



# STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

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## SCN writers recognized again, this time in the 2025 NFPW At-Large Competition



Melissa McPherson

by Joan Tucker

Stockbridge Community News writers have, once again, been recognized by the National Federation of Press Women, this time in the 2025 At-Large competition.

As Nancy Wisman, vice president of the SCN Board, stated, "We are very proud of the writers we have who go the extra mile to produce our paper."

Mary Jo David, our editor-in-chief, went this extra mile by taking the time to submit a few well-written stories for the competition. Her October 2025 Woah Nellie column featuring "Pumpkin Crunch Cake" from an old community cookbook received first place in the Specialty Food category. One of the judges stated, "I laughed so hard, I cried." She loved David's writing style, which she said makes her want to follow the cooking instructions. Being a bit of a cook myself, I get inspired and occasionally make a Woah Nellie recipe, happy when it turns out well. As an At-Large first-place winner, David's submission will be entered into the national NFPW competition later this year. Let's keep our fingers crossed that she wins.

See NFPW on page 16.



Mary Jo David

## Stockbridge Board of Education seeks community input for new superintendent



Information submitted by the Michigan Association of School Boards

The Stockbridge Community Schools Board of Education is beginning the process of hiring a new superintendent and is seeking family, community, staff input on the qualities,

experiences, and skills needed in the new superintendent.

The board is being assisted in its search by the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB), a service organization that supports the work of school boards throughout Michigan. Kacie Kefgen is facilitating the search on behalf of MASB.

Kefgen will be hosting meetings in the district to give the community and staff opportunity for input. Families and community members are invited to share their perspectives at the following meetings and through an anonymous online survey, which closed April 23.

Families, community members, and staff are also invited to attend and share feedback during interviews:

- First Round – Evening 1: Tues., May 26 at 4:30 p.m. Jr/Sr High Student Success Center.
- First Round – Evening 2 : Wed., May 27 at 4:30 p.m. Jr/Sr High Student Success Center.
- Final Round – Tues., June 2 at 5:30 p.m. Jr/Sr High Student Success Center.

The new superintendent is expected to start the position July 1.

## Community suffers loss of 2 churches and a combined 240 years of memories



Plainfield Methodist Church will close May 17 after 174 years of service to the community. Photo credits Judy Williams



Trinity United Methodist Church, on the corner of Bull Run and Iosco roads, will close May 24. The church opened in 1960.

by Judy Williams

Despite a long history in the community, two churches in our rural area will be closing their doors this month.

- Sunday, May 17, will be a sad day in Plainfield as Plainfield Methodist Church services will end after 174 years. (This church is formally known as Plainfield United Methodist Church.)
- Our rural church community will suffer another blow on May 24, when the Trinity United Methodist Church on Iosco Road in Fowlerville is scheduled to close its doors after 66 years.

See Churches on page 12.



May 2026

### Features

**10 years of Be Fit 5K:** See page 3 for registration information.

**2026 Honoring the memories of our local veterans:** See pages 4-6.

**High school spring sports off to a great start:** See pages 10-11.

**Stockbridge Open Air Market welcomes two new faces:** See page 13.

## Rural Perspectives: Delicate, protected wildflower blooms April to June



Diane Gray Constable

by Diane Constable

The rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*) belongs to the buttercup family. This protected, delicate wildflower can be seen in our woodlands and along meadows and streams. Part of its name, anemone, comes from the name of the Greek wind gods, the Anemoi, because its thin stalks move and tremble in any slight breeze. They also are sometimes called windflowers.

This anemone is one of our earliest perennial spring wildflowers. It blooms from April to June and lives in moist, shady areas in woodlands and along streams. It is about 4-8 inches tall. The medium-green leaves grow from stems that come from the roots, and commonly have three lobes. It does not have true petals, as the 1-to-1.5-inch star-shaped flowers are white sepals and are sometimes tinged with pale pink. Each flower will produce five to 15 seeds.

Although the plant does not produce nectar, many insects,

including butterflies and some bees, will feed on the pollen. The leaves offer food and shelter for a variety of insects because the leaves contain a toxin not eaten by mammals.

All parts of the plant are toxic. The sap can cause blistering and, if eaten, can cause vomiting. Because the toxins are destroyed by heat, Native Americans used a tea from the roots for stomach upset.

Fun Facts: In ancient times, it was thought that winds that passed over this plant were poisoned and would cause sickness. The ancient Persians used the



The rue anemone is one of our earliest spring wildflowers and can be found in woodlands and along meadows and streams. Photo credit Diane Constable

flower as an emblem for sickness. Another legend maintains that the flowers originated from the tears of the Roman goddess Venus as she wept over the death of her love, Adonis.

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

### Bridge to Wellness

## One Big Connection Volunteer Portal now live and populated with opportunities

by Matt Pegouskie

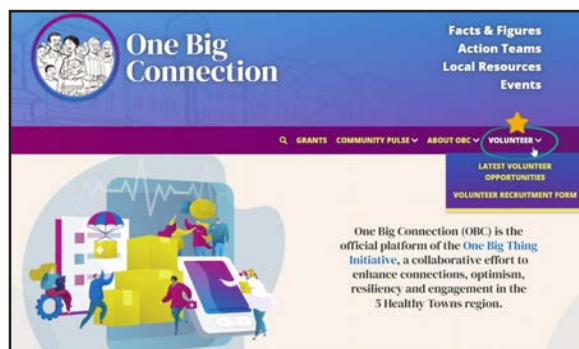
Volunteering in the 5 Healthy Towns service area just became easier, as 5 Healthy Towns Foundation (5HF) and One Big Thing unveiled a new volunteer portal on [onebigconnection.org](http://onebigconnection.org).

Inspired by an earlier Chelsea Wellness Coalition- and 5HF-supported project called Volunteer Chelsea, the One Big Connection Volunteer Portal makes it simpler for organizations and volunteers alike to find a match that is right for them.

- Are you interested in volunteering, but not sure what opportunity provides the right fit for you?
- Do you or your organization need a volunteer(s)?

One Big Thing's Volunteer Portal helps volunteers and those needing volunteers in the 5 Healthy Towns service area. Go to [onebigconnection.org](http://onebigconnection.org) and click the Volunteer menu.

See *Bridge to Wellness* on page 18.



From the One Big Connection webpage, click the Volunteer menu to see the Latest Volunteer Opportunities or to fill out a Volunteer Recruitment Form. Image from [onebigconnection.com](http://onebigconnection.com)

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## Faces of Addiction From pills to purpose: A story for Mental Health Awareness Month



Tina Cole-Mullins

by Tina Cole-Mullins

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

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, arriving with the quiet promise of spring—a season that reminds us how healing often begins beneath the surface, long before anything is visible. It's a fitting backdrop for examining the roots of addiction, which are so often intertwined with unaddressed mental health struggles. Last month, we introduced readers to Katrina Forbes, whose journey from heartbreak to leadership reflects this deeper connection.



Katrina Forbes serves as director at the ARE Inc., Hillsdale Drop-In Center and is a certified peer support specialist. Photo provided by Katrina Forbes

As the national spotlight turns toward mental health, Katrina's story returns as a testament to what healing can make possible: the rebuilding of identity, the restoration of community, and the steady work of becoming someone capable of guiding others toward recovery.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) reports an estimated 2.9% of residents live with both a substance use disorder and a serious mental illness, rising to 5.6% among young adults ages 18–25. These co-occurring conditions, known as dual diagnosis, highlight how closely mental health and addiction overlap across the state.

Michigan is home to more than 1.7 million adults living with a mental health condition, and many communities lack adequate access to care. That gap is why peer-run spaces like ARE, Inc. (which stands for Activities, Recovery, Empowerment) and the Jackson/Hillsdale Drop-In Centers have become essential. These centers offer what traditional systems often cannot: a safe, stigma-free environment where people can find connection, support, and a place to exist without judgment—a place to just simply be.

Katrina knows this landscape well. Though she and her husband, Eddie, live and work within the Jackson and Hillsdale recovery communities, their ties to the broader region run deep. Eddie is a Stockbridge native, and Katrina's mother's family also has roots in the area. Katrina's story resonates with our readers not only because this is the community she serves, but because it is part of the community that shaped her.

Long before addiction took hold, Katrina already was fighting battles she didn't yet have names for—bipolar disorder, PTSD, and a depression that felt like it swallowed whole pieces of her life.

"I was self-medicating long before I ever touched heroin," she shared. "I just didn't know that's what I was doing. I started young, too young."

What began as a prescription for Norco quickly spiraled into something far more dangerous.

"I ran out, and a friend offered me heroin, saying it was the same high," she recalls. Seven years on, the script blurred into snorting, then IV use. The progression was fast, brutal, and unforgiving.

And the consequences were devastating.

"I lost both of my kids," she says. "I used to believe, 'If I'm not a mother, I'm nothing.'"

When her parental rights were terminated, it felt like the final blow—the kind of loss that carves a permanent hollow in a person and creates its own mental health wounds.

What Katrina didn't realize then was that the very past she believed had destroyed her would eventually become the foundation of her purpose.

Today, as a certified peer support specialist and director at the drop-in center, Katrina stands at the intersection of Michigan's mental health crisis and its recovery movement.

See *Faces of Addiction* on page 13.

## Celebrate 10 years of the Be Fit 5K on June 20



Your Be Fit 5K T-shirt reflects the 2026 theme: In My 5K Era!

Photo provided by Erin Clifton

by Dr. Erin Clifton, Positively Chiropractic

A whole decade. That's right—this June 20th marks our 10th annual Positively Chiropractic Be Fit 5K, and we're pretty proud of that.

When we first started, it was simple. A few practice members, a starting line, and a goal: get our community moving in a fun way. No pressure, just progress. And honestly—a little sweat. We weren't really sure what we were doing, but Dr. Erin had participated in enough races to take some wild guesses.

Now here we are, 10 years later. More families, more strollers, more laughter, more 5K T-shirts spotted around town. Plus, maybe a few more sore legs.

This race isn't about being the fastest. It's about showing up. Walking, running, jogging—whatever your body can do that day. Because movement matters. Your nervous system loves movement, and that's our jam.

And let's be real, sometimes the hardest part is just putting your shoes on and getting out the door. Accountability can be a powerful thing.

So this June 20, come join us. Bring your kids, your friends, your neighbors who say they "don't run" (that's perfect—we like walkers, too).

We'll be there cheering you on, probably with coffee in hand, reminding you that your body was made to move—and it's pretty amazing when you let it.

Ten years in, and this is still true: Small steps add up.

We'll see you at the starting line at 8 a.m. on June 20!

Special pricing is available for Positively Chiropractic members. Scan the QR code for details.

Positively CHIROPRACTIC 5K REGISTRATION  
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This story is sponsored by Positively Chiropractic, which runs the Be Fit 5K.

Positively Chiropractic is located at 134 E.

Main St., Stockbridge, Michigan. Contact us

at 517-851-3850 or visit

[positivelychiropractic.com/](http://positivelychiropractic.com/)

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## Honoring deceased former members of Mackinder-Glenn Post 510

At one time, the following veterans were members of the Mackinder-Glenn Post 510 and are interred here in Stockbridge or at other cemeteries.

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KENNETH E. AMMERMAN  
MICHAEL BASNAW  
HOWARD J. BERRY  
WALLACE BISHOP  
CHARLOTTE CAMPBELL  
CLETE CARLTON  
ROBERT H. COLE  
JACK COLLINS  
MAXINE COLLINGS  
PAUL COLLINGS  
TERRY COOK  
EDWIN J. CORSER  
DONOVAN G. CRONKHITE  
JOHN DANCER  
ALFRED J. DAVIS  
CLIFFORD C. DENSMORE  
DAVID DUNLAP  
LARRY D. EARL  
BRUCE ECCLETON  
JOHN L. ECCLETON  
ROBERT C. ERHART  
MILTON FANGLER  
WILLIAM C. FINK  
ROBERT FRINKLE  
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HERBERT GROSVENOR  
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RICHARD HEINZ  
LEN HENSCHER  
LLOYD HODGES JR.  
WILLIAM HOWLETT  
EDWARD A. HOWLETT  
JERRY JACOBS  
NORM JACOBS  
VICTOR JURKEN  
GRAHAM KILGORE  
ROBERT KOCH (COKE)  
ANDREW KOLEVAR  
ROBERT LEATHERBERRY  
J.R. LEWIS  
CHESTER A. LIMING  
LLOYD L. LOBER  
HAROLD W. LUDTKE  
LEVI LUDTKE  
RICHARD E. MACKINDER  
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RAYMOND MARZ  
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JOE PURDY  
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JOHN WARD  
CURT WHITE  
WILLIAM WHITEHEAD  
EZRA ZUMBRUM

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THOMAS J. CAIN  
ROY CLARK  
JAY COBB  
D. C. CRANSTON  
JOSEPH L. CRIBLEY  
ALVA CRONKHITE  
GUY D. CULVER  
PAUL C. DANCER  
ROBERT D. DANCER  
EVERT O. DEAN  
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LACY WATSON  
WILBER WESTFALL  
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OWEN W. ARMSTRONG  
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WILBERT ARNEY  
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HAROLD GLEN CRAFT  
JOHN M. DONOHUE  
JAMES LOSO  
**UNKNOWN SERVICE TIME**  
GARY L. CORNISH

## Deceased local veterans provided by the Pleasant Grove Cemetery Association in Munith

The following information  
was provided by the Pleasant  
Grove Cemetery Association in  
Munith.

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OREN CARLEY  
GRANT CLARK  
JOHN CLARK  
JACOB ECKMAN  
WILLIAM JUMP  
JOSEPH KILPATRICK  
EVERETT A. LARKINS  
FRED POWERS  
GEORGE SAYER  
**KOREAN WAR**  
KENNETH E. ATWOOD  
LYLE ATWOOD  
WILLIAM F. ATWOOD  
EARNIE BAILEY  
WALTER CHILDS  
DARWIN CRAMER  
HOWARD FLINT  
BUCK HICKS  
ROBERT P. HUNTER  
WILLARD D. LAFFERTY  
JACK LORENCEN  
WARREN MARSHALL  
WILLIAM MAYS  
JESSIE MAYS  
BILLIE RAY RICKMAN  
GEORGE RICKMAN  
ROBERT RICKMAN  
ESTILL LEE SHEPHARD  
DELBERT L. STEVENS  
MELVIN VANFLEET  
**VIETNAM WAR**  
DONALD DEAN

ANDREW DUSZYNSKI  
PATRICK JERRY  
ROBERT G. LOSEY  
KENNETH McENTIRE  
HARRY RICKMAN  
DELBERT L. SABLE  
JACQUELINE SCHWARZKOPF  
J.C. LESLIE SHORT  
FRED SHORTZ  
JOHNNY R. SISK  
ROBERT D. WETZEL  
LARRY W. WIREMAN  
DANIEL YOUNG  
**WORLD WAR I**  
GLEN CHENCY  
ROBERT COLLINS  
SAM H. HALE  
DAVID JOHNSON  
ESLIE MAIN  
LEWIS PFITZMAIER  
HIRAM ANSEL SPRY  
CHARLES W. WORTMAN  
**WORLD WAR II**  
PAUL ACKERSON  
EDWARD C. ADAMS  
RICHARD ALLEN  
GEORGE ASHBAUGH  
BERTRAM BAIRD  
THOMAS BURTON  
ALDEN E. CHILDS  
GEORGE COLLIER  
FRANK DEAN  
LEWIS DIETERLE  
AUSTIN B. DIXON  
FOREST DIXON  
LEONARD E. DRAPER  
FRANK DUSZYNSKI  
JOHN DUSZYNSKI  
DELBERT EMMONS  
ROBERT E. GADBURY  
PERCY GREEN  
GROVER GRIMS  
ROBERT HALL  
GRAHAM W. KILGORE  
VICTOR J. LEE  
LUTHER LITTEREL  
JOHN L. MARSDEN  
BARNABAS OSBORNE  
CLIFFORD PARKER  
ROYCE L. PORATH  
ROLAND L. REASON  
DAVID RICHARDS  
ALLEN ROETTGER  
CHARLES SHORTZ  
HOWARD SMITH  
THOMAS STEPHENS  
HOWARD TAYLOR  
ARTHER WETZEL  
ELMER WETZEL  
NORMAN WETZEL  
ROBERT R. WETZEL  
FRANCIS R. WHALEY  
**UNKNOWN SERVICE TIME**  
DALE R. ABBEY  
CECIL ALLGIER

JOHN ALLISON  
CARLEY RALPH ALTON  
HAROLD BABCOCK II  
FLOYD BARROWS  
WALTER BAXTRON  
JOHN EMMONS  
CAROL F. FOSTER  
GARNER RAY FLENER  
JACKIE FRANCE  
DENNIS G. FRINKLE  
MICHAEL FRINKLE  
WILLIAM C. GARTON  
LORNER H. HARVEY  
KENNETH HICKS  
JOHN H. HYDEN  
CHARLEEN JENKINS  
LAVERN E. KNICKERBOCKER  
THOMAS MARSHALL  
CLETUS D. McKEE  
CLINNER MITCHELL  
JOHN E. PETERSON  
CARLEY RICHARD RUSSELL  
KINCH RUSSELL  
DEWEY SAWYER  
GERALD SCOTT  
HARVEY SHORT  
EDWARD RAY STURGILL  
ROBERT H. TITUS  
GARLEN WARRENS  
MARLEN WARRENS  
FREEMAN A. WHETSTON

## Deceased local veterans, not members of Mackinder-Glenn Post 510

The following information  
was provided by families of the  
deceased veterans.

**WORLD WAR II**  
ROBERT DONALD ANDERSON  
RICHARD ALLYN  
MORT BAILEY  
MERLIN R. BAUM  
WALTER E. CHALLENGER  
CHARLES LAWS  
CHARLES RUGGLES  
EDGAR SALYER  
RALPH HARRY SEBOLD  
EDWARD J. SUTLIFF  
RALPH HARRY TEACHOUT  
DOUGLAS DEMPSEY WISMAN  
**KOREAN WAR**  
ROBERT DONALD ANDERSON  
RICHARD BUCKINGHAM  
WILLIAM V. EARL  
ELDEAN J. EISELE  
HARLAN "HOD" R. FRITZ  
JAMES M. FULLER  
JACK JEFFERS  
ARNOLD MARSHALL  
ANGELO "ABE" PARENTE  
MURRAY E. "GENE" SMITH  
*Cont. on page 6.*

## Honoring our veterans cont. from page 5

### Deceased local veterans, not members of Mackinder- Glenn Post 510 cont. VIETNAM WAR

DANNY ALLEN  
ROBERT DONALD ANDERSON  
CHARLES D. "CHARLIE"  
CABANA  
THOMAS E. CAPLIS  
NORMAN W. COOPER II  
KEITH EUGENE OTTO  
GORDON RICHARD OUTWATER  
PAUL L. RUNCIMAN  
MICHAEL SLANE  
HENRY R. "HANK" VAN HOVEL  
JOHN O. WEST  
FRED J. WHITE

### BERLIN CRISIS

CARROLL EDWARD CLARK JR.

### IRAQ WAR

MARTIN H. TOBIN

### PEACETIME SERVICE

THOMAS BACK  
JO EDWARD DAVIDSON  
THERESA FULLER-ANDERSON  
DENNIS L. JOSEPH  
EDWARD M. "TED" LANE  
**Deceased local veterans,  
unknown service times or  
legion affiliations**

The following information was provided by families of the deceased veterans and/or local funeral homes.

TED ADDISON  
RIAL EDWARD ASHMORE  
LAURMER "JACK" BARBOUR  
JOANN CLOUSE  
KEVIN COOK  
ROBERT H. CUNNINGHAM  
RICHARD A. CUTHBERT  
JOSEPH "PATRICK" DAVISON  
HAROLD EDSON  
RALPH HACKWORTH  
FRANCES H. HAIDLER  
BOB HARDING  
JOHN M. HAROOK  
ANDREAS HOFER  
LINWOOD HOWLETT  
BILLIE GENE JACKSON  
JOSEPH KRUSE  
GEORGE W. LEE

ROBERT LEVANSELER  
LENARD E. McDOUGALL  
CARL D. OESTERLE  
JOHN L. PARKS  
CRAIG PERKINS  
TIMOTHY PENIX  
PAUL PRATER  
WILFERD "SONNY" RISNER  
ELI "WILL" RUJA

RICHARD L. SCHAULES  
RICHARD P. SHANEYFELT  
ROBERT L. SOOY  
DAVID B. STEINBACH  
KEITH D. SWITZENBERG  
MICHAEL M. VALENTINE  
JOHN JAMESON WELLS  
FLOYD W. YOUNG

## More than a holiday: Make time to reflect over the Memorial Day weekend



The Stockbridge Civil War Memorial stands in a place of honor in the Township Square.

by Judy Williams

An important public service reminder: Memorial Day weekend is more than just a three-day holiday. This is a time to remember and reflect on those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Maybe you have not been directly affected by the loss of a loved one, but please remember the men and women who gave their lives for us.

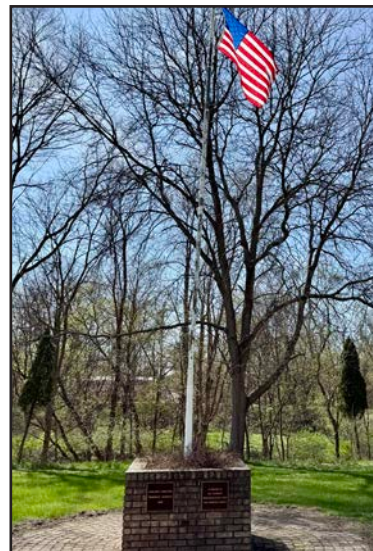
*Enjoy your freedom because another person—and their family—paid the price.*

The Stockbridge American Legion will hold a ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on Memorial Day. The ceremony will be at Oaklawn Cemetery in Stockbridge.

*All photos by Judy Williams*



The Unadilla Township War Memorial in Gregory was forged by local artist Mike Jones and lists names of some township residents who made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.



The Oaklawn Cemetery War Memorial honors all veterans on behalf of Mackinder Glenn American Legion Post 510.

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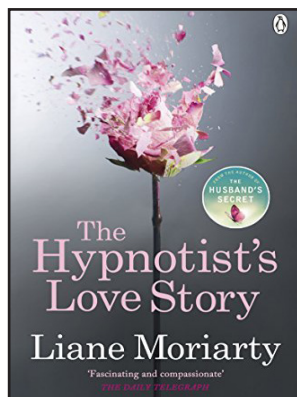
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## Reading Between the Lines And the stalker makes three: Liane Moriarty delivers a love story with a twist

by Jessica Martell



In "The Hypnotist's Love Story," Liane Moriarty creates interesting characters, clever plots, and just enough tension to keep the reader turning pages. Image credit goodreads.com

It's a stretch to call Liane Moriarty's work literary fiction, but "The Hypnotist's Love Story" is a step above the kind of cozy mysteries and beach reads I'm usually drawn to. Moriarty creates interesting characters, subjects them to clever plots, and generates just enough tension to keep the reader turning pages.

In the first few pages of "The Hypnotist's Love Story," the reader gets just a teeny, acidic glimpse of the hypnotist, Ellen, through the eyes of a bitter, jealous patient.

"I could sense her happiness. It radiated off her, sickly, like cheap perfume; not that she would ever wear cheap perfume."

Before the reader can fully acclimate to the narration, the perspective switches to third person, where we see Ellen on her fourth date with Patrick, who intimates that he has something important he needs to tell her. The big revelation is delayed by a lengthy interruption, during which Ellen convinces herself he is breaking up with her. When Patrick finally returns to the table to reveal the big news—he is being stalked by an ex-girlfriend, who has followed them into the restaurant—Ellen is actually relieved.

By this point in the story, readers have settled into the rhythm of the narrative, perhaps forgetting, as I did, the sassy attitude toward the hypnotist in those opening pages.

By the end of Chapter 2, it becomes clear that the sassy first-person narrator who readers meet on page one is the stalker, Saskia. Ellen, who becomes quite intrigued by the idea of Saskia, has no idea that the stalker is one of her new clients.

The writerly choices Moriarty makes create an interesting dynamic. While human nature and common sense might suggest that readers would sympathize with Ellen and Patrick, the fact that we get to know Saskia through first-person narration makes her unreasonably sympathetic to readers. Meanwhile, readers are almost unreasonably unsympathetic to Patrick, the victimized, widowed single father. Ellen, for her part, is likable enough.

One of the most ironic aspects of this trio is that Ellen becomes mildly obsessed with Saskia, puzzled as to how a woman like Saskia could give up being the main character in her own life. Rather, she seems to settle for being a minor villain in "The Hypnotist's Love Story."

Beyond the unconventional love triangle, this book gave me a peek into other unfamiliar territory, namely: hypnotherapy and Sydney, Australia. While I haven't booked a trip to the outback just yet, I have poked around Spotify to see what kind of guided meditation tracks are available. I have found I quite like falling asleep as I focus on my breathing. To my knowledge, I haven't been lulled into quacking like a duck or performing the hokeypokey in my pajamas. But of course, I wouldn't remember if I did, would I?

All in all, Moriarty delivers an unexpected modern love story without smut or histrionics—a satisfying page-turner for fans of character-driven fiction with a twist.

Jessica Martell spent 17 years as a high school English teacher before accepting her current position as an educational consultant. She and her husband live in Munith with their cat, Scootie.

## Election day is May 5: What you need to know

by Jackie Scheller

Polls will be open at 7 a.m. and you must be in line by 8 p.m. Absentee ballots must be signed on the outside of the envelope and received prior to or on election day. When you vote, you contribute to growing and strengthening our democracy and communities.

### Special education capital improvement bond

You are being asked to vote on a "Special Education Facilities Capital Improvement Bond" for the Ingham Intermediate School District (ISD) in the amount of \$99.96 million.

The ISD is a consortium that serves 12 districts in Ingham County.

See Election on page 8.



Stockbridge area schools are part of the 12 school districts served by the Ingham Intermediate School District (ISD).



**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.

**Email:**

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

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**Outreach in Action**

**Can you spot spring taking shape?**

by Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall

Finally! It is gardening time and Outreach is preparing to receive over 1,000 starter plants from the Greater Lansing Food Bank later this month. These will be given away to our clients and local "grow a row" gardeners.

Based on what we received last year and other popular garden offerings, we developed this word search to help get us all in the mood for fresh produce.

The following words can be found across or vertically in the puzzle below. Good luck!

- Basil
- Beefsteak
- Cayenne
- Cherry
- Chives
- Eggplant
- Green
- Green Beans
- Habanero
- Heirloom
- Jalapeno
- Onions
- Oregano
- Peas
- Peppers
- Roma
- Sage
- Tomatoes

*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.*

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q | L | I | M | E | Q | J | A | L | A | P | E | N | O | V |
| O | A | G | V | G | J | U | V | B | A | S | I | L | V | C |
| R | I | B | V | G | B | G | Y | Q | A | S | W | V | V | H |
| E | X | Q | N | P | E | R | S | M | O | T | G | C | V | I |
| G | O | H | V | L | E | E | P | C | H | E | R | R | Y | V |
| A | N | E | T | A | F | E | C | F | G | Y | T | E | H | E |
| N | I | I | O | N | S | N | L | C | W | Q | Z | D | H | S |
| O | O | R | A | T | T | R | O | M | A | H | B | I | B | E |
| C | N | L | G | R | E | E | N | B | E | A | N | S | P | W |
| Q | S | O | A | J | A | K | X | Z | G | S | R | W | E | A |
| Q | X | O | P | Y | K | J | P | D | E | Y | L | E | P | W |
| U | N | M | E | M | T | O | M | A | T | O | E | S | P | P |
| T | D | Y | A | P | X | X | O | C | T | J | D | X | E | F |
| T | J | B | S | L | U | C | A | Y | E | N | N | E | R | M |
| H | N | P | H | A | B | A | N | E | R | O | M | X | S | X |

**Election** page 7

This bond will ultimately serve severely disabled/cognitively impaired students currently attending the Beekman Center and Heartwood School. In addition to nine other districts, students from Stockbridge, Dansville and Leslie attend these programs.

If this bond passes, the Beekman Center will be replaced. Beekman Center is located in Lansing and operated in an obsolete building (built in 1968) with dilapidated independent learning labs, an undersized lunchroom, kitchen, and other classrooms which have deteriorated over time and need to be replaced.

The Heartwood School is located in Mason and serves students with moderate-to-severe cognitive impairment.

See Election on page 13.



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# Community Calendar

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

**Mondays**

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

**Tuesdays**

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

**Wednesdays**

- Discovery Storytime (For Babies, Toddlers, and Children), 10:30 to 11 a.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
- Pop-up food distribution for anyone in need, 1 to 3 p.m. at Stockbridge Community Outreach.
- Bingo, 6 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge American Legion.

**Thursdays**

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

**Fridays**

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

**Saturdays**

- Couch to 5K Training Meet-up, 9:30 a.m. at Veterans Park.

**Sundays**

- Adults, all ages Cardio Drumming, 7 to 8 p.m. at the Stockbridge Senior Center.
- May 6** - Secure Your Most Personal Conversations with Encryption Workshop, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Village of Stockbridge Meeting Hall.

**May 8** - Family Movie & Craft Night, 4-6 p.m. Stockbridge Library. Movie: "Luca."

**May 9** - Sewing Group, 11 a.m. at Stockbridge Library.

**May 10** - Mother's Day.

**May 11** - Posting closes for new school superintendent.

**May 11** - Book Group for Adults, 11 a.m. to noon. Stockbridge Library. Book: "Propaganda Girls" by Lisa Rogak.

**May 13** - Drop-In STEAM Lab (science & art), 2:30-4:30 p.m. Stockbridge Library.

**May 13** - Protect Yourself from Data Breaches with Password Management, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Village of Stockbridge Meeting Hall.

**May 16** - Reading with Remington, 12-1 p.m., Preschoolers through age 10. Stockbridge Library.

**May 18** - Reading with Remington, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Preschoolers through age 10. Stockbridge Library.

**May 25** - Memorial Day service, 10:30 a.m. at Oaklawn Cemetery in Stockbridge.

**May 26** - First round of superintendent candidate interviews.

**May 27** - First round of superintendent candidate interviews continues.

**May 27** - Drop-In STEAM Lab (science & art), 2:30-4:30 p.m. Stockbridge Library.

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



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# STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

## Baseball team takes two from Lake City



**Aidan Bradley hits a home run against Reading.** Photo credit Mike Williamson

The Panthers took the second game 19-14. Ackeberg had three hits and two RBIs, while Aidan Bradley added three hits and an RBI.

Hayes had two hits and an RBI, Caydin Stoffer added a hit and an RBI, Cheeseman had a hit and two runs scored, and Zimmerman finished with a hit and a run scored.

Ethan Salyer, Bradley and Sandecki combined for nine strikeouts on the mound.

**Reading.** The Panthers split a Big 8 doubleheader with Reading, winning the opener 13-11 and falling 10-9 in the second game.

Koen Griffith led the offense with three hits and two RBIs, while Bradley added two hits and two RBIs. Kameron Gross, Cordero and J. Salyer each had a hit and two RBIs, Cheeseman and Ackeberg each had a hit and an RBI, and Sandecki added a hit and a run scored.

Hayes earned the win on the mound with eight strikeouts.

Reading scored four runs in the bottom of the sixth to win the second game on a walk-off. Bradley hit a home run and finished with two hits and three RBIs.

Griffith added two hits and three RBIs, while Cheeseman had two hits and two runs scored. Colton Romero had a hit and an RBI, and E. Salyer added a hit and a run scored.

**Morrice.** Stockbridge dropped a pair to Morrice, 17-7 and 8-5. Cheeseman had the only hit and RBI in the opener.

Zimmerman had the lone hit and RBI in the second game.

**Quincy.** The Panthers fell to Quincy, 13-8 and 18-0.

Hayes led the offense with three hits and an RBI, while Bradley added two hits and an RBI and Gross had two hits and an RBI. Cheeseman finished with a hit and two RBIs, Sandecki had a hit and an RBI, and Ackeberg added a hit.

## Track teams split meet with Leslie



**Alyiah Numinen competes at the Fowlerville Early Season Invitational.** Photo credit Tammy Numinen

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge track and field teams opened the season by splitting with rival Leslie on April 7.

The Stockbridge girls edged Leslie 51-50 to claim the team win in a tightly contested meet, using a strong group of top-three finishes across events to secure the victory.

Melina Sayre led the way with wins in the 100 meters (14.14) and 200 (30.03), while Zoe Buddenborg placed third in both sprints (14.75, 30.83) and Emma Monaghan was third in the 100 (15.22).

In the 400, Madeline Topping placed second (1:15.98) and Morgan Rice was third (1:20.76). The distance events proved key, with JayLee Chapman winning the 800 (2:51.19) and Alyiah Numinen finishing second (2:51.27), while Lucy Chapman placed second in the 1,600 (6:19.59) and JayLee Chapman third (6:30.36).

See Track on page 11.

## Panthers golf off to hot start



**John Ransom hits a shot at Timber Trace Golf Club.** Photo provided by the Stockbridge golf team

Cody Asquith was one stroke back at 45, while Wyatt Loso and John Ransom each shot 47. Lucas Hoard added a 49, Kellen Perron shot 56 and Devin Bennett finished with a 59.

**Concord.** The Panthers placed second at the first Big 8 jamboree of the season April 13 in Concord.

Stockbridge finished with a team score of 181, trailing only Springport (174) and finishing two shots ahead of Quincy (183).

Wyatt Loso fired a 40 to place second overall.

Buddenborg shot 44 to finish fifth, followed by Gauthier with a 46. Ransom shot 51, Asquith 52 and Hoard 56.

## Lady Panthers soccer picks up first win of season



**Zoe Spadafore scored five goals in the Panthers' win over Maple Valley.** Photo credit Mike Williamson

The Panthers pulled away from the Lions, ending the game early via the eight-goal mercy rule.

Lucy Chapman, Evelyn Johns, Gabby Ramalia and Ella Hardesty also scored for Stockbridge. Rachel Avis recorded two assists, while Ramalia and Hardesty added one assist each.

See Soccer on page 11.

by Mike Williamson

It is early in the season, but the Stockbridge golf team has opened the 2026 spring campaign strong.

**Pinckney.** The Panthers began with a 227-231 dual meet win over Pinckney on April 9.

Bradley Buddenborg and Jackson Gauthier paced the Panthers with rounds of 44 to tie for medalist honors.

# STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

## Softball off to fast start in new season



**Emily Satkowiak tossed a no-hitter against Reading.** Photo credit Mike Williamson

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge varsity softball team is off to a fast start, posting an 8-2 record to begin the 2026 spring season.

**Leslie.** The Panthers opened with a 17-3 and 10-1 doubleheader sweep of rival Leslie on March 25.

Stockbridge's bats were hot, totaling 17 hits in the opener.

Zoey Horstman had a big game, going 5-for-5 with a double and triple and six RBIs to lead the Panthers.

Jailynn Nelson had three hits and an RBI, while Azlynn Parks added two hits and three RBIs. Madison Rusnock had two hits and two RBIs, Laura Humrich two hits and an RBI, and Airiana Smith two hits and two runs scored.

Sophomore Leighton Bremiller earned her first career win in the circle, striking out five and allowing three hits. Bremiller also added a hit and RBI at the plate.

Stockbridge took the second game by scoring in each

of the first four innings.

Horstman stayed perfect at the plate, going 3-for-3 with an inside-the-park home run and three RBIs. Rusnock went 3-for-3 with an RBI, Nelson had two hits and an RBI, Smith added a hit and two RBIs, and Humrich had a hit and scored a run.

Freshman Makayla Williamson made her first career start in the circle and earned the win, striking out seven and allowing two hits. Williamson also had two hits and an RBI at the plate.

**Reading.** Stockbridge opened Big 8 play April 8 with a sweep of Reading, 14-2 and 15-1.

Bremiller allowed one hit and struck out six in the opener. McKenna Mezo hit a home run and had two hits, while Horstman went 3-for-3 with two RBIs.

Humrich was 3-for-3 with three runs scored, Rusnock had two hits and two RBIs, Nelson two hits and three RBIs, Ava Lucas two hits and an RBI, Karrigan Smith a hit and two RBIs, and Bremiller added a hit and two RBIs.

In the second game, Mezo hit an inside-the-park home run and finished with two hits and two RBIs. Lucas added two hits and three RBIs, while Rusnock and Nelson each had two hits and two runs scored. Alecia Smith had a hit and two RBIs, Humrich a hit and an RBI, and K. Smith a hit and scored a run.

Emily Satkowiak tossed a no-hitter, striking out four. Satkowiak also had a hit and two RBIs at the plate.

**Olivet.** Stockbridge swept Olivet, 6-5 and 17-0.

The Panthers won the opener on a walk-off infield single by Horstman, scoring Lucas in the bottom of the seventh. Horstman finished with two hits and four RBIs, while Lucas added three hits and two runs scored. K. Smith had a hit and an RBI, and Parks added a hit.

Bremiller struck out nine and allowed five hits for the win. Satkowiak allowed one hit and walked none in the second game. Mezo led the offense, going 4-for-4 with two RBIs.

Nelson and Lucas each had two hits and two RBIs, Rusnock, A. Smith and Satkowiak each had two hits and an RBI, K. Smith had two hits and two runs scored, Humrich had two hits and scored a run, Parks added a hit and three RBIs, and Horstman tripled.

**Perry.** The Panthers hit a bump in the road, dropping a doubleheader to Perry, 13-7 and 11-8.

Humrich led the offense with two hits and two RBIs, while Rusnock had a hit and an RBI. Lucas had a hit and scored twice, and Nelson had a hit and scored a run in the opener.

Stockbridge could not hold a 4-2 lead in the second game as Perry rallied for the win.

Lucas and Horstman each had two hits and two RBIs. Anya Harden added two hits, A. Smith had a hit and an RBI, Mezo had a hit and scored twice, Humrich had a hit and scored a run, and Rusnock added a hit.

**Quincy.** The Panthers bounced back with a doubleheader sweep of Quincy, 7-5 and 14-3, to improve to 4-0 in the Big 8.

Bremiller struck out three and allowed six hits for the win. Lucas led the offense with three hits and three RBIs, while K. Smith added three hits and an RBI. Nelson had two hits and two runs scored, Horstman and Smith each had two hits, Bremiller had a hit and an RBI, and Humrich added a hit and scored a run.

In the second game, Lucas finished with three hits and three RBIs, including a home run. Humrich had two hits and two RBIs, and Rusnock added two hits and an RBI. Mezo and Horstman each had a hit and two RBIs, and K. Smith had a hit and an RBI. Satkowiak struck out three and allowed five hits in the win.

## Track page 10

L. Chapman also won the 300 hurdles (57.99).

The 4x100 relay team of Arabella Allison, Monaghan, Buddenborg and Sayre took first (57.54), while the 4x400 team of JayLee Chapman, Allison, Topping and Sayre finished second (4:55.53), and the 4x800 team of JayLee Chapman, Shelby OKoney, Lucy Chapman and Numinen also placed second (11:21.22).

In the field events, Charlotte Hayes won the shot put (22-8) and was second in the discus (54-9), while Allison won the high jump (4-0).

The boys fell to Leslie 80-51 despite several strong individual efforts.

Tommy Bills won the 100 (12.49), followed by Steven Karowich in second (12.58). Bills also won the long jump (18-2.5), with Karowich second (16-10) and Jacob Broesamle third (15-4) to give Stockbridge a sweep.

Carson Kapke won the 400 (1:00.73), while Brendon Cordero placed third (1:04.85). William Gancer had a strong distance performance, winning the 1,600 (5:05.76) and 3,200 (10:50.84).

Colin Stacey finished second in both the 110 hurdles (18.66) and 300 hurdles (47.94). John Fox placed third in the 800 (2:49.04), while Jonathan Crow was third in the 200 (28.20).

The 4x200 relay team of Cordero, Evan Killinger, Lucas Heinzman and Fox took first (1:50.94), while the 4x400 team of Bills, Evan Lockhart, Stacey and Gancer also won (4:03.70). The 4x100 team of Kapke, Killinger, Heinzman and Karowich placed second (50.84), and the 4x800 team of Fox, Owen Peckham, Alex Avis and Gancer finished second (10:03.58).

**Fowlerville.** The Panthers competed in the Fowlerville Early Season Invitational, with the girls turning in several strong performances against a deep field.

Lucy Chapman led Stockbridge with a fourth-place finish in the 3,200 (13:20.98), while the 4x800 relay team of JayLee Chapman, OKoney, Lucy Chapman and Numinen placed fourth (11:14.38).

Numinen added a sixth-place finish in the 1,600 (6:13.00), while the 4x400 relay team of Allison, JayLee Chapman, Buddenborg and Sayre placed sixth (4:46.71).

JayLee Chapman placed seventh in the 1,600 (6:13.70) and, along with Numinen, finished ninth and 11th, respectively, in the 800.

On the boys side, Gancer led the Panthers with a seventh-place finish in the 3,200 (11:01.94) and a ninth-place finish in the 1,600 (5:01.68).

Evan Lockhart cleared a personal-best 5-4 to place 10th in the high jump, while Bills placed 14th in the long jump (17-0.5). The 4x800 relay team of Avis, Crow, Peckham and Gancer finished 10th (9:56.06).

## Soccer page 10

Defensively, Valeria Morales, Rachel Vliet, Mackenzie Johnston, Lillian Topping, Lillyan Trent and Emma Hollenbeck controlled play and limited Maple Valley to three shots on goal. Marissa Nash earned the win in net.

**Springport.** Stockbridge dropped a 9-2 decision to Springport. Spadafore and Chapman scored for the Panthers, with Avis adding an assist.

The Panthers are 1-4 overall on the season.

## Churches page 1

### Plainfield Methodist Church

At one time, the unincorporated village of Plainfield was the location of two churches. History indicates a group of settlers formed the Presbyterian Society on June 1, 1838, and built the first church in 1869. That church lasted until sometime in the 1920s. Very little information is available on this long-gone church, which was located on property that currently is part of the Plainfield Cemetery.

The second church was established in 1852 when a group of citizens met to organize the Methodist Protestant Class, a term often used to refer to a small group who met in homes or schoolhouses before a church is built. This local Class first held their services at the Plainfield School. During a meeting of this Methodist Protestant Class on March 11, 1868, a resolution to build a church was approved. The church was built along what is now Michigan 36 (M-36), and it was dedicated Sept. 23, 1868. This Methodist Church was located on the opposite side of the road from the Presbyterian Church.

During the early years, the Methodist and Presbyterian churches would exchange services, with one holding Sunday morning service and the other holding the evening service.

By the 1870s, the little community of Plainfield was thriving. The growing village boasted a post office, school, general stores, a physician, several shops, and two churches. Community members also were anticipating the coming of a proposed Central Railroad Line.

During the first 100 years, life revolved around the churches with Sunday worship, prayer meetings, revivals, ice-cream socials, and even box socials in which women would decorate lunch boxes and men and boys could bid for the boxes and the right to share the contents for lunch. There were special programs at Christmas, and music played a big part in church with occasional music programs.

During an evening storm on June 8, 1906, the Methodist Protestant Church was struck by lightning and damaged by fire. The building and its contents were a total loss and there was no insurance. After the fire, the Presbyterian Society let the Methodists hold services in their church.

But from the ashes emerged a new, larger church with beautiful stained-glass windows. (Information on these windows can be found at [michiganstainedglass.org](http://michiganstainedglass.org). Use the Search function to look for Keyword: "Plainfield United Methodist Church") The church was built on the same site and dedicated on Jan. 27, 1907. Throughout the years, the building was improved. A stove and chimney were added in 1918. In 1927, the congregation decided to sell the horse sheds and use the money to excavate the Michigan basement to allow for the furnace and a place to store wood and coal. This project took several years to complete. By 1941, the basement was finally finished and included a kitchen.

Years ago, the Methodist Ladies Aid Society would hold an annual chicken pie supper and bazaar as its big moneymaker for the year. This eventually grew into almost monthly chicken, biscuit and gravy suppers, events the community enjoyed for more than 75 years. Before the COVID pandemic in 2020, the family-style dinners were held in the church basement. The large crowd would wait in the church sanctuary, visiting with neighbors, while waiting for a turn to have dinner. After COVID, the dinners were takeout only, and the last one was held this year on March 14. The ladies always fixed enough chicken for 200 dinners. Any latecomers were out of luck, as the dinners usually sold out.

Plainfield's first decline occurred in about 1884, when the Grand Trunk Railroad went through Gregory and Stockbridge instead of their village. After that, many of Plainfield's businesses and buildings were moved to Gregory or other locations.

The village's next decline came after World War II. The center of the community was changing to the schools, and the local schools were consolidating. Women's groups found members had less time to meet as women were busy taking children to their activities and some now worked at jobs outside the home.

In 1958, the Plainfield Methodist Church congregation faced a difficult decision after being approached with a proposal to merge with several area Methodist churches. The Plainfield congregation voted against the merger proposition, while the other three churches formed the Trinity Methodist Church.

In 1967, a merger with the Stockbridge Methodist Church was proposed. Again, the Plainfield congregation decided to remain on its own.

Currently, church membership is declining because of a lack of younger members.

"The youngest member of our church is 65 years old," lamented congregant Sue Wagner, while working the last chicken and biscuit supper. "We haven't been able to draw in younger families."

Facing the current reality is not easy for the congregation.

"Our members are trying to deal with the loss of our church," Sean Butler said. "We're losing something we will never get back."

The fate of the church building, a Michigan Historic Site, is now up to the discretion of the Michigan Methodist Conference.

### Trinity United Methodist Church

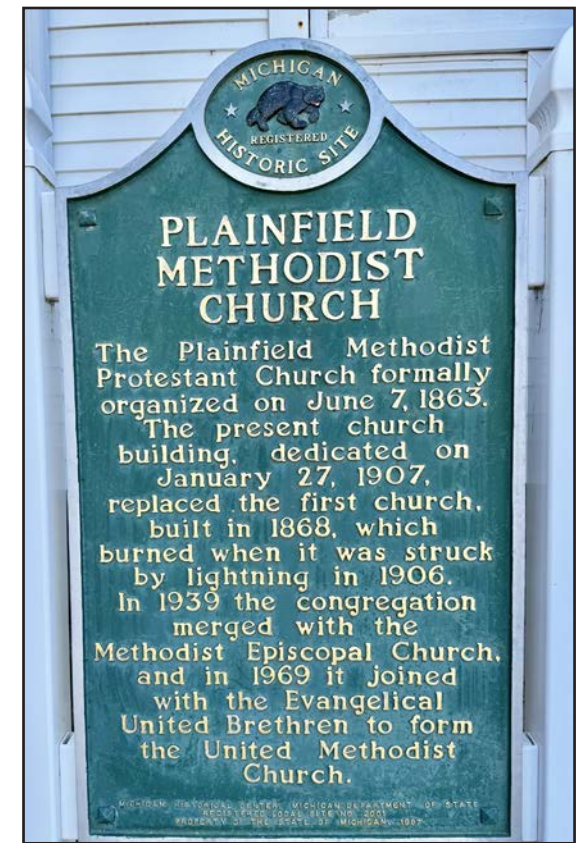
Trinity United Methodist Church, located on the corner of Bull Run and Iosco roads, began 66 years ago. In 1960, the church was created from the merger of three other churches: Parker's Corners; Iosco (also known as Green's Church), a small church with no plumbing; and the West Marion Church, which had been destroyed by a fire.

Prior to this merger, West Marion shared a minister with the Fowlerville Methodist Church. Parker's Corners, Iosco, and Plainfield Methodist churches were on a separate circuit with another minister.

"Even though I no longer live in the community, and I attend another church, I feel the unimaginable loss of these two churches," Jean Anderson Kelley said. "My grandfather, the Rev. Harry V. Clark, was the minister for Plainfield and Parker's Corners from 1926 to 1963. My mother told me stories about Grandpa helping with the digging of the Plainfield church basement."

Jean continues, "My father, Clayton Anderson, along with many more, put their love of God into the building of the Trinity Church."

The Plainfield Methodist Church and Trinity United Methodist Church have both played a major part in our rural community for decades. They will be missed by many. When the buildings close, community members will be left with only their memories of the past social events, baptisms, weddings, and funerals.



This marker describes the Plainfield Methodist Church building as a Michigan Historic Site. After the church closes, the Michigan Methodist Conference will decide the fate of the building. Photo credit Judy Williams



"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,

**Grrrr. Again I'm in the grocery store, and it seems that everywhere I look, people are on their phones. I needed a box of Rice Krispies and someone was planted right in front of them with their back to me gabbing on the phone. I was ready to Snap! Crackle! Pop! that phone right out of their hands. Why can't people wait to talk until they're out of the store?**

Signed,

Cereal Killer

Dear Cereal Killer,

First, can I suggest you take a breath! We definitely don't want to see you on the local news as they cart you away for fingerprinting (not that we know what you look like).

Of course you are not alone in your frustration with people using phones in the store. While I agree it's already a challenge to keep out of the way of other shoppers when you're not on the phone, I do believe cellphone use in the store is only going to get more prevalent, not less.

I'm not sure this is the best time to confess this, but I keep my grocery list in a phone app, so I am one of those phone users you see in the store. Before you stop reading, bear with me. I am a very considerate shopping-app user. Whenever I stop to consult my e-list, I pull my cart into an empty area where I won't disturb other shoppers as I tick the items off my list and decide what else I need.

And isn't that all we're asking—for phone users to be considerate? If you get a call while in the store, first ask yourself, "Do I really need to take this call?" If the answer is "yes," move well away from other shoppers to take the call. No matter how much you pride yourself on your situational awareness, gabbing as you are going up and down the aisles is not courteous to other shoppers, and you are bound to get in someone's way.

Lastly, if it was up to me to write "The Ultimate Book of Cellphone Etiquette," one rule I would absolutely mandate would be no phone calls when you're next in line at the checkout. And for that matter, even if you're not next in line, remember that all those around you are bound to be listening to your call. So if you're comfortable discussing the pros and cons of hemorrhoid cream with your significant other on the phone, just know that others in line are probably uncomfortable for you!

Gabbie

## Faces of Addiction page 3

Her work reflects a statewide reality: In communities where professional mental health resources are scarce, peer-run spaces have become indispensable. The Jackson and Hillsdale Drop-In Centers, operated through ARE, Inc., provide peer-delivered support, recovery groups, targeted case management, and a welcoming space for individuals navigating dual diagnosis.

For many, these centers are the first doorway into stability. Katrina understands this intersection personally. Her journey through bipolar disorder, PTSD, depression, and addiction now informs the compassion and clarity she brings to others walking the same path.

Her story is grounded in the community she now serves, rooted in the community that shaped her, and is a reminder that recovery is not just personal. It is communal. It is generational. And as this Mental Health Awareness Month concludes, it widens the path forward.

In the near future, we'll continue this series by welcoming new faces of addiction and returning to faces of mental wellness—individuals rebuilding stability, practicing emotional sobriety, and showing what healing looks like in real time. Their stories, like Katrina's, will carry this conversation into the months ahead, reminding us that recovery and wellness are threads of the same fabric woven through our communities.

**Resources:** Jackson/Hillsdale Drop-In Centers (ARE, Inc.). Phone: 517-551-4698. Email: info@areinc.org. See additional photos at [www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com).

Journalist Tina Cole-Mullins covers a wide range of topics and issues for Stockbridge Community News, including her Faces of Addiction and mental wellness contributions. A lifelong Dansville resident, she volunteers as a community outreach facilitator, helping ensure individuals and families can access the resources they need.

## Stockbridge Open Air Market welcomes two fresh new faces

Information provided by Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall

Just in time for market season to begin in May, the Open Air Market of Stockbridge is pleased to announce the appointment of Stacey Glemser as its new market manager and Amanda Hahn as assistant manager. Both are Stockbridge area residents and bursting with ideas to make the market interesting and inviting for all ages.

Glemser, an active member of the Stockbridge community for nearly 20 years, brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to her new role. She is looking forward to fostering connections between vendors and residents alike.

See Market on page 19.

## Election page 8



**Stockbridge Area Emergency Services Authority (SAESA) has served Stockbridge, Waterloo, White Oak, and Bunkerhill since 2006. A .90 mill increase is on the May 5 ballot for SAESA and EMS.**

### Emergency Services & EMS millage for Stockbridge area

The Stockbridge Area Emergency Services Authority (SAESA) Fire Protection and EMS millage increase will be on the ballot.

A .90 mill increase is being proposed for SAESA and EMS. When added to the current 1.6 mill that residents have been paying for the past 15 years, the total—2.5 mill over five years—will be used to fund emergency medical and fire services.

The additional funds are needed to address the increased costs of inflation, operations, staffing, and adhering to required regulations.

SAESA is an independent agency not connected to the township, village or police.

John Beck, SAESA manager, has stated, "Without a funded fire and EMS service, there would be no guaranteed local fire or ambulance coverage."

The .90 mill increase would take what homeowners have been paying at 1.6 mills to 2.50 mills or \$500 on a \$200K home.

Heartwood will be structurally renovated to provide students, aged 3 to 26, with needed safety enhancements at entryways, restrooms and classrooms.

Stockbridge Community Schools special education consultant, Kelsey Jennett stated, "Several families from the local Stockbridge school district utilize the center-based instruction offered at Beekman and Heartwood. The services received are unavailable at the local district and highly effective for these students."

The mill rate is .55 or \$110 on a \$200K home, and over the years the rate is likely to decrease.

# Staff Spotlight: From answers on 'Jeopardy!' to life lessons, English teacher Rita Stricklin leaves lasting impressions with her students

by Mary Jo David



Mary Jo David

When 10th- and 12th-grade English teacher Rita Stricklin starts telling you about her own high school years, her love for all things "English" comes up immediately. But give it a minute, and you learn she loved everything gym-related as well ... and history, did I mention she loved history? Oh, and let's not forget, she was in the band for four years, and on Student Council!

In other words, says Stricklin, "I did all the things! I just love to learn; if I could have spent more time in school, I would have!" So who does she credit for her own enthusiasm for learning?

"Like most teachers, I had great teachers," Stricklin recalled. "My high school English teachers were the coolest people on the planet to me; they made it really fun. I figured, if I could be that for future generations, that's what I wanted to do."

Admittedly, Stricklin knows that English isn't everyone's bag. But an important part of her job is to reach out to those sophomores and seniors who would rather be doing something else than sitting through English class. She tries to impress upon those students that you don't have to love reading and writing, but you need to understand these are critical skills.

"I lay it out for them in very realistic terms. You may not have to know how to write a literary analysis when you leave school, but you do need to know how to organize your thoughts to effectively communicate your ideas," Stricklin said. And she believes effective communication is going to make their lives a lot easier—at home, at work, and socially.

Stricklin grew up in Kalamazoo County. She went to Parchment High School, which is, coincidentally, home to another group of Panthers! She has played the drums since elementary school. Her dad was a drummer who was in more than a few "dad bands," so she spent a lot of time at basement band practices with him. This might explain her music preferences, which range from pop-punk Fall Out Boy to the more hard rock Led Zeppelin!

After attending Kalamazoo Valley Community College, she graduated from Western Michigan University where she double majored in English Education and Africana Studies. Later, she received her master's degree in English from the University of Akron and spent some time as an adjunct instructor at Stark State College in North Canton, Ohio.

One of her favorite college memories and an experience she believes helped her develop into a better teacher, was the six months she spent in Cape Town, South Africa, tutoring students there. The experience opened her eyes to the needs of all students, even those in extreme poverty.

So, how did Stockbridge become lucky enough to gain such a well-rounded teacher as Rita Stricklin?

After a few years in Ohio, Stricklin and her husband, Eric, realized they really wanted to come back to Michigan to be closer to family. Eric's job as pastor at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Chelsea afforded them the opportunity to move. Eric happened to be coaching football in Stockbridge when he heard about an English teacher position opening up, and—voilà—Rita Stricklin got the job! She, Eric, and their two children, 4-year-old Ella and 19-month-old Levi, live in nearby Chelsea.

In the classroom, Stricklin likes to promote an atmosphere of camaraderie and reflection. She points out that high schoolers like those in her classes are often dismissed by adults as "kids these days..." But she doesn't shortchange these kids.

"They are so insightful, and they have great ideas. They just need the atmosphere for exploring them," she insists.

Stricklin loves when a student tells her they used a skill in some other class that they learned in her class, or when something they learned in English helped them answer a "Jeopardy!" question correctly (yes—that's happened a handful of times!).

She once had a student tell her that a test she gave was the "perfect amount of hard," and she appreciated hearing that this student felt challenged but knew they could do it if they pushed through it.

To the parents of Stockbridge students, Stricklin says, "Make sure they're reading. Read with them, even if they're high school students. Reading is one of the biggest indicators of future success. And encourage them to take breaks from their technology."

One of the highlights of her teaching career is when the Class of 2023 asked her to speak at their graduation.

She said, "It was such an honor to know that they felt I would best represent them, and it was confirmation of the fact that our relationships were more than just what I could teach them academically, they also appreciated what I could teach them about life."

Spring is Stricklin's favorite time of year in the classroom—and not just because summer vacation is close! Every year she looks forward to the senior portfolio project, an infamous project in Stockbridge.

"These are hyper individualized projects, so I get to see how each student reflects on their four years of high school," said Stricklin. "I see them as the humans they are—the wins, the struggles, all of it! I can't wait!"

For those seniors going on to college, she highly recommends they "Go to class; don't skip out, even if it's an 8 a.m. class."

To all students, she says, "In life, don't be afraid to try something new. It's never too late to change your mind. And, remember to drink more water!"

*All photos provided by Rita Stricklin. See additional photos at [www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com](http://www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com).*



Rita Stricklin says her 10th- and 12th-grade English students in Stockbridge are insightful and often have great ideas.



Two things Rita Stricklin and her husband, Eric, love doing are going to concerts and traveling. Here they are pictured waiting for Paul McCartney to take the stage in Syracuse, N.Y.

## MY BODY SHOP

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Bad drivers are everywhere. Should you have a run in with this particular breed, remember My Body Shop. We'll get your car back to its original condition and get you back on the road. No bones about it.

Published in *Uncaged*, April 2026

## Students Examine AI. Finding out our way through AI

by Victoria Tolbert, Reporter, *Uncaged News*

Artificial intelligence, or AI, is something most people think of as futuristic, but in reality, it's already everywhere, especially in our school. In Mrs. Stricklin's 10th-grade class, students have been learning about AI and talking about how it affects their lives. What started as just another topic turned into a real discussion about jobs, creativity, privacy, and even the environment.

At first, AI might seem helpful. It can answer questions, generate writing, and even create art in seconds. According to an article from Virginia Tech Engineering, AI has grown rapidly in recent years, especially with tools that can produce content almost instantly. But once the class started looking deeper, it became clear that AI isn't just helpful, it's also complicated.

One of the biggest things students talked about was jobs. Sophomore Zoie Spadafore mentioned, "AI had the potential to take over jobs," she remarked, before continuing, "This isn't just a random fear either. AI is already being used in places like customer service, fast food and even creative industries. It makes people wonder what jobs will even be left in the future."

Another major concern was creativity. Sophomore Kaleb Regan told us, "The more people use AI, the less creative and open-minded they are," he said. Many students seemed to agree with this sentiment, and when asked,

"It's easy to rely on AI to do work for you instead of thinking for yourself." Sophomore Maddy Villegas also brought up how, "AI actually steals from creators."

One of the things AI steals is art. Generative AI is trained using other people's work, often without permission, which has caused a lot of controversy. Artists are now competing with machines that learned from them in the first place.

Privacy was another big issue that came up. Sophomore Allie Dalton said, "AI steals and stores your information," which may not be at the forefront of one's

mind when using AI. Every time you search something or use an app, data is being collected. Sophomore Melanie Marshall added that AI can create algorithms that are, "watching the info," which shows how much tracking is actually happening behind the scenes. Sophomore Gabie Pulver explained facial recognition technology, saying that cameras can identify your face just by scanning you. While that might sound cool, it can also be dangerous. Sophomore Gabriella Ramila mentioned that these systems "are not very good at existing between people of color," which brings up the issue of bias. AI isn't perfect, and when it makes mistakes, those mistakes can actually hurt people.

One example we learned about is how facial recognition has led to wrongful identifications. People have been accused of crimes because AI got it wrong. That's scary, especially when you realize how much people trust technology. Even though some laws are starting to limit how AI is used, there are still a lot of problems that haven't been fixed.

Some students were more focused on how AI affects what we believe. Sophomore Faith Young said, "AI has affected me by making me struggle with what to believe is real or not." With things like "deepfakes" and AI-generated images, it's getting harder to tell what's real online. This connects to how social media works too. AI controls what we see, pushing certain posts and hiding others, which can shape how we think without us even realizing it. They also talked about how AI is already part of our everyday lives.

Sophomore Michael Bergmann pointed out, "When you search for something on Google, the first result you see is AI." That demonstrates how normal it's become.

Another thing that surprised a lot of students was how AI affects the environment. Mrs. Stricklin said, "The carbon footprint that AI data centers create is huge! And it takes a lot of water to cool the computers." Most people think of AI as something digital, but it actually depends on massive data centers that run 24/7. Sophomore Alexa Satkowiak said that using AI takes "gallons of water," and sophomore Leighton Bremiler agreed that it uses water we actually need. That part made a lot of people realize AI has real-world consequences, not just online ones.

Even though there are a lot of concerns, not everyone has the same opinion. *See Uncaged on page 19.*



Clyde Whitaker

### Clyde's Corner

## Meet Chris St. Charles, a man of many talents

by Clyde Whitaker

Like many of you, I generally start my day with coffee. Around 8 a.m. I like to drive up to McDonald's or the Plane Food Market uptown to get a second cup of joe, after the one I have when I get up in the morning.

It was at the Plane Food Market where I first met Chris. As we talked more and more, I soon discovered that Chris was an artist, an artist working with metal.

One day I told Chris that I would like to write a story about his unique craftsmanship. That day is today. Meeting up with Chris at the Plane Food Market, we sat drinking coffee and talking about his experiences working with metal.

Chris was born in Whitmore Lake and moved here to Stockbridge in 2001. In 2014, Chris started forging items in his garage using only the basic tools he had there.

In 2015, Chris started forging items at the Waterloo Farm Museum. While there, Chris was given information to join the Michigan Blacksmith Association, which he did. He started attending "Open Forge" in Parma every Tuesday to learn the craft of blacksmithing.

Chris is not a guy you can easily pigeonhole.

For example, I asked Chris, "What has been the most popular requested item for you to make?"

He answered, "hairpins," followed by knives, campfire utensils, random items, or whatever. He is very talented.

Then I asked him, "OK, what's your favorite object to forge?"

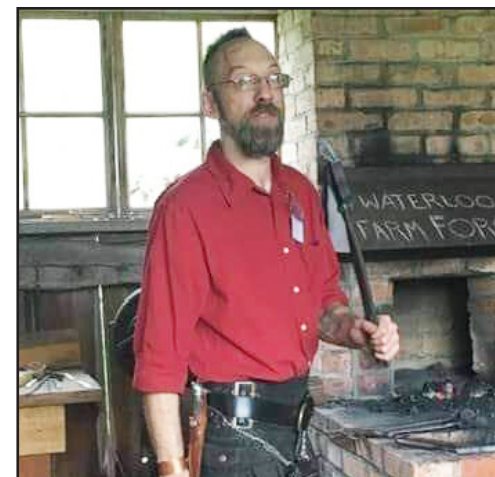
He said, "Whatever's next."

Chris will be working on his craft at the Waterloo Farm during Jackson County's Free Museum Day on May 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. He also will be attending the Blacksmiths and Soldiers Log Cabin Days, June 20-21, at the same museum. Come out and see this artist in action, making some unique metal items.

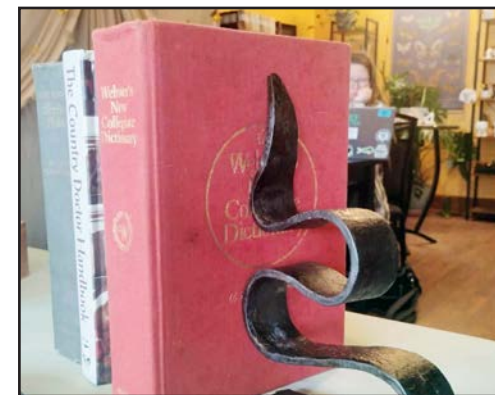
Chris loves what he does and he doesn't plan to stop anytime soon. If you see him, stop and say "Hi" and tell him you read about him here!

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

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



Visit blacksmith Chris St. Charles at the Waterloo Farm Museum May 9 to celebrate Jackson County's Free Museum Day. Photo credits Clyde Whitaker



Bookends forged by Chris St. Charles are both creative and practical.



John and Theresa  
Kightlinger

## Ask an Expert Choosing an insurance carrier: Balancing cost and quality

by John and Theresa Kightlinger

*[Editor's Note: The opinions and recommendations on insurance carriers/companies in this column are those of the author(s) and do not reflect an official opinion or position of The Stockbridge Community News.]*

I often receive inquiries regarding which insurance carriers I recommend. When evaluating insurers, I focus primarily on how their claims practices impact repair quality and the overall customer experience.

My recommendations are based on whether a carrier operates in a timely manner, follows OEM repair procedures, utilizes quality parts from local distributors, and prioritizes the customer's best interests. For instance, if a carrier insists on ordering parts from out of state simply to reduce costs, it often results in significant delays. These delays create unnecessary expenses and inconvenience for the consumer; we also must consider whether those parts truly meet "like, kind, and quality" standards.

Since most drivers go years between claims, it can be difficult to compare the claims experience of various carriers. Consequently, many people choose insurance based on price or brand familiarity. My perspective is shaped by what I witness daily and what I hear from other local shops regarding which insurance companies actually support their policyholders during a claim.

Unfortunately, some of the most recognizable insurers—those with massive advertising budgets and stadium sponsorships—are known within the industry for prioritizing cost over quality. These companies often take an excessive amount of time to review claims, refuse to pay for quality parts, or dispute repair procedures designated by automakers. I generally advise against these large, televised insurers for anything beyond basic PLPD policies. The only entities determining how your vehicle is repaired should be the automaker and a quality independent repair facility that works for you, rather than the insurer.

While there may be other reputable carriers in the area, my top recommendations based on my daily professional interactions are Acuity, Frankenmuth, Fremont, and Michigan Farm Bureau. Three out of four of these companies are from Michigan.

Hopefully, this provides helpful context for your next insurance decision. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to us at My Body Shop in Stockbridge.

*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.*

## NFPW page 1

David's name appears frequently in various types of articles for our newspaper. In the same contest, she received second place in the In-Depth Reporting category for an article titled "Passing or not passing the public safety millage in Unadilla will come with a price tag." Clearly, SCN is fortunate to have such a wonderful and talented writer. Her hard work and creativity shines through all of her work. We are not even talking about the behind-the-scenes effort that goes into being the editor-in-chief.

And then there is Melissa McPherson, our newest volunteer writer, who has demonstrated her own talent as a thorough reporter in the In-Depth Reporting category. She earned a First Place for her November 2025 article titled, "Understanding changes to Stockbridge area transportation services: Making sense of the transportation alphabet soup." In the lead-up to Melissa taking on this assignment, the SCN board recognized that many local readers would have a vested interest in this topic, including McPherson, who was a regular user of local transportation services.

The story was complex, requiring considerable research because it touched on transportation services across three counties. Not to mention, the time constraints for the story were daunting. But not surprisingly, McPherson did an excellent job researching and writing this article. The NFPW judges thought so too. One judge wrote that "[The article] does a very good job of breaking down the details so readers can understand what has happened...and what needs to happen in the future."

What a boon it has been to have McPherson on our writing team!

Congratulations to both David and McPherson. Your awards are well deserved. The SCN Board members are proud to have both of these writers on our team.






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PAID CONTENT

## Chelsea Soccer Club builds confidence, character, and skills

Come out for the free Team Placement Day on June 13.



**Chelsea Soccer Club squad goals: confidence, character, skills, and a whole lot of fun!** Photo provided by Chelsea Soccer Club

Chelsea Soccer Club invites players and families from Stockbridge and the surrounding areas to join our growing soccer community.

Located just down the road, Chelsea Soccer Club has been serving local players since 1994, providing a structured and positive environment focused on long-term development, both on and off the field. Through club participation, children learn to grow their soccer abilities, build game intelligence, and develop a lifelong love for the game.

Home games are played outdoors at Pierce Lake Elementary; during indoor season, home games are typically located at Wide World Sports in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Chelsea Soccer Club provides opportunities for players in a broad range of ages and skill levels to learn, develop, and enjoy the sport through a variety of programs:

- Junior Bulldogs 4v4 in-house league (Y5s to Grade 2).
- Winter indoor soccer.
- Competitive travel soccer (Grades 3-12).
- Summer camp.
- Specialty trainings such as; goalkeeper training, technical training and winter training.

Our teams are guided by a professional coaching staff under the leadership of a Director of Coaching, who oversees player development, training structure, and the overall match-day experience. Our approach emphasizes strong technical skills, tactical awareness, and smart decision-making, while instilling core values such as teamwork, sportsmanship, and resilience.

At Chelsea Soccer Club, we believe soccer is more than just a game — it's a platform to develop character, leadership, and confidence. And we take that responsibility seriously. On a practical note, we are one of the area's more affordable elite clubs.

Kids from communities in and around Stockbridge who were born in 2007 through 2020 are encouraged to consider joining Chelsea Soccer Club. **If interested, register for Team Placement Day on June 13.** There is no cost to register and participate in Team Placement Day. Team Placement Day will take place at the Pierce Lake 11v11 field.

- To register or for more information, go to [chelseasoccerclub.org/](http://chelseasoccerclub.org/)
- To contact someone directly, send an email to [doc.chelseasoccerclub@gmail.com](mailto:doc.chelseasoccerclub@gmail.com).

## Stockbridge Mayhem Wrestling Club ends season at MYWAY State Tournament

by Melissa McPherson

The Stockbridge Mayhem Wrestling Club had a fantastic season. Every wrestler on the team showed amazing growth and the club took home several big wins. Following their third-place win at their home tournament in January, Stockbridge Mayhem also took home the first-place trophy at the Olivet tournament in February.

At the MYWAY Central Region tournament in March, 19 wrestlers in the open division and five wrestlers in the girls division placed in the top four, earning a spot at the The MYWAY State Tournament in Kalamazoo.



**Madelyn LaFontaine poses with the State Champion bracket.**

Photo provided by family

The State Tournament took place March 26 through March 29. All the athletes showed fantastic effort and sportsmanship. Eight wrestlers made it into the top eight:

- Madelyn LaFontaine: Champion, Girls 2020-2019 and 7th Place, Open 2019.
- Reid Royal: Champion, Open 2011-2010.
- Mason Townsend: Runner-Up, Open 2015.
- Mary Laveirge: 5th Place, Girls 2020-2019.
- Evelyn Conley: 6th Place, Girls 2017-2018.
- Jackson LaFontaine: 6th Place, Open 2016.
- Owen Corser: 7th Place, Open 2017.
- Rayne Hitchcock: 7th Place, Girls 2015-2016.

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

## Active Aging Putting active aging into motion happens across generations in the community

by Alexa M. Ten Eyck

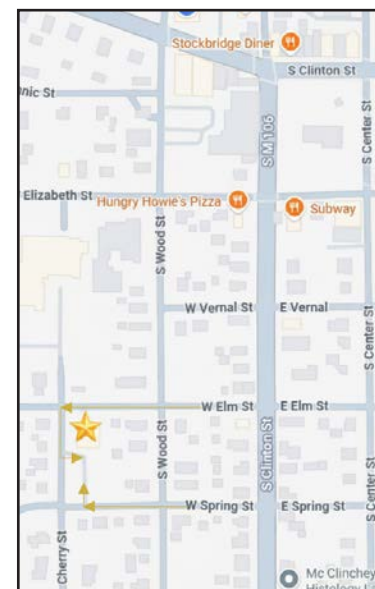
The term "active aging" cannot be restricted to any one category of activities. Instead, it reflects a pattern of engagement across a variety of experiences. The World Health Organization defines it as a process centered on health, participation, and quality of life across the lifespan.

Active aging, in practice, can look like a long-awaited trip years in the making. For Dana Davis, a member of the Stockbridge Area Senior Center, it looks like traveling to Australia after extensive time spent planning, despite roadblocks along the way. It looks like climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge, standing along Bondi Beach, and moving through the rainforest in Cairns. It looks like holding a koala, connecting with others along the way, and discovering that snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef feels truly spiritual.

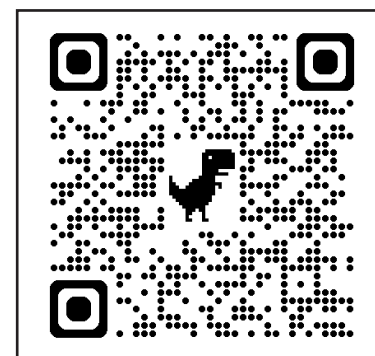
Active aging knows no limits; in Davis' case, it continues through the Outback to Uluru, where the surroundings invite a quieter kind of engagement. One shaped by reflection and the landscape itself. The pace shifts toward present moments watching penguins return at night or seeing the celestial Southern Cross in the night sky overhead.

For others, active aging happens closer to home, maybe by showing up for a class, trying something unfamiliar, or simply being present. At SASC, conversations buzz with happy stories that begin with "I just got back from..." These stories build upon one another, shaping the environment by empowering that active aging process centered on health, participation, and quality of life.

The relevancy for our readers is that active aging is not limited to the walls of our Stockbridge Area Senior Center. Active aging in Stockbridge looks like participation, connection, and shared effort across all generations in our community. Members and volunteers of all ages are active and engaging through contributions that extend beyond any one single category of activities.



**To experience active aging in motion firsthand, visit us at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center on West Elm Street. You won't regret it!** Image credit Google Maps.



**Use this QR code to go directly to the SASC Facebook page at [facebook.com/StockbridgeAreaSeniors](https://facebook.com/StockbridgeAreaSeniors)**

For those looking to understand the variety of experiences involved in active aging, the opportunity is already in motion. It can be found by stepping into the Stockbridge Area Senior Center—tucked just beyond the everyday path, but well worth finding.

### Golf outing sponsorships

In an effort to promote the importance of active aging and its critical connection to community collaboration, the Senior Center is offering sponsorship options for SASC's 2nd Annual Golf Tournament, to be held on Friday, June 5. Golf outing sponsorships offer opportunities to return volunteer time back to local partners.

**More information for becoming an event sponsor is available at the center or by messaging through the center's Facebook page.**

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.



## Positive Parenting

## Balancing: A tool of discipline for parents and children



Tiffany Snyder

by Tiffany Snyder

Dr. Seuss shares great wisdom in the book, "The Places You'll Go!" The last pages are especially insightful.

"So be sure when you step, step with care and great tact. And remember that life's A Great Balancing Act."

As parents, we do not give ourselves enough grace for our part in the balancing act. Many of us think being balanced is perfection. We think our minds should feel fresh, our bodies limber, our social circles full, and our kids should

naturally want to explore a variety of experiences. But when we have a headache or our children consistently want screen time, we are tempted to throw in the towel on the balancing act. We might get discouraged and begin to question if something is wrong with us. ... The anxiety is too much! ... Will we ever get it right?

Don't worry, you are not alone, and there is hope!

I've learned that my perception of balance was flawed, and maybe yours is too. In fact, perfect balance doesn't actually exist. The paradox of balance is that achieving true equilibrium requires embracing constant, graceful imbalance, rather than maintaining a static state or "goal."

True balance means choosing priorities, accepting temporary unevenness and focusing on what matters in each season.

Remember how you learned to ride a bike? You probably recall stiffening your body to maintain balance—and then falling. Do you remember how leaning into the turns and allowing your body to move as you pedaled magically increased the length of your ride? Do you remember finally focusing your awareness on where you were headed? Riding a bike is a great metaphor for balancing our family, health, friends, spirit, and work. In other words, keep your priorities, but loosen up and realize you might have to let something go in order to focus a little more in another area.

In "The Road Less Traveled," by M. Scott Peck, MD, the fourth tool of discipline is "balancing," and he insists we must learn this tool and teach it to our children. Delaying gratification, accepting responsibility and committing to truth are the first three tools, but these can only work at adjustable rates; hence, there's a need for balancing.

Peck argues that these tools enable children to work through, and systematically solve, the pain of problems, which ultimately produces growth. He argues that most people avoid the pain of dealing with their problems and suggests it is through facing the pain of problem-solving that life becomes more meaningful.

So, just because we can't find one solution that fits all of the time doesn't mean we should stop trying. Solutions change with the season, and it's the greatest job of all to find our graceful imbalances.

You've got this!

### Activity Highlight:

Improve physical "balancing" with yoga. Try the tree pose with help from flowandgrowkids.com.

### How to do the tree pose:

1. Mountain start: Stand tall with feet a hips-width apart and arms by your sides. Imagine a string pulling the top of your head toward the sky.
2. Find a spot: Look at one unmoving point on the floor or wall in front of you to help keep your balance.
3. Root down: Shift your weight onto one leg (the "trunk") and imagine roots growing from your foot deep into the earth.
4. Place the foot: Lift your other foot, and place the sole against your inner ankle, calf, or upper thigh. (Avoid the knee, as pressing on it can hurt the joint.)
5. Grow branches: Bring your hands together at your heart or reach them high above your head like branches reaching for the sun.
6. Hold and breathe: Stay steady for a few deep breaths, then switch legs to keep your "tree" balanced on each side.



In the words of Dr. Seuss, "...life's A Great Balancing Act." But remember, living life to the fullest means finding our graceful imbalances as well. Photo credit Vitaly Gariev on unsplash.com

Tiffany Snyder is a returning resident of Stockbridge. She taught K-8 art in West Michigan for 15 years and now enjoys being a toddler-mom and teaching "Art for Your Mind" classes.

## Bridge to Wellness page 2

### Who can post volunteer opportunities?

Nonprofit organizations, schools, and government bodies within the Chelsea, Dexter, Grass Lake, Manchester or Stockbridge community school district boundaries or organizations providing projects within the service area are welcome to post their volunteer opportunities on the portal at no-cost to the organization. Postings must align with One Big Thing's mission. Guidelines can be found on the posting page.

### Finding a volunteer opportunity

Prospective volunteers can browse the listings and filter them by work type (community event, paperwork, fundraising, etc.) and community. To apply, look for instructions on who to contact in the listing itself or look for sign-up links. One Big Thing and its partners are not responsible for the vetting or volunteer status of applicants using the One Big Connection Volunteer Portal. The listing agency is responsible for all decisions made in regard to selecting and retaining volunteers.

"Volunteering is one of the most practical ways to strengthen your own sense of purpose while making a meaningful difference for others who benefit from the services provided by our collaborative partners and grantees," said Steve Petty, executive director of 5 Healthy Towns Foundation. "The volunteer portal integrates seamlessly into the infrastructure of the One Big Thing initiative, which is designed to connect individuals with opportunities and resources that strengthen social connection and collective well-being across our communities, while also amplifying the impact of the organizations working to meet those needs."



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

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**Market** page 13



**Chad and Stacey Glemser.**  
Photo by Chad Glemser.



**Amanda Hahn and her son Bobby Hahn.** Photo by Amanda Hahn

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to support our local market and encourage new vendors as they begin their journey in the market sector," she said. "The Open Air Market is all about bringing our community together, and I look forward to seeing friendly faces and hearing input from our neighbors on how to make the market even better."

Glemser is dedicated to supporting both seasoned vendors and those just starting out, while making the market a vibrant hub for the community. She has already scheduled all the dates for experienced musicians and is now inviting novice musicians and entertainers to test their skills as opening acts.

Assisting Glemser will be Amanda Hahn, who will help set up and take down the market and serve as back-up to Glemser. Hahn is uniquely suited to connecting the market to local government, as she currently serves as an election official and works on special projects for Stockbridge Township. She also is on the board of the Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority.

"I was raised in a Navy family, which instilled a strong sense of discipline and work ethic early on," Hahn said. "That's shaped me into someone who's adaptable, dependable, and always willing to take on new challenges."

Hahn said she values growth and involvement in meaningful work. "I'm a pretty driven and down-to-earth person who likes to stay involved and keep learning. I enjoy being part of things that bring something positive to people, and I'm always looking for ways to grow and try something new." **Mark your calendar!**

**The market season opens on Friday, May 1, at 4 p.m. on the Stockbridge Township square.** If you're interested in becoming a vendor or have ideas to share, Glemser invites you to reach out—and she looks forward to seeing everyone at the market!

Please email [OAMStockbridgeMI@gmail.com](mailto:OAMStockbridgeMI@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a vendor, providing entertainment (music or other talents), or if you have any questions or feedback.

**Uncaged** page 15

Some students were unsure or just found it interesting. One student said, "AI is life," while another pointed out that AI still "gets stuff wrong." Sophomore Matthew Smith mentioned that one of the most interesting parts was learning about how AI isn't always accurate. That shows people are still figuring out what AI really is and what it can do.

A survey showed most students said they use AI at least sometimes. That's what makes this whole topic even more important. Even if people are worried about AI, they're still using it. It's already part of everyday life, whether we like it or not.

Overall, learning about AI in this class showed that it's not just a tool it's something that's changing everything. From jobs to creativity to the environment, AI is having a bigger impact than most people realize. The biggest question now isn't whether AI will affect us, because it already is. The real question is how we're going to handle it moving forward.



*Published as-is from the original page in Uncaged. For more information about Stockbridge's award-winning student newspaper, go to <https://uncagednews.com>. Uncaged articles are sponsored by The Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation. For more information on SAEF, visit [www.panethernet.net/our\\_district](http://www.panethernet.net/our_district).*

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Happy  
Mother's  
Day

## At any age, folks hold on to fond memories of mom and grandma

compiled by Mary Jo David with help from the SASC

*It doesn't matter if you're 6 months, 6 years, 26 years or even 60—for most of us, moms have molded us into the people we are and continued to shape us throughout much of our lives. In recognition of Mother's Day 2026, Stockbridge Community News reached out to a group of folks who have experienced a lot of life—seniors at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center. Many of them still look back fondly on what they learned from moms and grandmas, and they were kind enough to share with us their responses to the following question:*

### What advice or lesson from your mom has served you well through the years?

"My creative and loving mother had love, compassion, and smiles through her physical challenges. Her most famous (and accurate) phrase: 'Homemade is best.'" **–Rachel Stanley, SASC Director**

"My grandmother raised me. She was my mom. She is missed so much and loved so deeply by me. She taught me love & compassion & tenderness, and taught me laughter is the best sound in the world. She would see someone who was depressed and would say something to cheer them up. She was a very deep person. She loved with her whole being. There is no way I can compare to her. I miss her every day. Happy Mother's Day, Grandma." **–Anne Cunningham**

"'Because I said so!' ... 'Remember, once you say it, you can't take it back.' ... 'Don't write anything that you don't want others to read.'" **–Stu Kenewell**

"My mother's quote: 'Even if you live in a box, you keep that box clean. It's your home; be proud of it.'" **–Terri Kenewell of her mother, Alvena M. Hornbrook**

"Tell the truth." **–Ed Bennett**

"My mother told me to 'Hold your [my] stomach in.' She taught me how to sew and even tailor a winter coat. It has served me well." **–Karen Barbour**

"My mom taught me to 'Get up, get your best clothes on and GO TO CHURCH.'" **–Doris Stanfield**

"Don't lie!!" **–R.F. Long**

"My mom taught me to cook, sew, bake, and be able to take care of myself and anyone else in my life." **–Wendell Seger**

"Mom helped me to learn about cooking." **–Bob Cunningham**

"My mother taught me how to be a hard worker and that we didn't need to be rich to be happy." **–Alberta Seger**

"My mother taught me the importance of being kind and patient with myself." **–Alexa M. Ten Eyck, President, SASC Board of Directors**

*Special thanks to members of the Stockbridge Area Senior Center for sharing their special memories.*

