HONK! to signal people when something dangerous is about to happen.

For certain, one thing we can all do is strive to be kinder on the road so as not to drive people crazy—even if it puts me out of a job!

*Gabbie*

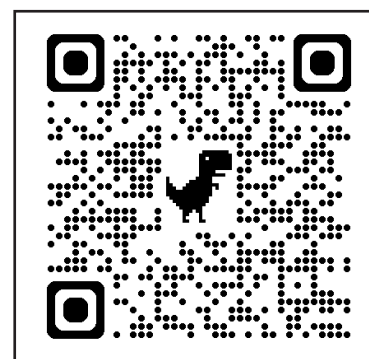
## Unadilla Market page 3

Mark your calendars for 4-8 p.m. on the following Fridays: June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, and Oct. 9.

Vendors will be displaying their produce and wares along a paved walking path, and children are welcome to use the playground while parents shop. Families are encouraged to take advantage of the market each month. The committee is also planning a Halloween-themed movie in the park this fall.

For more information on reserving a market spot, contact Yvonne Hopkins or Amber Smith at [unadillarec@gmail.com](mailto:unadillarec@gmail.com).

## SASC page 17



Scan QR code to access the SASC Facebook page.

What begins as seasonal cleaning at one household eventually helps create opportunities throughout the broader community.

In this way, the process of clearing space creates greater opportunities for the Stockbridge area. That idea reflects the heart of active aging itself: remaining engaged, contributing, and finding renewed purpose through participation.

This year, during the SASC Rummage Sale, a fundraising thermometer will show how contributions connect directly to activities at the Center. Those interested in donating, volunteering, or learning more about the upcoming fundraiser are encouraged to stop by the Stockbridge Area Senior Center or connect with us through the SASC Facebook page for additional information, donation guidelines, and event updates.

*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](http://stockbridgeareaseniors.org), call 517-480-0353, or stop in at 219 W. Elm St. for information.*



## Staff Spotlight page 20



**Robin at home with one of her goats.** Photo provided by Bergman

Small-town life may not have been what Robin Bergman imagined for herself as a young girl, but it is clear that she is exactly where she was meant to be, doing exactly what she was meant to do.

*All photos provided by Robin Bergman. See additional photos at [www.StockbridgeCommunityNews.com](http://www.StockbridgeCommunityNews.com).*



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# STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

## Track and field sends 7 athletes to State Finals



Lucy Chapman qualified for the D3 State Finals in two events. Photo by Mike Williamson

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge boys and girls track and field teams qualified seven athletes in eight events for the Division 3 State Finals in Kent City May 30.

Both squads had strong showings in the team standings with the girls finishing third and the boys fifth.

William Gancer was the regional champion in the 1600 and 3200 for the boys team.

Tommy Bills also qualified for the state finals with a second-place finish in the high jump.

Aliyah Numinen and Lucy Chapman were regional champions for the girls in two events.

Numinen won the 1600, while Chapman won the 3200.

Lucy Chapman and Numinen teamed with JayLee Chapman and Shelby OKoney to win the 4x800 relay.

Charlotte Hayes finished second in the discus and shot put to qualify for the state finals in both events.

**46th Annual Stockbridge Invitational.** The Panther track and field teams hosted the 46th Annual Stockbridge Invitational May 1, and both finished in eighth place.

William Gancer led the way for the boys with a pair of big finishes. He placed second in the 1600 with a time of 4:34.61 and went on to win the 3200 in 10:16.42.

Stockbridge also picked up a sixth-place finish in the 100 meters from Tommy Bills with a time of 11.84. Bills added an eighth-place finish in the high jump by clearing 5 feet, 6 inches and helped the Panthers to a fifth-place finish in the 4x100 relay with Steven Karowich, Carson Kapke, and Noah Sandeck in 47.23.

Kam Gross had a strong day in the field events with a runner-up finish in the shot put at 40-3, while freshman Tucker Lott earned a medal with a sixth-place finish and personal best throw of 39-6 1/2.

The Panthers also earned a sixth-place finish in the 4x200 relay as Brendon Cordero, Kapke, Evan Lockhart, and Sandeck crossed in 1:40.39.

*See Track on page 24.*

## Panthers baseball team routs Lansing Sexton



Colton Romero fires a pitch for the Panthers. Photo by Mike Williamson

by Mike Williamson

It has been a rough season for the varsity baseball team, but the Panthers came away with a 27-0 win over Lansing Sexton.

Drew Hayes and Kristopher Kunzelman combined for a no-hitter in the May 7 game.

Hayes struck out four for the win on the mound.

Noeh Glenn led the offense with three hits and two RBIs, while Johnny Salyer added two hits and two RBIs.

Hayes had a big game at the plate, with four hits and three RBIs. Colton Romero added two hits and three RBIs, and Andrew Ackeborg two hits and one RBI.

Owen House and Xavier Zimmerman each had a hit and two RBIs. Kyle Cheesman and Caydin Stoffer a hit and RBI each.

*See Baseball on page 23.*

## Golfers finish in second place in Big 8 Conference standings



The golf team finished in second-place in the Big 8 Conference.

Photo from Stockbridge Golf Team

by Mike Williamson

A stellar regular season came to an end for the Stockbridge golf team with a second-place finish at the Big 8 Finals May 19 at Arbor Hills Golf Club in Jackson.

The Panthers finished with 355 points, behind only Springport with 343.

Wyatt Loso finished third with an 18-hole score of 82. He was named the individual season champion with his league meet finish.

Bradley Buddenborg finished sixth with a round of 85, while Cody Asquith was eighth with 93. Devin Bennett shot 95, John Ransom 105, and Nathan Chrisinske 118.

*See Golf on page 23.*

## Girls soccer team sees rough season come to end



Gabby Ramalia battles in front of the net. Photo by Mike Williamson

by Mike Williamson

The girls soccer team ended a tough season with a 5-0 loss to Jackson Christian in district play May 20.

The Panthers finished the season with a 1-11-2 record for the year.

The Panthers lone win was over Maple Valley and the pair of ties were with Maple Valley and Jonesville.

Zoie Spadafore led

the Panthers in scoring. Lucy Chapman, Evelyn Johns, Gabby Ramalia, and Ella Hardesty also scored for the Panthers this season.

# STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

## Panthers softball team rolls to 20th win



**Laura Humrich slides safely into third during the varsity softball Pink Out game.**

Photo by Mike Williamson

by Mike Williamson

The varsity softball team picked up its 20th win of the season with a walk-off win over Breckenridge at the Dansville Invitational May 16.

Breckenridge scored twice in the top of the sixth to take a 7-5 lead, but the Panthers scored three in the bottom of the seventh when Leighton Bremiller singled to drive in Emily Satkowiak for the game-winning run and an 8-7 win.

Karrigan Smith led the offense with three hits and one RBI.

Madison Rusnock had two hits and three RBIs and Laura Humrich two hits and two runs scored. Zoey Horstman and Jailynn Nelson each had a hit and one RBI, and Airiana Smith one hit.

Bremiller earned the win, striking out one in the circle.

The Panthers advanced to the tournament finals and had no answer for the pitching of Dansville pitcher Ryker Graf in a 6-1 loss.

Stockbridge picked up three hits with Satkowiak having a hit and run scored. Bremiller and Humrich each had one hit.

**Bronson.** The Panthers dropped a doubleheader to Bronson 10-0 and 4-3 May 5.

Ava Lucas collected two hits in the opener, while McKenna Mezo and K. Smith had one hit each.

In the second game, Stockbridge led 3-2 heading to the seventh, but Bronson scored twice to take the win 4-3.

Humrich and Lucas had two hits and a run scored each. K. Smith and Horstman added a hit and RBI each. Satkowiak and Mezo had one hit each.

**Father Gabriel Richard.** Stockbridge took a pair from Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard 14-4 and 19-2 May 7.

In the opener, the Panthers scored in each of the first six innings to pull away for the win. Horstman had a big game with three hits, including a home run and four RBIs.

Humrich added three hits and four runs scored. Satkowiak and Alecia Smith had a hit and run scored. Bremiller added two hits and one RBI, and Azlynn Parks a hit and RBI.

Bremiller struck out seven for the win for the Panthers.

Stockbridge took the second game 19-2.

Satkowiak and Airiana Smith had three hits and one RBI each. Horstman added two hits and a RBI. Humrich, Lucas, and Mezo had a hit and RBI each, and Parks one hit.

Satkowiak struck out six and allowed three hits for the win.

**Lake City.** The Panthers made their annual trip to Lake City May 9 and came home with 17-0 and 20-8 wins.

Bremiller tossed a two-hitter and struck out three for the win.

K. Smith led the offense with three hits and three RBIs, while Mezo had two hits and three RBIs, and Nelson two hits and two RBIs in the opener.

Lucas had a hit and two RBIs, Horstman and Airiana Smith a hit and RBI each. Chyanne Lindquist added a triple and run scored, and Rusnock a hit and two runs scored.

The second game saw Mezo collect two hits and two RBIs, while Rusnock added two hits and one RBI.

Humrich and K. Smith had a hit and two RBIs each. Satkowiak, Lucas, Airiana Smith, Horstman, Lindquist each had one hit and one RBI. Lily Ramalia had one hit for the Panthers.

Satkowiak struck out five in the circle for the win.

**Union City.** The Panthers pulled out a pair of hard-fought Big 8 wins over Union City 6-5 and 4-0 May 12.

*See Softball on page 24.*

## Baseball page 22

**Durand.** Aiden Bradley singled home Kam Gross for a 5-4 walk-off win May 14.

Zimmerman led the offense with a hit and two RBIs, while Bradley finished with a hit and one RBI.

Gross had a hit and an RBI, while Hayes, Romero, Cheesman and Stoffer had one hit each. Hayes went the distance and struck out four for the win.

**Union City.** Stockbridge dropped a doubleheader to Union City May 12. Stockbridge fell in the opener 8-4.

Cheesman had a double and RBI, while Zimmerman had a hit and one RBI. Ackeberg, Hayes, Bradley and Glenn had a hit each.

Stockbridge dropped the second game 18-3.

Bradley had a hit and RBI, Romero a hit and run scored, and Ackeberg a hit and run scored.

**Leslie.** On April 30, the Panthers dropped a pair of tough games to Leslie 12-7 and 5-1.

In the opener, Ackeberg had two hits and one RBI, while Hayes and Bradley each had a hit and two RBIs. Salyer added a hit and RBI. Stoffer and House each delivered one hit.

In the second game, Zimmerman collected a hit and RBI. Cheesman had one hit in the loss.

## Golf page 22

**Quincy Big 8 Jamboree.** The Panthers won the Big 8 Jamboree with a score of 171 on May 12. Springport was second with 177.

Loso earned medalist honors with 37.

Bennett shot 40, Buddenborg 45, Ransom and Chrisinske 49, and Lucas Hoard 59.

**Maple Valley Big 8 Jamboree.** Stockbridge won the May 5 event with a 174.

Loso fired a 42, while Buddenborg, Bennett, and Ransom each shot 44.

Asquith finished with 49 and Jackson Gauthier 57.

**Bronson Big 8 Jamboree.** The Panthers golf team won its third Big 8 Jamboree with 174.

Loso took the top spot with a 41, while Buddenborg shot 42. Bennett finished with 45 and Ransom 46.

**Union City Big 8 Jamboree.** The Panthers shot 169 to finish behind Springport with 165.

Loso finished first with a round of 38.

Buddenborg shot 41, Ransom 44, Asquith 46, Gauthier 47, and Bennett 50.

## Track page 22

Other top performances included Colin Stacey finishing eighth in the 300 hurdles in 45.80, Koen Griffith taking eighth in the 100 prelims in 11.90 and eighth in the finals at 12.02, and the 4x400 relay team of Kapke, Cordero, Stacey, and Gancer placing seventh in 3:50.17.

Personal best performances for the Panthers included Sandeck in the 200 with a time of 24.93 and Lott in the shot put.

Aliyah Numinen led the girls on the track with a third-place finish in the 1600 after crossing in 5:58.26, while senior JayLee Chapman was sixth in 6:01.63. Freshman Lucy Chapman turned in one of the top performances of the day for Stockbridge, finishing runner-up in the 3200 with a personal-best time of 13:05.90.

Senior Melina Sayre added a fourth-place finish in the 100-meter dash with a time of 13.79 and also helped lead a pair of relay teams to top-six finishes. The Panthers 4x100 relay team of Arabella Allison, Emma Monaghan, Zoe Buddenborg, and Sayre finished sixth in 56.26, while the 4x200 team of Brooklyn Jerome, Madeline Topping, Morgan Rice, and Sayre also placed sixth in 2:02.13.

Stockbridge's best relay finish came in the 4x800 where the team of J. Chapman, Shelby OKoney, L. Chapman, and Numinen placed third with a time of 10:50.63. The Panthers also earned a fourth-place finish in the 4x400 relay with Allison, J. Chapman, Buddenborg, and Numinen clocking in at 4:39.20.

Buddenborg recorded one of Stockbridge's two personal bests on the day with a time of 29.99 in the 200-meter preliminaries, while L. Chapman's runner-up finish in the 3200 also came with a personal record.

**Springport.** The boys rolled past Springport 79-51 in a dual meet May 12.

Koen Griffith led the way for Stockbridge with wins in the 100 meters and 400. Griffith won the 100 in 11.98, while Tommy Bills finished second in 12.13 to give the Panthers a one-two sweep. Griffith later captured the 400 with a time of 56.16 and teammate Brendon Cordero was third in 59.74.

William Gancer had a huge day in the distance events for the Panthers. He won the 800 in a personal-best time of 2:09.94, claimed the 1600 in 4:50.07, and added another victory in the 3200 with a time of 10:58.77. Jacob Broesamle added a PB in the 800 with a fifth-place finish in 2:32.11, while Wyatt OKoney ran a personal-best 6:20.68 in the 1600.

Colin Stacey swept the hurdle events for Stockbridge, winning the 110 hurdles in 18.64 and the 300 hurdles in 46.88.

The Panthers were dominant in the relays, winning the 4x100, 4x200, and 4x400. The 4x100 team of Griffith, Steven Karowich, Bills, and Carson Kapke finished in 45.59. The 4x200 squad of Cordero, Collin Roberts, Bills, and Kapke won in 1:41.99, while the 4x400 team of Cordero, Kapke, Stacey, and Gancer finished first in 3:52.93.

Bills also earned a win in the high jump at 5-2 and placed second in the long jump with a leap of 17-4. Kam Gross swept the throwing events for Stockbridge, winning the shot put with a personal-best toss of 41-11 and taking the discus at 119-5. Karowich placed third in the discus at 91-7.

Other top-three finishes for the Panthers included Griffith taking second in the 200, Stacey winning both hurdle races, Tucker Lott placing second in the shot put, and the Stockbridge 4x800 relay team of Alex Avis, OKoney, Broesamle, and Owen Peckham finishing second in 10:27.83.

Stockbridge athletes recording personal bests included Lott in the 100, Hunter Kunzelman in the 100, John Fox in the 200, Lucas Heinzman in the 200, Gancer in the 800, Broesamle in the 800, OKoney in the 1600, and Gross in the shot put.

The girls rolled past Springport 79-29 in a dual meet May 12 with the Panthers winning 11 events on the day.

Melina Sayre led the Panthers in the sprints with wins in the 100 and 200. Sayre won the 100 in 13.99, while Morgan Rice was second in 14.53 and Zoe Buddenborg third in 14.86. Lucy Chapman added a personal-best time of 15.25 to finish fourth. Sayre later won the 200 in 29.25 with Buddenborg third in 30.49 and Rice and L. Chapman tying for fourth in 32.04.

L. Chapman picked up a win in the 400 with a personal-best time of 1:08.43.

Stockbridge swept the top two spots in both distance races. Aliyah Numinen won the 800 in 2:41.47 with Shelby OKoney second in 2:53.10. Numinen also won the 1600 in 6:16.79 and OKoney finished second in 6:28.04.

Emma Monaghan won the 300 hurdles in 57.16 for the Panthers.

The Panthers swept all three relays. The 4x100 team of Arabella Allison, Emma Monaghan, Buddenborg, and Sayre finished first in 55.71. The 4x200 team of Brooklyn Jerome, Madeline Topping, Rice, and Sayre won in 2:05.14, while the 4x400 team of OKoney, JayLee Chapman, Arabella Allison, and Aliyah Numinen finished first in 4:47.55.

Charlotte Hayes led the field events with wins in the shot put at 25-8 and discus at 83-2. Amelia Estes was sixth in the shot put and fourth in discus.

Topping won the long jump at 13-9 with Monaghan second at 12-10 and Allison third with a personal-best leap of 11-11 1/2. Allison also finished second in the high jump at 4-2, while Topping was third at 4-0.



**Tommy Bills qualified for the D3 State Finals in the high jump.** Photo by Mike Williamson

## Softball page 23

Nelson drove in a pair of runs with a single in the bottom of the seventh to give the Panthers the walk-off win in the opener.

Airiana Smith had two hits and a run scored, Horstman a hit and two RBIs. Humrich added a triple and one RBI, Mezo a hit and run scored, and Bremiller one hit. Bremiller struck out four for the win.

Satkowiak struck out five and allowed two hits for the win in the second game. She also led the offense with three hits and one RBI.

K. Smith and Lucas had two hits each, while Humrich and Horstman added a hit and RBI each. Airiana Smith had one hit, and Mezo a hit and run scored.

## Waterloo Village United Methodist Church

8110 Washington St, Grass Lake (Waterloo)

**Annual Ice Cream Social & Classic Vehicle Show**

**Sat, July 11, 4 - 7 p.m.**

**All Cars, Tractors, Motorcycles Welcome!**

**This is a freewill donation event.**



### 2026 ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Saturdays: 8 - 10 am

Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12

- **BRB! - Breakfasts 'R Back: Hall**
- **Bottle/Can Drive: Schoolhouse Steps**

**BOYer! the Magic Guy @ 5:30 pm**



# June 19 – 20, Friday and Saturday

## A Day In The Village

### Father's Day Weekend



FREE FAMILY FUN EVENT – TONS OF FUN FOR EVERYONE!

### Activities Entertainment & Events

**FRIDAY, 6/19**

#### TOWN SQUARE AND VETERANS PARK:

Kids Games  
Face Painting  
Mini Putt Putt  
Art and Craft Vendors: 11-7  
Mac Donald Brothers: 1-3  
Mark Maze: 3-5  
SAAC Art Show at Town Hall  
Open Air Market: 4-7  
Open Air Market Music: 5:30-7  
Boyer the Magic Guy: 5:15-6  
Live Band at Park: 7-9:55  
Chase and Zeb  
Father of the Year Award: 8

**FIREWORKS AT DUSK**  
**FOOD VENDORS: 11-DUSK**

**SATURDAY, 6/20**

#### TOWN SQUARE:

Kids Games  
Face Painting  
Mini Putt Putt: 10-5  
Bounce Houses: 10-5  
Positively Chiropractic Be Fit  
5K Fun Run (starts: 8 am)  
Art and Craft Vendors: 10-5  
SAAC Art Show at Town Hall: 10-5  
Pedal Pull  
Phil Tolliver Music: 12-1  
Kindred Sisters Dancers  
Bennett's Balloons: 12-2  
Dunk Tank: 1-4  
Chase & Zeb Entertainment  
Bike Raffle Drawing: 4  
Family Feud game hosted by  
Andrea Place  
Read a book to a service dog

**FOOD VENDORS: 10-5**  
**Full schedule available soon.**

### Thank you SPONSORS



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Visit Stockbridge Area Chamber of Commerce

## Woah Nellie! page 14

Lastly, I sprinkled the topping over the batter and baked "Rhubarb Nut Bread" in the preheated oven. I was surprised at the amount of time it took for these to bake. Because the recipe indicates, "Do not overbake," at 45 minutes I started testing by poking a wooden skewer in the center of each loaf. After that I re-checked every five minutes. These loaves needed 65 minutes before I was confident they were baked through.

### Observations after baking the loaves:

- The topping was not very attractive and was extremely crumbly. Much of it fell off the loaves when I cut them. I would recommend leaving the topping off completely.
- The rhubarb was not visible in the finished loaves. I may have diced the rhubarb too small. Next time I will chop the rhubarb a little chunkier and see what happens.
- Make sure to distribute the batter as evenly as possible between the two pans. Although both finished loaves were close in size, one loaf had about two slices in the middle where a little bit of batter remained raw after baking.

It is just my luck that my resident taste tester has given up eating processed sugar on weekdays. (Can you see me rolling my eyes?!) Never fear, the next day was a Mah Jongg day, and I was hosting. Of course, my Mahj group came through! Mind you, this group of women is used to nothing but the finest cuisine—peanut butter pretzels, trail mix, and sometimes even peanut M&Ms! But this time, they each tried a piece of "Rhubarb Nut Bread," and the consensus was very positive. All agreed the bread did not need the topping. And one player pointed out that, much like zucchini bread, the rhubarb cooks down and is probably used to add moisture to the recipe.

Did I mention we have a "Mikey" in our Mahj group (as in the 1970s Life cereal commercial that featured Mikey the picky eater)? So, we all held our breaths as she tried a piece, and I'm happy to report, "She liked it!"

### STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES

**May 18, 2026**

Stockbridge Township Supervisor Cg Lantis called Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting to order on May 18, 2026, at 7:05pm at the Stockbridge Township Hall. Members present at the Stockbridge Township Board Meeting; Supervisor CG Lantis, Clerk Becky Muraf, Trustee Ed Wetherell, Trustee Terry Sommer Member absent Treasurer James Wireman  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Moment of Silence  
Sommer motion to accept the Stockbridge Township meeting agenda as printed Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried  
Citizens Comments Discussion  
Muraf Motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Board meeting minutes from March 16, 2026, and budget hearing meeting minutes from March 25, 2026 as printed Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried  
Sommer motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Financial Report as printed Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried  
Stockbridge Township Building Department Quarterly Report, Building Permits: 7 New Permits, Electrical Permits: 5 New Permits, Mechanical Permits: 5 New Permits, Plumbing

Permits: 5 New Permits, Driveways: 2 New Driveway Permits, Address Permits: 2 New Permits, Demolition Permits: 0 New Permits  
Police update month of march they responded to 53 calls in Stockbridge Township and in April Stockbridge Police responded to 69 calls  
Old Business  
Muraf motion to table the Stockbridge Township Hall rental until Supervisor Lantis and Trustee Wetherell can complete the required updates to the kitchen Wetherell Second All in Favor Motion Carried  
New Business  
Muraf motion to accept Modernistic bid of \$310.35 to clean the carpets inside Stockbridge Township Hall offices Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried  
Muraf motion to accept HSC Services contract extension for 1 year with the increase of \$100.00 monthly fee contract will be signed after corrections made.  
Sommer Second Roll Call Vote Muraf Yes, Sommer Yes, Wetherell Yes Lantis Yes All in Favor Motion Carried  
Sommer motion to donate \$1000.00 to the Stockbridge Chamber of Commerce for the Day in the Village Wetherell Second Roll Call Vote Sommer Yes, Wetherell Yes, Muraf Yes, Lantis Yes, All in Favor Motion Carried  
BM

# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

to all the amazing dads  
in our community  
-The SCN team

## Thank You Donors

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 March 20 and May 27. 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

- CTS Tax, LLC
- Denise and Larry Allen
- Gentle Reins Farm
- Jane James
- Linda and Clare Risner
- Orville and Jill Shepherd
- Sally Nichol

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

## Positive Parenting page 18

Below are some available resources I'd like the community to know about.

- Michigan 211 Grief and Bereavement Resources: [mi211.org/grief](http://mi211.org/grief).
- McLaren Child Bereavement Program: Ph. 231-487-4825.  
[mclaren.org/main/child-bereavement](http://mclaren.org/main/child-bereavement).
- Ele's Place—Capital Region: Ph. 517-482-1315. [elesplace.org/services-4/](http://elesplace.org/services-4/).

*Dr. Erin Clifton DC, CACCP, is a partner in Positively Chiropractic in Stockbridge, Michigan. Her specialty is pediatric, pregnancy and family health care. She is "mom" to two sons and two daughters and leads various health and wellness classes in the Stockbridge area. Dr. Erin has a personal passion for achieving optimal health, while educating and inspiring those in the community to work with the body, not against it.*

## Waterloo Township Public Hearing Notice, Tuesday, June 16, at 7 p.m.

The Waterloo Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 7 p.m. at the Waterloo Township Offices located at 9773 Mt. Hope Road, Munith, MI 49259. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on a Special Land Use Application for a dog kennel on Parcel 000-05-18-326-001-02. The parcel is located at 10125 Waterloo-Munith Road, Munith, MI 49259 and is owned by Jennifer Randell and Christina Moir. A copy of the application and supporting documents may be viewed at the township offices during regular business hours.

Written comments should be mailed to: Waterloo Township Offices, 9773 Mt. Hope Rd, Munith, MI 49259 or dropped off at the offices during regular business hours prior to June 15, 2026.

Individuals with special needs should contact the Waterloo Township Board by contacting the Clerk's Office, 9773 Mt. Hope Rd, Munith, MI 49259. Phone: 517-596-8400.

Ralph Schumacher, Planning Commission Secretary



## GENTLE REINS FARM Drama/Art Camp with Horses



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7295 N. Alger Rd., **ALMA**  
1050 Superior Dr., **ST JOHNS**  
327 S. Waverly Rd., **LANSING**  
4405 Lansing Ave., **JACKSON**



# Obituaries

## Thomas Carl Diefenthaler



**Thomas Carl Diefenthaler**  
Nov. 19, 1959 to May 2, 2026

**Thomas Carl Diefenthaler**, born November 19, 1959 in Jackson, Michigan, was called home to heaven on May 2, 2026, where he was finally reunited with his beloved daughter, Lauren Diefenthaler. Thomas passed away surrounded by family, in Stockbridge, Michigan, where he attended High School and graduated with the class of 1978.

Tom had a passion for farming and spent much of his life working on the family farm. He also had a long-standing career as a truck driver. He was a man built from equal parts grit and tenderness, and even though life handed him more hardships than most, he met every challenge with humor that didn't just mask the pain—but softened it for everyone around him.

After decades spent hauling freight, tending fields, and lifting others' spirits with a well-timed joke, he has gently parked his rig for the last time.

Tom was a dedicated father, and a loving son and brother. In addition to his daughter, Lauren, he is preceded in death by his father, James Diefenthaler, his partner, Anita Baker, and his brother-in-law, Daniel Dancer. He is survived by his devoted son, Christopher Diefenthaler (Alexandra Diefenthaler), and his doting mother, Alice Diefenthaler. He also leaves behind many adoring siblings—including his brother, Timothy Diefenthaler (Julie Evans), and his three sisters, Linda Dancer, Sandra Risner (Brook Risner), and Debra Diefenthaler.

He lived a life of long roads, open fields, deep love, and laughter that could fill a room. He taught us that humor is a kind of courage, that family is worth everything, and that even the toughest hands can hold the softest hearts.

May his roads be smooth, his fields be endless, and may those he is reunited with hold him close. And may the angels be ready—because he's surely creating mischief up there already.

## Ann Cecilia Kellenberger



**Ann Cecilia Kellenberger**  
Aug. 30, 1946 to May 26, 2026

Ann Cecilia Kellenberger, age 79, of Michigan Center, MI, passed away on May 26, 2026 at Henry Ford Hospital in Wyandotte, MI. Ann was born on August 30, 1946 in Stockbridge, MI, the daughter of Max and Florence (Johnson) Kellenberger. Ann worked as a production worker for Xerox in Ann Arbor for 20 years. She found joy in life's simple pleasures. Ann especially loved animals and shared a special bond with her dog, Molly. She also enjoyed collecting treasured items over the years, a hobby that brought her much happiness.

Ann is survived by her siblings, Dale (Sue) Kellenberger of Munith, Henry Kellenberger of Marshall, and Jane Cribley of Holt; sister-in-law, Diane Kellenberger of Texas, and brother-in-law, Bruce Russell of Indiana; as well as many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her siblings: Paul Kellenberger, Dick Kellenberger, Max Kellenberger Jr., and Bonnie Russell.

Cremation has taken place, and no services are planned at this time.

In honor of Ann, memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society of one's choice.

Arrangements by Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge.

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# TOP TEN

*Seniors*



**JAYLEE  
CHAPMAN**

Valedictorian - Class President  
Honor Society - Multi-sport athlete



**BRADLEY  
ROWE**

Valedictorian - Honor Society  
Multi-sport athlete - Band



**MADISON  
RUSNOCK**

Valedictorian - Honor Society  
Softball - Yearbook



**WENDY  
COWAN**

Salutatorian - Honor Society  
Student Council - Multi-sport athlete



**BRANDON  
HAMLETT**

Class Treasurer - Honor Society  
Multi-sport athlete



**MCKENNA  
MEZO**

Honor Society - Softball  
Yearbook



**DANIEL  
VILLEGAS**

Honor Society - Multi-sport athlete  
Uncaged News



**TAYLA  
TRAPP**

Honor Society - Multi-sport athlete  
Editor-in-chief Yearbook



**TESSA  
HOSKINS**

Honor Society - Multi-sport athlete



**SHELBY  
OKONEY**

Honor Society - Multi-sport athlete  
Editor-in-chief Uncaged News



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