SCN November 2026

Stockbridge Community News

Promoting our common good and shared well-being

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Ten years, 120 issues: SCN celebrates a milestone in serving community



The first official Stockbridge Community News board of directors was formed in November 2016. Charter board members included (Front l-r): Nancy Wisman, Molly Howlett, Patrice Johnson. (Back l-r): Roberta Ludtke, Judy Williams, Rose Collison, Connie Risner, Bev Glynn and Hope Salyer. Not pictured: Diane Rockall and Mary Krummrey. Photo from SCN media archives

by Mary Jo David

We've heard it said that time flies, but the good news is you're the pilot. At Stockbridge Community News, we're adding one more thought to this adage: It sure helps to have a great crew in the cockpit. This fall, SCN marks its 10th anniversary—a full decade of putting a fresh paper in local mailboxes every single month. That's 120 issues! It has taken an all-volunteer board of eight (sometimes more, sometimes less), a pool of volunteer writers, and a small team of part-time staff to make every one of them happen.

SCN is the only local newspaper serving Stockbridge and the surrounding community. Our print edition lands in roughly 9,000 households at the start of each month, while our website keeps the stories coming all month long.

None of this happens without a lot of hands. Our deepest thanks go to the SCN Board, which works tirelessly to keep this paper fresh and sustainable. We're equally grateful to our readers, donors, and advertisers, and to the writers and editors who fill these pages. And a big shout-out to the volunteers and staff who work mostly behind the scenes: managing subscriptions, scouting stories, processing invoices, lining up sponsors and advertisers, designing layouts and ads, preparing our tax returns, and keeping up with our correspondence.

See SCN milestone on page 2.

Chelsea Boy Scout Troop 425 celebrates 100 years



Chelsea Mayor Kate Hinson (left photo) Josh Lake from State Sen. Sue Shink's office (center photo), and State Rep. Kathy Schmaltz (right photo) were on hand to congratulate Troop 425.

by Cherie Van Blaircum

On Oct. 18, Boy Scout Troop 425 of Chelsea, Michigan, commemorated 100 Years of Scouting Excellence with a special celebration held at the Chelsea Rod & Gun Club.

Ask a group of teenage boys what they want to do to celebrate their organization's 100-year anniversary and there's no telling what they'll come up with. This is a troop that is used to action. Yet they decided that for this special event they wanted to stay local and invite family, friends, and community leaders to join them in a cookout and commemoration ceremony.

Among other things, the program included recitation of the Scout Oath, the Scout Law and a presentation of a Centennial Tribute. The Scouts planned the meal, which consisted of hot dogs, baked beans, chips, and cupcakes. Admittedly, maybe the parents had a hand in encouraging the veggie-and-fruit platters!

The troop members knew they hit a milestone when they were joined—and honored—by State Rep. Kathy Schmaltz, Josh Lake from State Sen. Sue Shink's office, and Mayor Kate Hinson, of Chelsea. Even Michigan's governor and state senators sent accolades!

After the Presentation of Colors, and the Eagle Roll Call by Caydin Stoffer, the audience sat in rapt attention as Eagle Scouts from years past addressed the crowd.

See Scouts on page 10.

Thank you for 20 years of the Buck Bash

An open letter to our community from Crossroads Community Church



Crossroads Community Church enjoyed the privilege of 20 years of welcoming neighbors and serving this community by hosting the annual Buck Bash. Photo credit Mary Jo David

Dear friends and neighbors,

For 20 years, the Buck Bash has been a special part of life at Crossroads Community Church and a tradition we have been grateful to share with our community on the opening day of rifle season.

After much thought and prayer, we have made the difficult decision to bring the Buck Bash to a close after 20 wonderful years. Beginning this year—2026—we will no longer host the event, which means, our final Buck Bash was last year.

See Buck Bash on page 3.



Outreach clients benefit from hunters' bounty: See on page 4.

Stockbridge robotics students heading back to Dominican Republic: See page 5.

Pioneer Day recap: See page 11.

Stockbridge Sports: See pages 16-17 and 19.

Munith Halloween Parade and Stockbridge Trick-or-Treating: See page 20.

Rural Perspectives

Seen in the fall, shaggy mane mushroom dissolves into inky liquid as it ages



Diane Gray Constable

by Diane Constable

The shaggy mane mushroom (Coprinus comatus) is in the inky cap family. Its scientific name Coprinus means "living on dung" and comatus means "hairy." It is also known as lawyer's wig and shaggy ink cap.

It can be seen in the fall, growing in lawns, along dirt roads, in compost piles and disturbed areas, and on old tree roots and logs. It can grow in clumps, lines or "fairy ring" circles.

Shaggy mane mushrooms start out as small white cylinders poking out of the ground, and as they grow, they expand into long, bell-shaped caps with white scales. The cap is about 1.5 to 3 inches wide and 2 to 8 inches tall. While it ages, it becomes shaggier and blacker as it dissolves into an inky liquid that holds its spores and attracts flies. The spores stick to the flies and spread the mushroom to other locations.



The shaggy mane mushroom can grow in clumps, lines, or "fairy ring" circles. Photo credit Diane Constable

These mushrooms can be eaten when prepared correctly, and within 24 hours of appearing, before they start turning black. Once this mushroom is harvested, it liquefies to black ink within hours. It has look-alike relatives that are not edible.

Many animals feed on this fungus. Flies, snails, slugs and fungus beetles nibble on it. Deer will munch on it, as do squirrels, mice, and chipmunks. Turkey and grouse also are known to peck at this mushroom.

Meanwhile underground, the mycelium (akin to roots) have tiny structures that paralyze nematodes (microscopic worms). Tiny threads digest the worm for the nitrogen needed to grow the shaggy cap above soil.

Fun fact: As a fungus, the shaggy mane cap is one of the best wood decomposers, and it recycles important nutrients back into the soil for the living plants and trees. Fungi, in general, are key in the survival of trees. There are hundreds of thousands of miles of fungal threads in all trees, which help supply them with nutrients and water.

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.



SCN milestone page 1

Celebrate with us: The SCN Anniversary Auction

To mark the occasion, we're throwing a birthday party you can attend from your home: a one-week online auction starting Nov. 7. It's packed with items donated mostly by community members and local businesses. With the holidays around the corner, there's no better way to check names off your list than to shop local and support a hometown institution—your newspaper—at the same time. Browse the full lineup now at **2026scn.auctria.events.** You don't have to wait until Nov. 7 to start picking favorites.

As another old saying goes, time flies when you're having fun—and these 10 years have flown. Here's to the next 10, filled with what we hope is good news.

Award-winning journalist—and zombie novelist—joins Stockbridge Community News board

by Mary Jo David

Melissa McPherson has proven her writing chops in two very different genres—as a fiction novelist and as a local journalist. Now she's bringing those skills to the Stockbridge Community News board of directors.

On Sept. 2, the SCN board voted unanimously to extend an invitation to McPherson to join its board of directors. At the same meeting, she accepted the invitation.

"I was honored to be invited to join the board and look forward to helping SCN continue to serve the Stockbridge community," McPherson said.

Readers may remember her from the June 2025 edition of SCN, where she was the feature along with her novel, "The Lesser Remain"—a zombie apocalypse survival story. Shortly after that feature ran, McPherson, who lives with her husband and two sons in Gregory, has been a regular writer for the newspaper. She is always ready to take on new writing assignments for the newspaper, and she also contributes great ideas behind the scenes.

In the year-and-a-half that she has been writing for the Stockbridge Community News, her writing has gained national attention. McPherson has already won a first-place award in the At-Large competition hosted by the National Federation of Press Women (NFPW).

Eighteen states comprised the At-Large group in the 2025 competition, and McPherson took a first place for In-Depth Reporting for her article about recent changes to the Stockbridge area transportation services. It was the first time her work had been entered in the annual contest.

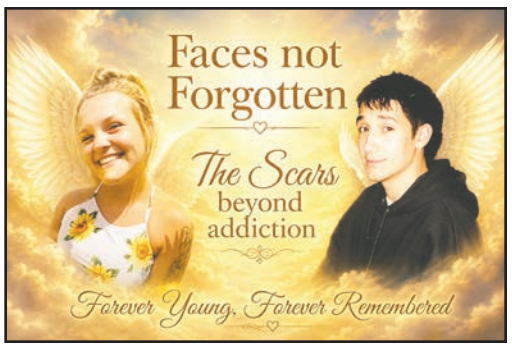
"Welcome aboard, Melissa," says Joan Tucker, president of the SCN board of directors. Tucker added, "What I appreciate about Melissa is the care she applies to investigative articles that require in-depth research, time, and skill. Our readers get the benefit of her experience as a professional writer, and I think she'll bring the same careful creativity to our board business."



Melissa McPherson is the newest member of the Stockbridge Community News board of directors. Photo from Melissa McPherson

Faces of Addiction

Life beyond the scars: Remembering victims who are forever young



Cassidy Thomas learned early that addiction doesn't discriminate based on age. In 2004, she lost her brother, Andrew, whom she considers forever young at 18. In 2021, she lost her sister-in-law, Kallie, to addiction at the age of 21. Photos provided by Cassidy Thomas. Image generated by ChatGPT

by Tina Cole-Mullins

November doesn't arrive softly; it arrives with purpose. After sharing my personal story in last month's Faces of Addiction, this month widens the lens to honor others touched by addiction. Canadians recognize National Addictions Awareness Week in mid-November. Even here in the U.S., it reminds us that awareness is not about statistics—it's about the people who lived it, the families who carried it, and the gratitude that grows from what survived.

This month we continue to highlight the Scars of Support, this time with Cassidy Thomas, sister of Heidi Mell, an ongoing contributor in our Faces of Addiction series. Both show the generational scars carried by families shaped by addictions and the courage it takes to keep showing up. November asks us to be thankful not for the struggle, but for the healing, the boundaries learned, and the hope that rises from what remains.

Growing up inside addictions taught Thomas how quickly stability can shift. "Addiction has torn my family apart more times than I can count. I am always aware that addiction doesn't discriminate."

That awareness became part of her identity early on—not out of fear, but out of lived experience. Her earliest memory of addiction is rooted in instability: "My siblings and I had to go to our neighbors to stay because our alcoholic grandmother had locked us out of the house again."

It was at that moment Thomas learned how deeply addiction can disrupt a child's sense of home.

See Faces of Addiction on page 7.

Bridge to Wellness

1 coalition + 1 foundation = funds for a healthier, happier community

5 Healthy Towns Foundation gave the Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition (SAWC) access to $90,000, over a three-year period.

by Matt Pegouskie

As we enter November, Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition is about halfway through its three-year grant funding cycle. Conducted in partnership with 5 Healthy Towns Foundation (5HF), SAWC board members and volunteers are responsible for overseeing the distribution of funding from 5HF into the greater Stockbridge community, including Munith and Gregory.

5HF gave the coalition access to $90,000 for projects that address eating better, moving more, and improved mental well-being. The coalition also can award $3,000 in funding for sponsorships and coalition marketing per year.

To date, SAWC has allocated $40,300 over nine projects. These projects include the following:

- $8,000 – Stockbridge Area Senior Center.
- $7,300 – Stockbridge Community Schools walking path upgrades.
- $6,000 – Safe Routes to School strategic planning.
- $5,800 – Stockbridge Parks and Recreation support for summer programming.

See Bridge to Wellness on page 7.



Buck Bash page 1

As Crossroads Community Church enters a new season of ministry, their mission remains the same: Love God, Love One Another, and Make Disciples of Jesus.

To every vendor, local business, volunteer, and neighbor who helped make these 20 years possible: thank you. Your generosity, hard work, and participation created a tradition that brought people together and gave us so many wonderful memories. It has been a privilege to welcome our neighbors and serve this community through the Buck Bash.

We know many of you will miss this gathering. We will, too. We will treasure the conversations, laughter, and friendships shared along the way.

When the Buck Bash began, there were few similar events in our area. Over the years, our community has grown, and other events have developed to serve hunters and families in similar ways. We are grateful for those gatherings and the people who make them possible!

As we close this Buck Bash chapter, Crossroads will continue to serve our community well for years to come. We are grateful for your understanding and support as we enter a new season of ministry.

Our mission remains the same: Love God, Love One Another, and Make Disciples of Jesus. Thank you for being part of the Buck Bash story. We love this community and look forward to serving alongside you in the years ahead.

If you have questions about this announcement, please contact our church office at info@c3michigan.com

With gratitude,

The Crossroads Community Church family

We would love for you to share a favorite Buck Bash memory in the article comments that accompany this story online at stockbridgecommunitynews.com and/or on facebook.com (search for Stockbridge Community News)

Who We Are

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

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

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

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

Our Mission

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

Our Board of Directors

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Our Writers

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

Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

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

We would love to hear from you!

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

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stockbridgecommunitynews@gmail.com

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Outreach in Action

Oh deer! Hunters, processor, and sportsmen organization assist Outreach clients



Amy and Tab Moffat in front of their Gregory shop. In addition to processing deer and other meats, Tab's Custom Cuts stocks fish, meat, poultry and brats for sale to the general public. Photo by Jo Mayer.

MSAH has generously offered to pay for the cost of processing up to 50 deer for Outreach this season. Image credit sportsmenagainsthunger.org/

by Jo Mayer and Paul Crandall

Calling all deer hunters!

A new collaboration between Outreach and a local meat processor makes it easy for you to use your hunting skills to help feed your neighbors.

As part of this effort, Tab's Custom Cuts, of Gregory, will charge Outreach a reduced deer-processing fee when hunters identify Stockbridge Community Outreach as the intended recipient.

"Our clients love venison when it is available," said Cindy Ashley, Outreach pantry coordinator. "Ground venison is just like ground beef, except it has less fat. You can cook and use it the same way you would ground beef. I just wish we had more to offer."

Following is the process for donating and processing deer meat for Outreach:

Step 1 – Harvesting the deer: Harvest your deer with legal tags. Bring your field-dressed deer to Tab's Custom Cuts, 14500 Holmes Road, Gregory, MI 48137. All deer must be legally harvested and harvest-reported. No road salvage deer will be accepted and any carcasses showing signs of spoilage will be rejected.

Step 2 – Notifying Tab's of intent to donate: Tell Amy or Tab Moffat at Tab's Custom Cuts that the deer is for Stockbridge Community Outreach. Hunters who want to keep the antlers, cape, or entire hide from the donated deer for mounting will be charged $50 and should make sure to let Tab's know what they want for mounting before processing begins.

Step 3 – Processing: The professionals at Tab's Custom Cuts process the deer into ground venison. They assure all processed venison packaging will identify the contents as venison and give the date processed. Donated venison will be ground and packaged in 1-pound packages. Once complete, they contact Outreach to pick the meat up for distribution through the food pantry.

Step 4 – Payment: Outreach pays Tab's Custom Cuts through funds raised by donors and sponsors.

According to Michigan DNR info, each deer yields approximately 35-40 pounds of venison, which Outreach clients will be using to add valuable protein to their meals.

Happy Hunting!

This just in! CJ Merriman of Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (MSAH) confirmed on Oct. 20 that MSAH will reimburse the cost of processing up to 50 deer for Stockbridge Community Outreach—That's a lot of meals! To learn more about Michigan Sportsman Against Hunger, their website is: sportsmenagainsthunger.org/

Our local food pantry, crisis, and referral center is located in the Stockbridge Activity Center (old middle school) near Cherry and Elm streets in Stockbridge. Office hours are 1-3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and by appointment. Contact us at Outreach49285@gmail.com, 517-851-7285, or find us on Facebook.



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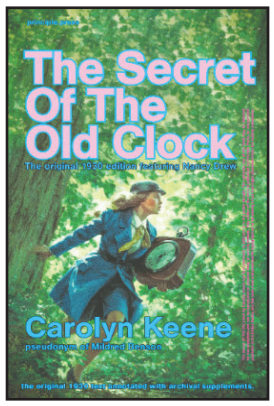
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Reading Between the Lines

What's old is Drew again, as copyrights expire



Principle Press reprint of the original 1930 edition of "The Secret of the Old Clock," featuring Nancy Drew, which is now available in the public domain. Image credit principle.press

by Jessica Martell

On Jan. 1, 2026, the first four Nancy Drew mysteries entered the public domain when the 95-year copyrights finally expired. Now anyone is legally allowed to reprint and sell these books, originally published in 1930, suddenly making them more widely available than they have been in over 60 years.

In the 1950s, Nancy got a makeover, and modern readers who grew up reading Nancy Drew mysteries may not realize the sleuth they fell in love with is probably Nancy Drew 2.0 rather than the original. Fortunately, readers can now easily get their hands on a copy of Nancy as she was meant to be.

In the 1930s version, the story opens with Nancy sitting in the home library with her father discussing the fate of the estate of the very eccentric and very wealthy Josiah Crowley. The story's conflict is established on the first page when readers learn that unworthy relatives, the Tophams, are about to inherit Crowley's fortune.

We get a sense of Nancy's edge as she describes the Tophams, "Richard Topham is an old skinflint who made his money by gambling on the stock exchange. And Cora, his wife, is nothing but a vapid social climber. The two girls, Isabel and Ada, are even worse."

Early on, Nancy learns there is a possibility of a second, more recent will, which leaves the Tophams nothing. The story follows Nancy's dogged pursuit of the second will.

By the 1950s, the powers that be decided Nancy was a bit too much. They aged her up and toned her down. Tragically. She went from a spitfire to June Cleaver. The 1950s version of the story opens with Nancy driving home in her new convertible after running an errand for her father. "It was sweet of dad to give me this car for my birthday…And it's fun to help him in his work."

Now who's the vapid one?

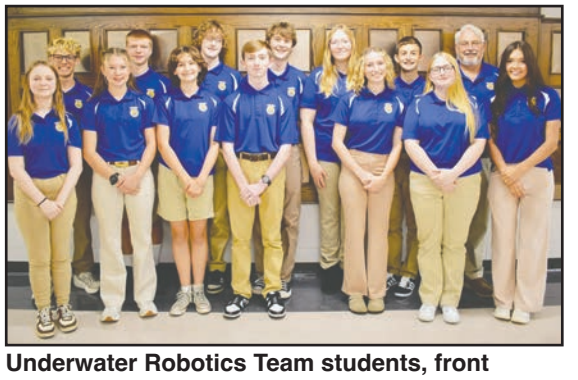
Not only was Nancy herself diminished, so was the writing. The 1930s version is brimming with linguistic delicacies such as, "'I don't believe it would do a particle of good,' Edna interposed."

By the '50s, the vocabulary is simplified and the sentences are short and choppy: "Judy began to cry… Mary smiled… Edna ran into the dining room."

Whereas the 1930s version is the literary equivalent to curling up in an age-softened antique quilt, the '50s version has the staccato tempo of a Dick and Jane book. Similarly, in the older version of the story, the suspense builds slowly as Nancy's search expands, and the short chapters keep the pace moving along at a good clip.

See Reading Between the Lines on page 10.

Underwater Robotics Team heading to the Dominican Republic for science research



Underwater Robotics Team students, front row, from left: Rein Puckett, Lucy Chapman, Emmeline Gancer, Daulton Diffenbaugh, Laura Humrich, Anya Harden, and Klayre Smith. Back row, from left, Will Gancer, John Fox, Taurin Phillips, Owen House, Haley Warren, Alex Avis, and teacher Bob Richards. Photo provided by Bob Richards

Article submitted by Bob Richards

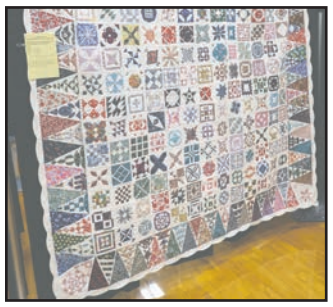
The Stockbridge FFA's Underwater Robotics Team has been invited to conduct coral research, test newly designed sensor systems, and conduct an educational outreach project in the Dominican Republic, Nov. 14-20.

For the past seven months Stockbridge students have been working to redesign NASA's STELLA (Science and Technology Education for Land/Life Assessment) sensors to monitor coral health. The STELLA-Q2 features three spectrometer sensors that measure irradiance in the visible and near-infrared spectrum. Our goal is to develop and automate a method to monitor the health of coral in the laboratory, coral nursery and on the reef.

This project aims to inspire, engage, and educate students while providing a unique research experience in the Caribbean Islands. The project has three major goals: (1) to connect with a school in the Dominican Republic to share knowledge and culture between students, while conducting a STEM program.

See Robotics trip on page 7.

Biennial quilt guild show returns to Heritage School in Stockbridge



Anyone who has ever pieced a quilt will understand the humor in the name Sheila Vogtmann selected for her quilt: "My Stitch Ripper's Best Friend."



Jacket creator Doretta Wilson took inspiration from jackets she found on the internet featuring sunshine and sun rays.



You must see Linda Sponsler Burke's miniature quilt in person to realize how tiny each quilt block is. The quilt has a total of 3,028 fabric pieces!

by Joan Tucker

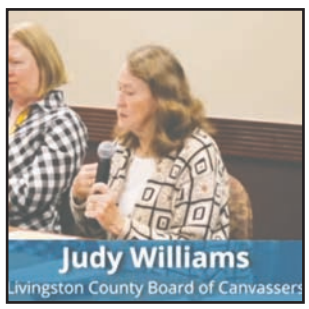
On Oct. 10 and 11, Pieces and Patches Quilt Guild of Jackson once again held their biennial quilt show at Heritage School in Stockbridge. The show's theme was "Fall Into Quilts." Everywhere you looked, color and design surrounded you through a dizzying array of quilts and pieced and quilted garments. Artful expressions and methodical thinking were evident in all the homemade handiwork displayed in the halls and gym.

On Oct. 28, the Pieces and Patches Quilt Guild announced the annual competition's three winners, including one for each of the following categories: Large Quilt, Small Quilt, and Wearables.

Large quilt: #109 Sheila Vogtmann "My Stitch Ripper's Best Friend." Small quilt: #061 Linda Sponsler Burke "Fields & Furrows or What Was I Thinking." Wearables: #194 Doretta Wilson "Jacket."

Photos provided by Pieces and Patches Quilt Guild. See additional photos by Joan Tucker at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.

Chair of Livingston County canvassers, from Unadilla Township, participates in election security panel



Judy Williams, one of four representatives on the bipartisan Livingston County Board of Canvassers, spoke at a recent panel discussion on election security. Photo from YouTube.com

by Mary Jo David

On Oct. 10, Judy Williams, of Unadilla Township, was one of the representatives from the bipartisan Livingston County Board of Canvassers (LC BoC) to participate in the Election Security in Livingston County Panel Discussion. The panel discussion was hosted by the League of Women Voters of Livingston County at the Hamburg Public Library. Williams, a Democrat representative and chair of the bipartisan LC BoC, was joined by one of her counterparts, Joan Runyan, vice chair, who represents Republicans on the LC BoC.

Others who spoke on the panel included Livingston County Clerk Elizabeth Hundley, Marion Township Clerk/Election Administrator Tammy Beal, and two bipartisan Livingston County election inspectors: Barbara Janowski and Caitlin Geier.

General panel discussion included a brief overview of election security and the checks and balances that keep our elections secure—from decentralized election processes and strict ballot storage rules to bipartisan procedures for resolving disputes. The panel discussion was followed by a Q&A session involving audience members.

For her part, Williams explained the purpose of the Board of Canvassers and the work the board does to certify every election in Livingston County. The LC BoC is independent and composed of two Democrats and two Republicans who are nominated by their county parties and selected by the county commissioner for a term of four years. Canvassers work closely with the county clerk and the clerk's election manager.

See Canvassers on page 11.



Robotics trip page 5

(2) to conduct a student-designed coral research project at the Marine Innovation Center just outside of Punta Cana. (3) to test a new sensor system designed by the Stockbridge students inspired by the NASA Stella sensors.

While in the Dominican Republic, Stockbridge students will be working with students at the Puntacana International School. Puntacana International School's mission is "To provide learning experiences to enable students to reach their academic, leadership and entrepreneurial potential through critical thinking and to encourage a socio-ecological consciousness."

Stockbridge FFA members traveling to the Dominican Republic include: Daulton Diffenbaugh, Anya Harden, Owen House, Haley Warren, Rein Puckett, Laura Humrich and Klayre Smith. The team's faculty mentor is Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School teacher and FFA advisor Bob Richards.

The Dominican Republic (DR) is a vibrant Caribbean nation on the island of Hispaniola, known for its beautiful beaches, rich culture, and tropical climate, with its capital and largest city being Santo Domingo. Sharing the island with Haiti, the DR offers diverse geography from mountains to arid valleys and a unique blend of history and modern life.

Students are preparing to travel to the Dominican Republic while learning how to teach the technical skills necessary for students in the DR to build a STELLA-Q2 sensor.

For further information, contact Mr. Richards at 517-851-7770, ext. 6204, or richardsr@panthernet.net.

Bridge to Wellness page 3

- $5,000 – Stockbridge Youth Soccer goals and support.
- $3,000 – Trail maintenance around Stockbridge.
- $2,500 – Food assistance at the Open Air Market of Stockbridge.
- $1,700 – Stockbridge Parks and Recreation support for winter programming.
- $1,000 – Stockbridge Community Outreach's Meal of the Month program.

SAWC has also granted five sponsorships to date. These include the following:

- $750 for support of a diaper bank hosted by Stockbridge Community Outreach.
- $500 for the 5K run held on the morning of A Day in the Village.
- $500 for A Day in the Village.
- $500 for Stockbridge Area Senior Center's golf outing.
- $500 for the 2026 Farm-to-Table Fabulous Feast.

The coalition still has almost $50,000 available for funding projects and $250 available in sponsorship support. Stockbridge-area residents who are interested in making it easier to move more, eat better or improve mental well-being are invited to join SAWC at an upcoming meeting. The coalition will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 4:30 p.m. in the Stockbridge Village Offices meeting room for a normal business meeting. On Tuesday, Jan. 19, the coalition will host a community gathering complete with dinner! We hope to see you at an upcoming event!



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

Faces of Addiction page 3

"Watching the people I loved struggle with addiction and our family suffer because of it made me promise myself, I would never allow myself to live that way or put my children through what I experienced. I vowed to give my children a better childhood than the one I had."

Real support, she learned, requires both accountability and grace. In her words, "Supporting someone doesn't mean enabling them. People struggling with addiction need accountability, but they also need grace." This balance guides how she supports her sister Heidi through recovery today.

The caretaker role arrived far too early in Thomas' life. "I became the adult way too fast. I learned to take care of everyone else while putting my own needs somewhere at the bottom of the list."

That pattern followed her into adulthood, shaping how she supports others while learning to protect her own well being. The emotional cost of loving someone through addiction weighed heavily on her and resulted in fear, guilt, exhaustion, and responsibility—all things she never should have had to carry.

"I cannot carry someone else's addiction for them, ultimately they have to want recovery and to put in the work themselves," Thomas said.

That truth helped her redefine what healthy support looks like. Boundaries became essential as Thomas learned that love sometimes means stepping back. She said, "Sometimes loving someone means saying no. It means you stop participating in the things that keep them sick."

And sometimes loving someone includes losing them.

Her identity was shaped through loss, survival, and responsibility. Thomas has carried the weight of addiction's impact across generations and relationships, including the devastating loss of an older brother, Andrew, forever young at 18, and a sister-in-law, Kallie, taken far too early at 21. Thomas has also lost friends who have lost their addiction battles. Those never fully fade; they remain as reminders of how real and indiscriminate addiction is and how quickly it can take someone you love.

But she has also witnessed the other side—her husband and her sister—and the incredible strength of people who dig deep, climb out of dark places, and rebuild their lives. Thomas has seen recovery that sticks, transformation that lasts, and people who never look back. Because of everything she has lived through, this is a woman who values honesty, accountability, loyalty, and genuine relationships. She doesn't expect perfection—only responsibility, growth, and ownership of one's choices.

Hope and reality coexist in Thomas's perspective. "I still have hope because I've seen recovery happen, but I also understand the reality of what addiction can take, because I've lived it."

The deeper roots of addiction are clear to her. Thomas has learned that "A large percentage of people struggling with addiction are also battling something deeper. People end up self-medicating instead of getting the help they actually need." Her empathy comes from seeing the full picture—including the recovery needs that extend far beyond sobriety.

"Recovery doesn't end when someone leaves treatment. People need safe aftercare housing, transportation, employment, mental health care, and accountability." Her insight reflects what she's witnessed in her family and in her community.

One core belief anchors how Thomas supports loved ones: "They need accountability, but they also need compassion. They need to know that recovery is possible and that their life is still worth fighting for." This belief guides how she supports everyone—with hope, honesty, and love that doesn't give up.

Each year, the third week of November stands as a reminder that awareness is an act of gratitude—for the stories that survived, the families who keep loving, and the healing that continues in quiet, determined ways. National Addictions Awareness Week calls us to honor not the struggle itself, but the courage, the recovery, and the hope that remain.

Resource: Home of New Vision, Jackson, Michigan, assists people with substance-use disorder in breaking down the barriers to recovery by focusing on the whole-person and providing treatment, as well as a full spectrum of support and resources to help navigate the journey to recovery. Phone: 517-788-5596, or visit homeofnewvision.org/

Journalist Tina Cole-Mullins covers a 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.


Clyde Whitaker

Clyde's Corner

Mike DeMint is still going strong after 56 years

by Clyde Whitaker

Talk about longevity! Recently I ran into Mike DeMint and his wife Norma at our local McDonald's. Since I had not seen Mike for a while, I asked him how he was doing. He said he is still working with the school; this is his 56th year of serving the school in one capacity or another!

I thought to myself, "Talk about a story that rings of dedication and commitment." I asked Mike, and he agreed to let me write about him in this month's newspaper column.

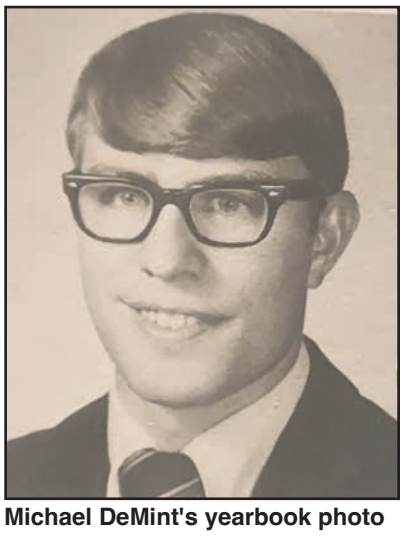
I started by having him send me some information via email. Wow! Mike sent me so much information, I can barely scratch the surface in the space of this column when it comes to listing all of his accomplishments and responsibilities. But here goes.

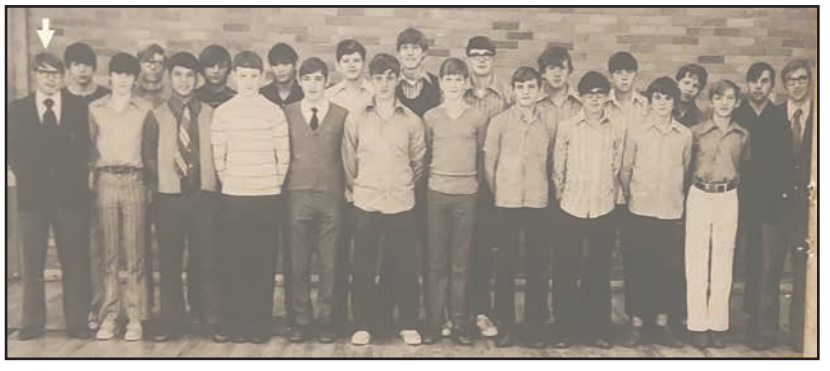
Mike started teaching classes at Stockbridge High School in 1970. These included general science; seventh-grade health; K-5 traveling physical education at Katz, Smith, and Howlett schools; middle school shop; along with seventh and eighth grade physical education.

And I'm just getting warmed up!

Other classes he taught were biology and science along with weight training and conditioning class. This year, he manages the fifth and sixth grade STEM class. And don't forget he was a drivers' education teacher for 35 years!

But there's still more. Mike was class adviser for numerous classes; the Class of 1976 stands out in his memory because Mike was their adviser from seventh grade through graduation. The Class of 1976 just happened to be the first class to graduate from the Clinton Street address.


Michael DeMint's yearbook photo from Olivet Nazarene College in Bourbonnais, Illinois, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in General Science.


Mike DeMint (pictured first at left in the front row) with the 1972 freshman football team he coached at Stockbridge High School.

Coaching you ask? Coaching positions included football, boys basketball and girls varsity basketball. Mike was the first coach to have a winning season for the girls varsity basketball—plus league and district champs! He was selected as the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Coach of the Year in 1982/83. You can add baseball and cross country coaching to his impressive resume as well.

Transportation director also was in Mike's title for seven years. He was energy manager for 10 years, saving the district more than $2.5 million that didn't have to be sent to Consumers Energy. Wow! In addition, he acquired a large amount of rebate funds for the district during renovations at the Jr./Sr. High School, Smith Elementary and Heritage School.

I was was attending Stockbridge High as a senior in 1973, and I remember Mike—or rather, "Mr. DeMint"—as a great guy to talk with, full of energy.

Mike was honored by the Class of 2025 as the guest speaker at graduation. He sent me a copy of the four-page speech. It was very impressive, but due to space constraints here, I can only share a snippet—but it's a good snippet.

Mike shared that he had been asked the question, "Why do you still teach and serve the Stockbridge Schools and not retire?" Mike's response was that it was not a job, but a calling. A calling he felt God has placed on his heart. Mike's wish for the Class of 2025 was for each of them to pursue their own calling.

Mike's wife, Norma Ann Ketterman, was from Valparaiso, Indiana. They met at Olivet Nazarene University and were married on June 6, 1970. They have two children, Shaun and Timothy, and four grandchildren, Jaxon, Canon, Landyn and Kelsey.

I would call this a life well lived!

All photos provided by Mike DeMint.

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.







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Community Calendar

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

Mondays
– LEGO Club, 4 to 5 p.m. at CADL Stockbridge.
– First Mondays: Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority meetings, 7 p.m. at the Village Hall.
– Second Mondays: Stockbridge School Board meetings, 6:30 p.m. at the Jr./Sr. High School Library.
– Second Mondays: American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge American Legion Post.
– Third Mondays: Stockbridge Township Board meetings, 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge Township Hall.
– Fourth Mondays: Stockbridge School Board meetings, 6:30 p.m. at the Jr./Sr. High School Library.

Tuesdays
– Fiber Arts Group meets for knitting, crochet, weaving, spinning, etc., 3-5 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
– 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.
– Fourth Tuesdays: Waterloo Township Board meetings, 7 p.m. at the Waterloo Township Hall.

Wednesdays
– 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.
– Second Wednesdays: Henrietta Township Board meetings, 7 p.m. at the Henrietta Township Hall.

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.
– First Thursdays: Lions Club Meetings, 6:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Township Hall.
– Second Thursdays: Unadilla Township Board meetings, 7 p.m. at the Unadilla Township Hall.
– Third Thursdays: Village of Stockbridge Council meetings, 7 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Fridays
– Discovery Storytime (For Babies, Toddlers, and Children), 10:30 to 11 a.m. Stockbridge Library.

Saturdays
– Second Saturdays: Coffee with the Stockbridge Village Council, 9 to 10 a.m. at Plane Food Market.

Nov. 2 - Drop-In STEAM Lab, 4 to 5 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
Nov. 4 - Art with Ms. Tiffany, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., at the Stockbridge Library.
Nov. 5 - Morning Trivia, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center (SASC).
Nov. 6 - Discovery Storytime (babies, toddlers, and children), 10:30 to 11 a.m., Stockbridge Library.
Nov. 7 - Stockbridge Community News Online Auction, Bidding begins. Auction website: 2026SCN.auctria.events. See ad on page 11 and insert for sampling of auction items.
Nov. 9 - Stockbridge Book Club, 11 a.m. to noon, at the Stockbridge Library. Book: "There's Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension."
Nov. 11 - Stockbridge Library closed for CADL conference.
Nov. 13 - Stockbridge Community News Online Auction, Last day to bid. Auction website: 2026SCN.auctria.events. See ad on page 11 and insert for sampling of auction items.
Nov. 14 - Stockbridge Community News Online Auction item pick up at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center, 219 W. Elm St., Stockbridge, from 1 to 3 p.m.
Nov. 14 - Sewing Club, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
Nov. 16 - Stockbridge Friends of the Library Silent Auction, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.
Nov. 16 - Drop-In STEAM Lab, 4 to 5 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library.
Nov. 16 - Reading with Remington, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Stockbridge Library.
Nov. 17 - Stockbridge Area Wellness Coalition business meeting, 4:30 p.m. in the Stockbridge Village Offices. Public is welcome.
Nov. 18 - Music with Ms. Beth, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Stockbridge Library.
Nov. 19 - Morning Trivia, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Stockbridge Area Senior Center.
Nov. 20 - Family Craft and Movie Night, 4 to 6 p.m., Stockbridge Library. Movie: Ratatouille.
Nov. 25 - Discovery Storytime (babies, toddlers, and children), 10:30 to 11 a.m., Stockbridge Library.
Nov. 26 - Stockbridge Library closes for Thanksgiving until Nov. 28.
Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving. Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Heritage School.
Nov. 28 - Elf Stop Scavenger Hunt, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Stockbridge Library.
Nov. 28 - 15th Annual Festival of Lights. Parade begins at 6 p.m. in downtown Stockbridge.
Nov. 30 - Drop-In STEAM Lab, 4 to 5 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library.

For an online calendar of more community events visit: www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.

To submit an event to our free calendar, email us at StockbridgeCommunityNews@gmail.com.


Jeffrey Trapp

Superintendent's Desk

Miles of smiles: Celebrating our transportation team

Early each school day morning, our dedicated group of drivers is already hard at work as they launch the day for Stockbridge Community Schools. Our school buses travel our district roads bright and early, bridging miles of countryside to safely deliver our students to school.

We often think that a student's education starts in the classroom, but for most of our Panthers, our bus drivers and transportation team are the first friendly faces our students see in the morning and the reassuring presence that safely delivers them home each afternoon. They set the tone for the entire day with their warm greetings and unwavering commitment to student safety.

Keeping our students safe while providing predictable, reliable transportation is one of the most vital responsibilities we carry as a district. We know how much our families count on consistent bus schedules as you balance all of your responsibilities. While managing transportation across a large geographic area brings its share of logistical puzzles, we are continually working toward improvement. We are investing in our team by increasing training and strengthening our communication protocols. We want our families to receive prompt, accurate updates whenever schedules shift or challenges arise.

Beyond being an essential service, driving a bus is one of the most rewarding ways to make an immediate, positive difference in a young person's life. To highlight the heart of our drivers behind the wheel, we asked some of our bus drivers to share their perspectives from the driver's seat:

Voices from the Driver's Seat:

- "I have been driving a bus for Stockbridge since 1994." – Brenda Clear, 32-year driver (Wow!)
- "Why I drive a bus is because I love to watch my grandkids and all the students grow up into adults." – Dennis Costello
- "The best part about driving a bus is I get to watch the community grow up. I have bused my own children, grandchildren, and hundreds and hundreds of children that I consider mine over the years, and I hope I have made a positive impact on all of them!" – Leslie Reasoner
- "The most challenging part of driving a bus is that no two days are exactly alike, but knowing these kids get home safe makes every mile worth it." – Leanne Bremiller

As we look ahead, we need your help to keep our positive transportation department momentum going. Like many school districts across our state, **Stockbridge has a critical need for substitute bus drivers.**

Serving as a substitute or regular driver offers fantastic flexibility, competitive pay, and a schedule that aligns perfectly with the school calendar, making it ideal for parents, grandparents, retirees, or anyone looking for meaningful part-time work with weekends, holidays, and summers off. We provide comprehensive training to help you obtain your Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and gain confidence behind the wheel. You do not just learn to drive a bus; you become a vital part of our school community!

Our schools are the heartbeat of our greater Stockbridge community, and our transportation department helps keep our team going every single day. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank each of our bus drivers:

Full-Time Drivers

- Brenda Clear
- Leslie Reasoner
- Whitney Cool
- Brittany Monette
- Kathy Suter
- Kaycee Hurt
- Meredith McManaman
- Wesley Starr
- Leanne Bremiller
- Nakita Heiman

Sub Drivers

- Dennis Costello
- Tamra Patrick
- Rachel Jones

Thank you for being the best start and finish to our students' school day that we could possibly ask for! I am also grateful for our new transportation director Carolyn Malinski, and invite you to contact her at stockbridgetransportation@panthernet.net to learn more!

We invite you to join our team: If you love working with kids, take pride in keeping our community safe, and want to make a lasting impact, we want you behind the wheel.

We Are Stockbridge. Go Panthers!

Jeff Trapp
Superintendent



For most of our Panthers, our bus drivers and transportation team are the first friendly faces our students see in the morning. Photo credit Stockbridge Schools

Scouts page 1


Caydin Stoffer, who is working on his Eagle Scout rank, reads the Eagle Scout Roll Call.

The "most senior" Eagle Scout in attendance from Troop 425 was David Hoffman, who achieved Eagle rank in 1949. He was joined by Allen Cole, an Eagle since 1980. Hoffman, who is 93 years young, talked of going to the jamboree in 1950 and seeing President Harry S. Truman and Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Troop 425 is proud of the 98 Eagle Scouts who have come through their program. The first Troop 425 Eagle Scout was Donald Adams, who received Eagle Scout rank in the 1930s. Two Scouts are currently working on their Eagle rank—Caydin Stoffer and Hunter Murphy. Many mementos from past and present were on display at the event so those in attendance could get a sense for the long history of this very special Boy Scout Troop.

This year has been a busy year for the troop. Besides kayaking, backpacking, and white-water rafting, thus far in 2026, they have tallied 194 service project hours, participated in 106 campout nights, and trekked more than 230 hiking miles! In addition to orienteering challenges, the Scouts of Troop 425 have worked on service projects, participated in local parades, and more.

All those activities culminated in the 100-year anniversary celebration weekend, beginning with a 100-year campout that started on Friday. A special hats-off to Scoutmaster Mike Stoffer and Troop 425 for their hard work and dedication to making the 100th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 425 a standout event.

All photos by Cherie Van Blaircum.

Reading Between the Lines page 5

Meanwhile, in the newer version, readers are smacked in the face with instant drama as Nancy watches a 5-year-old girl narrowly miss being plowed down by a getaway van, only to fall off a bridge, hit her head, and land in the shallow water of the riverbank.

The 1950s Nancy Drew played an important role in American literature, but if you're ready to level up, 1930s Nancy Drew is an absolute delight. Mystery lovers will enjoy this charming romp through yesteryear, and readers who grew up with the newfangled Nancy owe it to themselves to take the old gal out for a spin.

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.

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Canvassers page 6

The LC BoC's role and actions are dictated by law. They operate under the Open Meetings Act, meaning meetings are posted and the public is welcome.

Canvassers physically inspect every ballot container in the county. If precincts receive new containers, the LC BoC has to inspect them. During the weeklong process that begins after the Nov. 3 Election Day, the Board of Canvassers will be reviewing 65 precincts with 88 different ballot styles. The canvassers will review 20 absent vote counting boards (for absent voter ballots) and 15 early voting sites.

Says Williams, "We are going to have 100 poll books to go through. That is one mountain of paper!" The Board of Canvassers goal is to certify the results of the local and county elections and ballot questions. They will also manage any recounts that occur. Williams also shared that it is rare for the unofficial election night results to match the official certified results. She turned the microphone over to her LC BoC team member, Joan Runyan to explain why.

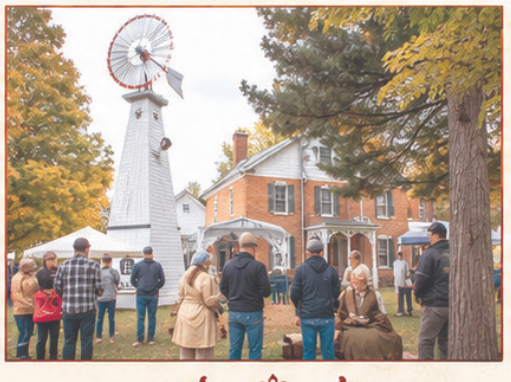
According to Runyan, many scenarios can occur in the process of ensuring every precinct's votes will balance; she explained what some of these situations involve. For example, sometimes a voter messes up their ballot and he or she doesn't have time to re-vote a new ballot, so election inspectors will "spoil" that ballot and document what happened, which later helps to determine why the number of voters does not equal number of ballots at the end of the night. Sometimes a ballot jams and, as a result, the tabulator counter will increment in error. Inspectors can override the error so the ballot goes through, but then the inspector documents the jam time and details in the poll book so later they can use that documentation to account for a ballot count mismatch. Signature cures are another possibility for why vote counts on Election Day may not sync with the final vote count. An example is when a voter fails to sign their return absentee ballot envelope. The voter is contacted by the clerk and they have three days to remedy the problem by coming in person to show identification and sign the return envelope. Also, in the case of MOVE ballots (military overseas voters), those that are postmarked by Election Day are counted, even if they arrive up to six days after the election.

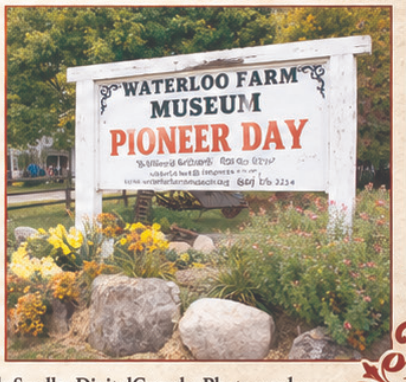
Runyan emphasized there is never a break in the documented chain of custody for an election, and the goal of the Livingston County Board of Canvassers, including Runyan, Williams, and their two counterparts who were not present on the panel, is for the number of voters to match the number of ballots tabulated and the number of ballots hand-counted.

WATERLOO FARM & DEWEY SCHOOL MUSEUMS

PIONEER DAY





October 11, 2026

Photos by James Clark-Swalla, DigitalCrumbs Photography

Staff Spotlight

With hometown roots and fresh ideas, Audrey Austin returns to teach third grade



Mary Jo David

by Mary Jo David

When Audrey Austin welcomed her third graders at Heritage School this fall, she wasn't just starting a new job. She was coming home. Austin attended Stockbridge schools from her earliest days through high school graduation. Now she is in the midst of her first year teaching in the district where she grew up.

"Growing up here in Stockbridge makes this extra special," Austin said. "I'm thrilled to be back in my hometown teaching the next generation."

Her hometown ties run deep. Not surprisingly, Austin is finding that she went to school with some of her students' parents, aunts and uncles. "It's cute when the kids make the connection," she said.



Audrey Austin attended Stockbridge schools from kindergarten through graduation and is now teaching third grade at Heritage School.

Back in her youth in Stockbridge, Austin ran sprint relays and pole vaulted for the Stockbridge track team from sixth grade through her senior year. These days she enjoys reading fantasy and dystopian novels and loves to draw and paint, often sketching animals and people's pets. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, and she has two cats she loves to spoil—Sunny Peach and Spirit Moon.

Teaching wasn't Austin's original plan. She started at Michigan State University as a psychology major. But after her freshman year, she worked as a paraprofessional in a Stockbridge kindergarten classroom for the last six weeks of the Stockbridge school year. She also spent the summer working with Kids Club. Says Austin, "That experience really solidified the idea of teaching."

Following that summer, she switched her major to elementary education. After student teaching first grade in nearby Holt, she earned her degree from MSU. She is certified to teach preschool through third grade and also spent some time during college working with students learning English as a second language (ESL).

Ask this third grade teacher what her students enjoy most, and she doesn't just point to one single subject or a specific lesson. "I think they're happy just feeling comfortable and being in an environment where they can be themselves, goofy and fun, but focused on learning," she said.

See Staff Spotlight on page 19.

Stockbridge Community News — Donation Form

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Positive Parenting

Growing together as a family through delayed gratification



When we delay gratification with our kids—for example helping them pick up toys before going to the park—they sense we are willing to suffer with them. Image credit HiveBoxx on unsplash.com

by Tiffany Snyder

It's easy to feel thankful when someone does something nice for us, when we feel the sun on our face or things are going our way. However, where thankfulness is an emotion, gratitude is an attitude of appreciation under any circumstance. Gratitude means expressing thankfulness and being appreciative of daily life even when nothing exciting happens. Even when we feel sad, mad, or exhausted.

So, what are ways to grow gratitude in ourselves and children? Do we need to practice saying "thank you" to everyone we interact with, good or bad? While external expressions are a start, they miss the mark on having true, internal impact on our mind-sets and behavior.

Lasting fulfillment comes from delaying gratification and facing our problems directly.

Author and psychologist M. Scott Peck, M.D., writes in his book, "The Road Less Traveled," that the first tool of discipline is delaying gratification. This skill starts to develop as early as 6 months old and is more or less "set" as children enter adolescence. To be sure, Peck understands the challenges and corresponding rewards when parenting using delayed gratification. He writes, "Parents are executives….and their task can be every bit as complex as directing a company or corporation."

We can model and physically help our children delay gratification. Infants and toddlers are professionals at instant gratification, otherwise known as getting what one wants or what feels good. But it's healthy to encourage picking up toys, folding the laundry, and doing homework before we head to the park or spend time with friends. When we help them, they get a sense they are valuable because we are willing to suffer with them. In addition to building time management and problem-solving skills, this approach paves the way for them to develop the capacity for delaying gratification on their own, so it is SO worth our time!

Delaying gratification, in Peck's words, is "a process of scheduling the pain and pleasure of life in such a way as to enhance the pleasure by meeting and experiencing the pain first and getting it over with." Wow!

Peck acknowledges that most adults have adequate capacity to delay gratification, but there are times when even we choose instant gratification and might not be aware of it. Any time we think our child/ren "may grow out of" a bad habit, we could be choosing to ignore the problem, which he claims shows our unwillingness to delay gratification. Problems do not go away. They must be worked through to grow and develop a free spirit. All problems can be solved when we accept they are ours, and only we can solve them.

When things out of our control happen, like an attack, an accident, or when someone puts us in a difficult spot, what remains in our control is our reaction to it. We must have the mind-set that what we experience is a lesson or a step to help us grow.

What I gleaned from Peck's wisdom is to expect pain and welcome problems as part of our growth. They can't be avoided, so let's start celebrating what we can gain from them. We build gratitude for life when we celebrate teeth breaking through the gums, the potty-training accident, the chore we didn't want to do but did anyway, every workout we showed up to exhausted, every tantrum we responded to with calmness, every relationship that changed our perspective of self-worth, every lost job that changed our view on wealth and purpose. What can you add to this list?

Choose to live a gratitude-filled life! As my son's favorite character Pete the Cat says, "It's ALL good!"

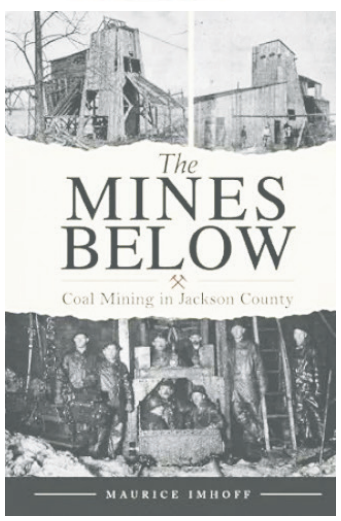
Activity Highlight: The Gratitude Container

Decorate a Mason jar or small box with stickers, paint, or ribbon. Each day or week, family members write or draw one good thing that happened on a slip of paper and drop it in. Challenge everyone to include not-so-fun things and how they helped us grow. Read them aloud during a weekend or family time.

Historical Society announces new book on county's forgotten coal mining history

Information provided by the JCM Historical Society

In an Oct. 13 announcement, the Jackson County Michigan Historical Society reported the completion of its newest publication, "The Mines Below: Coal Mining in Jackson County," written and researched by local historian and Society President Maurice Imhoff. The book examines a largely forgotten industry that once operated beneath the streets, neighborhoods, and farmland of Jackson County, employing hundreds of workers and supplying coal to homes, businesses, factories, and railroads.



Coal was first discovered in Jackson County near Sandstone Creek in Spring Arbor Township in 1835, marking the beginning of Michigan's coal mining history. Over the following decades, more than two dozen known or reported mines operated throughout the county, including several operated by the Michigan State Prison using prisoner labor. Through historical newspaper accounts, photographs, geological reports, and newly discovered maps, the book documents the industry's growth and decline, the lives of local miners, and the dangers they faced underground.

The book also examines the lasting effects of abandoned coal mines, including the 1953 collapse of a portion of the runway at Jackson's Reynolds Field Airport. While some residents may have heard of Jackson's coal mining past, most do not realize that in certain areas, abandoned mine workings lie roughly 50 to 100 feet below the surface, sometimes beneath neighborhoods and major roadways.

The publication features an extensive collection of historical photographs, mine diagrams, and maps identifying former mining locations, building upon decades of research by earlier historians, including the late Jackson Community College professor George Econ.

"The Mines Below" is the latest addition to the society's growing collection of historical publications. Imhoff will give a presentation on the book during the Historical Society's annual event on Nov. 4. The publication will be available for purchase on Amazon ahead of the event.

For more information about this initiative or to learn more about the Jackson County Michigan Historical Society, please visit myjacksonhistorical.org.



"Dear Gabbie" is not meant to replace the advice of professionals ... especially your mom!

Dear Gabbie,

Thanksgiving is coming up, and it's a holiday I often host for my extended family. This year, I'd like to be proactive about cutting down on the amount of work involved with hosting. I have a couple of relatives who voluntarily bring a dish to pass, but would it be rude of me to assign a dish to others who normally come empty-handed?

Signed,

Thankful for small blessings

Dear Thankful,

Hosting holidays can be hard work—and expensive! Someone who has never hosted a gathering for a crowd may not even realize the amount of work and money that goes into this effort. Personally, I think you should absolutely reach out to those who normally come empty-handed to ask them to participate in preparations for the meal.

The trick is to get around the awkwardness of asking. If it makes it easier for you, try to think of a dish they are particularly known for. Maybe you have a sister who makes THE BEST cookies or THE BEST cheesy potatoes. If you can butter her up by mentioning that you'd love her to bring her specialty, it will come across as more of a compliment and less of an assignment. On the other hand, if your mother-in-law has a reputation for burning pie crust, be prepared before you approach her so you can tell her someone else is already handling the pies. This advice may help to save your marriage!

Taking a person's limitations into account is always appreciated. For example, is your best friend working on the holiday? If that's the case, think about asking him to bring something he can buy or make the night before. Others may be feeling the pinch economically; when that's the case, you can assign rolls or other less expensive items—like cooked carrots or mashed potatoes.

And here's one I've learned from personal experience—if your adult son-in-law is notoriously late to arrive, it doesn't matter how many people love his buffalo chicken dip, DO NOT assign him an appetizer! (Gosh I hope he's not reading this!)

The important thing is to do what it takes to make hosting the holiday a pleasure, not a chore. The more you spread out the responsibility, the more your guests will feel like they've contributed to making the holiday a success. Or at least—that's the theory! If none of this advice works for you, pretend you heard it from Abby, not Gabbie!

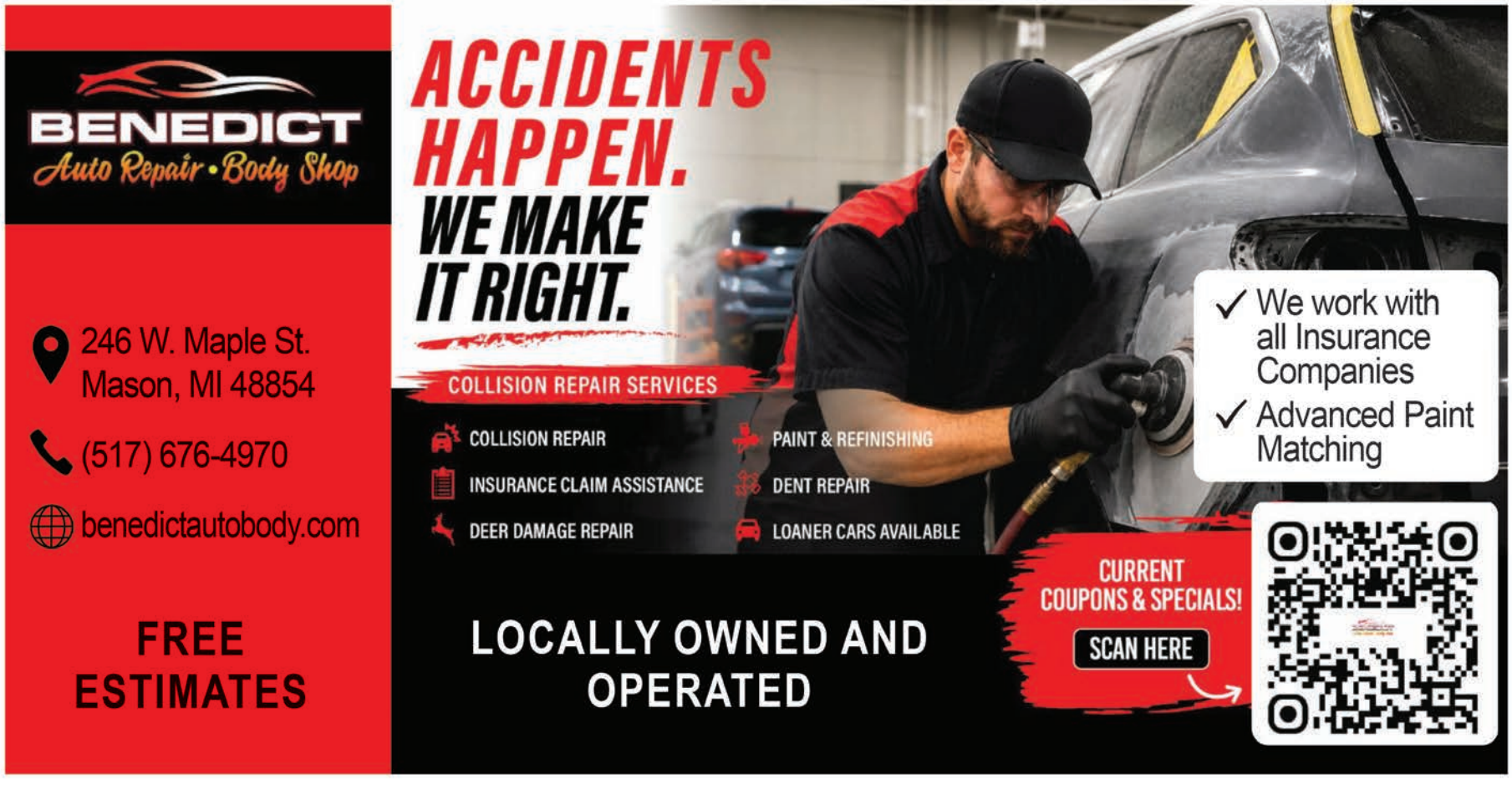
Gabbie

Standout sixth graders ace social studies quizzes

by Geoffrey Gauthier

As the sixth-grade social studies teacher at Heritage Elementary, I am proud to recognize a stellar group of students who recently achieved 100% on their map quizzes for the United States and Canada—including states and provinces/territories. On behalf of Stockbridge Community Schools and the Stockbridge Community News, congratulations to the following students! Keep up the great work!

- Daniel Field
- Donald Reeves
- Felicity Heemstra
- Ivy Lester
- Mackenzee Topping
- Timber Bremiller
- Todd Alstermark
- Owen Musgrave
- Adrian Pheils
- Caidence Johnson
- Collins Quinn
- Elliana Adkins
- Ike Erlich
- Logan Hobbs
- Lily Monette
- Alex Partin
- Blaise Beauregard
- Chloe Mullins
- Claire Wetzel
- Daniel Golip
- Drew Dancer
- Holly Humrich
- Jeffery Hayes
- Karson Porter
- Logan Treacey
- Trey Reeves
- Adeline Romero
- Cameron LaPree
- Harper Johnson
- Ignatius Cesarz
- Joseph Salyer
- Leanna Ortiz
- Locklyn Silveus
- Logan Moore
- Raelynn Harrison



Active Aging

SASC is here because community shows up

by Rachel Stanley

As Thanksgiving approaches, it invites reflection on the people and contributions that strengthen a community. The Stockbridge Area Senior Center has much to be grateful for, particularly the generosity of those who continually give their time, resources, and support to sustain a welcoming place for local seniors. This generosity demonstrates strength in a community that recognizes the importance of staying connected to support one another.

The center is fortunate to receive support in many forms. Each contribution enables the center to continue onward with its mission. SASC's members, board of directors, and staff extend a heartfelt thank you to the generous, loyal supporters who keep the doors open.

Grants and Financial Support: In partnership with Molina Healthcare, the Michigan Association of Senior Centers supports staff salaries, marketing, and communications. 5 Healthy Towns Foundation supports staff projects. Looking ahead, a Community Foundation impact grant will match funds for future refinishing of the Community Bay floor. These awards represent investment in the sustainability of the place where Stockbridge area older adults connect and feel at home.

Facility and Operational Support: Stockbridge Township continues to play a vital role by supporting facility upkeep and utilities. Equally deserving of recognition are SASC's own members; their generosity extends far beyond the expected. Members are not simply recipients of programs and services; they contribute their resources to ensure SASC benefits the entire community. Their contributions reflect personal investment in the center and its future.

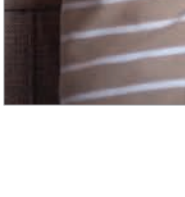


The Stockbridge Area Senior Center is fortunate to receive support in many forms. Each contribution enables the center to continue onward with its mission. Image generated by ChatGPT

Fundraising and Volunteerism: Beyond financial support, personal involvement takes the shape of support through time contributed. Fundraisers like the Chili Cookoff are made possible by those willing to give their time, energy, and enthusiasm. At the Pancake Breakfast, specifically, National Honor Society volunteers brought enthusiasm and youthful energy that empowered a successful fundraiser.

Intergenerational Partnerships: In efforts to promote meaningful connections and shared experiences, the Capital Area District Library partnered with SASC to host a Crazy Craig Juggling event as part of its summer children's program that welcomes all. A homeschool co-op's intergenerational art project, led by local instructor Tiffany Snyder, also brought young people and older adults together through creativity, conversation, and shared perspectives.

Nutrition and Social Connection: Tri-County Office on Aging delivers congregate meals that are a regular, dependable highlight. TCOA's consistent, excellent meal service offers more than nourishment. It gives people the opportunity to gather and enjoy one another's company.



All contributions support the mission of the center by maintaining a welcoming facility that creates opportunities for all to connect. Practicing gratitude for these contributions serves to remind us that having the Stockbridge Area Senior Center doors open as a place that empowers seniors to remain happy, healthy, and engaged is the best Thanksgiving sentiment SASC could ask for.

To every partner, donor, volunteer, and supporter: Thank you for being part of this community. You make every day at SASC a GOLD STAR DAY!

Rachel Stanley is director of the Stockbridge Area Senior Center. Experience firsthand a sense of connection and well-being at the SASC. For information, visit stockbridgeareaseniors.org, call 517- 480-0353, or stop in at 219 W. Elm St.

MENTAL HEALTH
Intensive Outpatient Program
FLEXIBLE SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH

M HEALTH Trinity Health
CHELSEA HOSPITAL
Our Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) provides structured care while allowing you to live at home and manage daily responsibilities. Designed for adults 18+, it's ideal for those needing extra mental health support without full-time treatment.
- Group Therapy: Share experiences and build connections.
- Individual Therapy: Personalized, one-on-one sessions.
- Family Therapy: Strengthen relationships and involve loved ones.
To learn more, call 734-593-5591.
ChelseaHospital.org

STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

Stockbridge boys soccer claims second straight Big 8 Conference title



The boys soccer team clinched its second straight Big 8 Conference title with a 5-3 win over Bronson. Photo by Amy Jo Talbott

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge boys soccer team made it back-to-back Big 8 Conference championships after taking down Bronson 5-3 in a key league matchup Oct. 5.

The Panthers finished conference play with a 4-1-1 record to claim their second straight Big 8 title and wrapped up the season with an 8-8-2 overall record.

Stockbridge put together a strong finish to the regular season, picking up several big wins down the stretch before seeing its season come to an end in the Division 4 District Tournament.

The Panthers opened a busy stretch with a 4-2 win over Olivet Sept. 17.

Koen Griffith had a big night for Stockbridge, finding the net three times for a hat trick, while Ashton Oversmith added a goal to help the Panthers pull out the victory.

Stockbridge dropped a tough 4-2 decision to Vermontville Maple Valley Sept. 21.

Griffith found the net once for the Panthers, while Andrew Ackeberg scored the other Stockbridge goal with a spectacular overhead bicycle kick into the net.

The Panthers bounced back with a pair of impressive home victories, taking down Leslie 6-3 Sept. 24 and shutting out Quincy 4-0 Sept. 28.

See Soccer on page 17.

Stockbridge volleyball team picks up sweeps of Reading and Springport



Zoey Horstman goes for a kill against Fowlerville. Photo by Mike Williamson

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge volleyball team picked up a pair of impressive three-set sweeps over Reading and Springport as the Panthers continued their late-season push.

Stockbridge also had several strong individual performances in matches against Quincy, Maple Valley and East Jackson.

Reading. The Panthers put together a strong performance at home Tuesday, Oct. 13, rolling past Reading in three straight sets, 25-20, 25-11, 25-17.

Stockbridge took a close opening set before dominating the second and closing out the sweep in the third.

Zoey Horstman led a balanced Panthers attack with seven kills, while Madeline Topping added five and Alexa Satkowiak four. Charlotte Hays and Haley Warren chipped in with three kills each. Emma Monaghan helped lead the defensive effort with seven digs, while Laura Humrich added two.

Springport. Stockbridge used a strong offensive attack to sweep Springport 25-13, 25-12, 25-22.

The Panthers controlled the first two sets before holding off a tougher challenge from Springport in the third to complete the sweep. Satkowiak had a big night at the net with a team-high 11 kills, while Horstman, Hays and Aliyah Numinen each added six. Topping and Humrich chipped in with five kills and digs, respectively, while Warren added three kills. Monaghan contributed two service aces to help lead the Panthers to the win.

Quincy. The Panthers battled Quincy in a tight opening set Sept. 22 before falling in three sets, 26-24, 25-13, 25-19.

Stockbridge nearly pulled out the first set, but Quincy rallied to take the 2-point win and carried the momentum into the final two sets.

See Volleyball on page 17.

Panthers football team rolls to Homecoming win



Evan Killinger gains some yards in the Homecoming win over East Jackson. Photo by Mike Williamson

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge football team celebrated Homecoming with a dominating win over East Jackson for the Panthers first win of the season.

East Jackson. Stockbridge gave the Homecoming crowd plenty to cheer about with a 58-8 rout of East Jackson Sept. 18.

The Panthers exploded for 28 first-quarter points and added 23 in the second to build a commanding 51-0 halftime lead.

Quarterback Evan Killinger completed five of six passes for 133 yards and two touchdowns, connecting with Tommy Bills for a 54-yard score and Aidan Bradley for a 53-yard touchdown.

Domenic Ciminelli led the rushing attack with 80 yards and two touchdowns on 10 carries. Bills added 33 yards and a score, while Evan Lockhart rushed for 24 yards and a touchdown.

Lockhart also had a big night defensively with seven tackles, two fumble recoveries, a safety and a defensive touchdown.

Elijah Muzzin capped the scoring with a 10-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

Union City. Stockbridge struggled offensively in a 34-6 loss to Union City Sept. 25.

The Panthers trailed 16-0 at halftime and were held scoreless until the fourth quarter when Domenic Ciminelli scored their lone touchdown.

Quarterback Evan Killinger completed 14 of 22 passes for 134 yards, with Aidan Bradley catching four passes for 69 yards and Evan Lockhart adding five receptions for 37 yards.

Ciminelli led the rushing attack with 31 yards on 10 carries.

Defensively, Ciminelli recorded 13 tackles and a tackle for loss, while Lockhart and Kaleb Regan each finished with seven tackles. Vince Rogozinski added six tackles and a tackle for loss.

Homer. Stockbridge held off a furious fourth-quarter rally by Homer to pull out a thrilling 29-26 win Oct. 2.

Domenic Ciminelli led the Panthers with 125 yards rushing and two touchdowns on 19 carries, including a 10-yard scoring run in the fourth quarter that proved to be the difference.

See Football on page 17.

STOCKBRIDGE SPORTS

Stockbridge cross country has strong month



Rachel Avis runs at the Big 8 Jamboree. Photos provided by Lissa Avis



Steven Karowich competes at the Big 8 Jamboree.

by Mike Williamson

The Stockbridge cross country teams had a busy stretch of competition, taking part in three Big 8 Conference jamborees along with the Jackson and Stockbridge invitationals.

The Panthers saw several strong individual performances, personal-best times and improvements in team standings during the five meets.

Big 8 Jamboree No. 1. The Stockbridge girls opened Big 8 competition with a third-place finish at Union City, totaling 95 points.

Lucy Chapman led the Panthers with a 10th-place finish in 22:42.1, while Emily Satkowiak was close behind in 13th place with a time of 22:55.9.

Isabella Pratt finished 21st in 24:18.7 and Emmeline Gancer placed 24th with a time of 25:14.4.

Abigail Taylor rounded out the scoring with a 27th-place finish in 25:43.9.

Rachel Avis finished 37th in 29:42.5, while Alexis Friddle was 41st in 37:48.8.

The Stockbridge boys placed sixth with 140 points.

William Gancer claimed the individual title with a winning time of 16:32.0, while Owen Peckham gave the Panthers another top-15 finisher by placing 14th in 19:24.6.

Alex Avis finished 30th in 21:04.6, followed by John Fox in 48th at 22:33.0 and Wyatt OKoney in 51st with a time of 23:08.4.

Jackson Invitational. The Panthers traveled to Ella Sharp Park for the Jackson Invitational, where several runners showed improvement against a large field of competitors.

The Stockbridge boys were led by Gancer, who finished third overall with a time of 16:05.4.

Peckham turned in a personal-best time of 18:39.9 to finish 66th, cutting nearly 45 seconds off his time from the previous jamboree.

Alex Avis also made a big improvement, placing 101st in 20:07.3, nearly a minute faster than his previous race.

OKoney finished 119th in 22:00.7, improving by more than a minute from the Union City meet.

The Stockbridge girls finished 14th in the Purple Division with 366 points.

Chapman paced the Panthers with a 59th-place finish in 22:43.4, while Pratt followed in 65th with a time of 22:53.5.

Pratt cut more than a minute and 25 seconds off her previous time.

Satkowiak placed 75th in 23:26.2 and Emmeline Gancer was 98th in 25:30.7.

Rachel Avis finished 105th in 27:59.7, improving by more than a minute and 40 seconds from the previous meet.

Ella Hardesty rounded out the Panthers' finishers in 107th place with a time of 29:26.0.

See Cross country on page 19.

Volleyball page 16

Satkowiak led the Panthers with five kills, while Topping added three.

Hays and Numinen each finished with two kills. Monaghan had a strong defensive performance with 18 digs, while Humrich added four.

East Jackson. The Panthers swept East Jackson 25-18, 25-14, 25-11 Oct. 20.

Stockbridge received a balanced offensive effort against East Jackson, with Horstman and Topping leading the way with seven kills each. Hays added four kills, while Humrich chipped in with two. Monaghan helped anchor the back row with six digs.

Soccer page 16

Stockbridge struggled in an 8-0 loss to Hillsdale Academy Sept. 30 but rebounded with a hard-fought 1-1 draw against Battle Creek Calhoun Christian Oct. 1.

The Panthers then came up with one of their biggest wins of the season when they traveled to Bronson Oct. 5.

Stockbridge found the net five times in the 5-3 victory, securing the Big 8 Conference championship for the second consecutive season.

The Panthers followed the title-clinching win with another hard-fought 1-1 draw against Manchester Oct. 7.

Stockbridge closed out the regular season on a winning note with a 3-1 victory over Potterville Oct. 12.

Griffith continued his strong offensive play with two goals, while Ackeberg added the third goal for the Panthers.

The Panthers opened Division 4 play against Jackson Lumen Christi Oct. 14.

Stockbridge battled in a defensive contest, but a single goal proved to be the difference as Lumen Christi edged the Panthers 1-0 to end their season.

Football page 16

Tommy Bills came up with two big plays, hauling in a 39-yard touchdown pass from Evan Killinger in the third quarter and returning a kickoff 86 yards for a touchdown in the fourth.

Killinger completed four of seven passes for 54 yards and a touchdown, while Evan Lockhart added 43 rushing yards.

The Panthers led 14-6 after three quarters before the teams combined for 35 points in the final period.

Defensively, Lockhart led Stockbridge with 11 tackles, while Kaleb Regan and Aidan Bradley each added eight. Regan also recorded an interception and a tackle for loss.

The Panthers survived a late 91-yard Homer touchdown pass to secure the 3-point victory.

Reading. Evan Killinger had a big night through the air, but it wasn't enough as the Panthers fell to Reading 60-28 on Oct. 9.

Killinger completed 24 of 42 passes for 273 yards and four touchdowns as Stockbridge battled back from an early 14-0 deficit to tie the game at 14-14 in the second quarter.

Remington Christie caught a 65-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter, while Vince Rogozinski hauled in a 7-yard scoring pass in the second to tie the game.

Reading answered with 16 straight points to take a 30-14 halftime lead and pulled away in the second half.

Rogozinski caught his second touchdown pass, a 4-yard strike in the third quarter, while Aidan Bradley added a 4-yard scoring reception in the fourth.

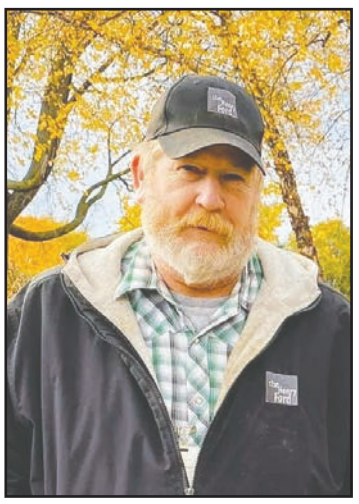
Christie led the receiving corps with three catches for 81 yards, while Bradley finished with six receptions for 67 yards. Domenic Ciminelli added four catches for 51 yards and Evan Lockhart hauled in five passes for 50 yards.

Rogozinski finished with five receptions for 24 yards and two touchdowns.

Defensively, Ciminelli led the Panthers with 10 tackles, while Eric Allison added eight tackles and a tackle for loss. Lockhart finished with seven tackles and Bradley added five.

Obituaries

Steven K. Opp



Steven K. Opp
May 22, 1964 to Sept. 27, 2026

Steven K. Opp, age 62, of Stockbridge, MI, passed away on September 27, 2026, in Adrian, MI. He was born on May 22, 1964, in Garden City, MI, the son of Kenneth and Shirley (Kelm) Opp. Steve had lived in the Stockbridge area since 1975.

Steve was deeply involved in the farming community and dedicated much of his life to agriculture and raising and working with horses and cattle. He worked for many years as a farmhand and Agricultural Supervisor/Manager at the historic Firestone Farm in Greenfield Village. He also worked as a historic farmer at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio, where he was known as "Farmer Steve." Through his work, Steve made many lasting connections with both his coworkers and the guests he met along the way. Steve also could be found working with horses at many community events, including local parades and events at the Waterloo Farm Museum. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and loved John Deere tractors.

In 2014, Steve married Susan Renee (Fowler), and she preceded him in death in 2021.

Surviving are three children, Nicole (Chris) Nelson of Dundee, Dallas (Andrew) Tweedy of Stockbridge, and Michelle (Francisco) Romero of Fitchburg; seven grandchildren; his mother, Shirley Opp of Stockbridge; his sister, Linda (Mitch) Minger of Stockbridge; and his loving companion, April M. Mann of Stockbridge. In addition to his wife, Susan, Steve was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth Opp.

Visitation was held at Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026, from 5 to 7 p.m. Funeral services were held at the funeral home on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026, at 2 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Sauder Village or Hospice of Lenawee.

Arrangements by Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home.

Shelley Ann Gottschalk



Shelley Ann Gottschalk
Oct. 25, 1965 to Sept. 23, 2026

Shelley Ann Gottschalk, age 60, of Stockbridge, passed away on September 23, 2026. She was born on October 25, 1965, in Stockbridge, Michigan, to Lee and Betty (Boring) Clark.

Shelley was born and raised in Stockbridge and graduated from Stockbridge High School in 1984. During high school, she met the love of her life, Steve, at the Capital Area Career Center. The two were married on August 26, 1989 and shared 37 years of marriage together. Soon after their marriage, Shelley began her career with Delta Dental, where she worked for the next 36 years as a customer service representative.

Shelley will be remembered for her fun-loving spirit, her warm smile, her infectious laughter, her generous heart, and the love she had for those around her.

Most importantly, Shelley cherished her family, her two dogs, and cat. She was a devoted wife, mother and daughter. Her greatest joy was the time she spent with the people she loved, and she leaves behind many wonderful memories that will be treasured for years to come.

Shelley is survived by her husband, Steve Gottschalk; her children, Grant Gottschalk of Williamston, Garrett (Haylie) Gottschalk of Stockbridge, and Jenna (Dylan) of Dansville; and her soon-to-arrive grandchild, whom she was eagerly looking forward to welcoming into the family. She is also survived by her mother, Betty Clark of Stockbridge.

She was preceded in death by her father, Lee Clark, and her brother, Steve Clark.

A service celebrating Shelley's life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements by Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge.

STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 19, 2026

Stockbridge Township Supervisor Cg Lantis called Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting to order on October 19, 2026, at 7:00pm at the Stockbridge Township Hall. Members present at the Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting: Supervisor CG Lantis, Treasurer James Wireman, Member absent Trustee Ed Wetherell, Clerk Becky Muraf arrived at 7:35pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Wireman motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Regular Board Meeting agenda as printed. Sommer second. Discussion to amend motion and add on under old business Cleaning and Hiring Procedure All in favor. Motion carried.

Citizens Comments None

Wireman motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Board meeting minutes from September 21,2026, as printed Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Wireman motion to accept the Stockbridge Township Financial Report as printed Sommer Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Memorial Plaque None

Old Business

Discussion on the upkeep of cleaning on the Stockbridge Township Hall Supervisor Lantis will address Discussion Treasurer Wireman and Trustee Sommer will create a hiring process and bring back to the board.

New Business

Muraf motion to table DDA Playgrounds equipment request until our next meeting to give Stockbridge Township attorney time to investigate this request. Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Muraf motion to spend $500.00 on Cider and Donuts for Halloween for SAESA Fire Department to hand out on Halloween at Stockbridge Township Hall Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Sommer motion to pay the monthly bills in the amount of $55,339.95 Wireman Second All in Favor Motion Carried

Citizen Comments Discussion

Lantis adjourn the Stockbridge Township Regular Meeting at 8:20PM

BM

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND WITH THE STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

SCN

We're growing, and we'd love your help. Over the years we've built a team we're very proud of, but every effective organization needs fresh energy and new perspectives. If you have skills in news, finance, advertising, and/or project coordination—and you care about keeping our community informed—we strongly encourage you to volunteer with the Stockbridge Community News.

INTERESTED?
Reach out by emailing editor@stockbridgecommunitynews.com.

Cross country page 17

Big 8 Jamboree No. 2. The Stockbridge girls placed fifth at the second Big 8 Jamboree at Springport, finishing with 127 points.

Chapman led the way with a seventh-place finish in a season-best time of 22:22.9, improving her conference finish by three spots from the opening jamboree.

Pratt finished 21st in 25:08.5, while Taylor placed 30th with a time of 28:06.7.

Rachel Avis was 34th in 29:12.6 and Emmeline Gancer finished 35th in 29:56.0.

Hardesty placed 37th in 30:56.4, while Friddle was 42nd with a time of 38:26.2.

The boys finished sixth with 127 points, improving their team score by 13 points from the first jamboree.

Gancer picked up his second straight conference victory with a time of 16:46.9.

Peckham finished 12th in 19:33.8, moving up two spots from the first conference meet.

Alex Avis also improved his conference placing, finishing 26th in 20:46.5.

Steven Karowich finished 38th in 22:28.0, while OKoney was 52nd in 25:51.0 and Owen Cipta placed 57th in 27:20.5.

Stockbridge Invitational. The Panthers returned home to host the Stockbridge Invitational, where the girls turned in several strong performances and recorded multiple personal and season-best times.

Stockbridge finished 12th in the girls team standings with 286 points.

Aliyah Numinen led the Panthers with a 36th-place finish in 22:25.5.

Satkowiak followed in 41st place with a season-best time of 22:30.8, cutting more than 25 seconds off her time from the opening Big 8 Jamboree.

Pratt continued her improvement with a 50th-place finish in 22:45.3, her fastest time of the three most recent meets.

Emmeline Gancer placed 92nd in 25:10.0, while Taylor finished right behind in 93rd with a personal-best time of 25:10.2.

Rachel Avis finished 101st in 26:11.9, cutting nearly 3 minutes and 31 seconds off her time from the first Big 8 Jamboree.

Hardesty also recorded a personal best, finishing 114th in 28:35.2.

The Stockbridge boys placed 13th with 320 points.

Gancer led the Panthers with a third-place finish in 16:10.4, while Peckham placed 42nd in 18:50.5.

Alex Avis finished 90th in 20:02.4, improving his time from the Jackson Invitational by nearly 5 seconds.

OKoney placed 115th in 21:30.5, cutting another 30 seconds off his time from Jackson.

Karowich finished 118th in 22:13.2, followed by Fox in 123rd at 22:53.5 and Cipta in 137th with a time of 26:42.4.

Big 8 Jamboree No. 3. The Stockbridge girls continued to show improvement in the conference standings, finishing fourth at the third Big 8 Jamboree at Bronson with 89 points.

The Panthers improved their team score by 38 points from the second jamboree and moved up one spot in the standings.

Satkowiak led Stockbridge with a 10th-place finish in 22:34.9, while Pratt gave the Panthers another top-15 finisher by placing 14th in 23:32.9.

Chapman finished 16th with a time of 23:48.2, giving Stockbridge three runners among the top 16.

Emmeline Gancer placed 21st in 25:43.2, while Taylor rounded out the scoring with a 28th-place finish in 26:54.6.

Rachel Avis finished 32nd in 28:33.4 and Hardesty was right behind in 33rd with a time of 29:15.3.

The Stockbridge boys finished fifth with 114 points, their best team placing of the three Big 8 jamborees.

Gancer completed a sweep of the three conference races, taking first place with a time of 16:59.1.

Peckham finished 15th in 19:32.3, while Alex Avis placed 32nd with a time of 21:33.7.

Karowich finished 34th in 22:01.7, improving his time by more than 26 seconds from the second jamboree.

OKoney placed 38th in 22:10.0, followed by Fox in 54th with a time of 23:42.7 and Cipta in 62nd at 28:27.3.



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She tries keep her room cozy and visually appealing, a space students want to be in, because she believes that builds a feeling of belonging. And belonging is at the heart of one of her biggest accomplishments thus far. When asked about a career "win," Austin recounts that when she was student teaching, she worked with a boy who was struggling to adjust to being in school. He did not have the most stable home life, but over time, she built a strong connection with him and watched him go from stressed about school to enjoying his classwork and making friends.

"Making an impact on any student is rewarding," she said, "But it's especially true about the ones who really need that connection."

As a new teacher, Austin likes to think she brings a fresh perspective and a willingness to try new things, even if they don't always work. She tries to learn from those mistakes. And because she's pretty comfortable with technology she finds she's able to help some colleagues who may be less at ease on the tech side of things.

Assisting goes both ways. Austin credits her third-grade team and the entire Heritage staff for their feedback, ideas and positive energy, which she said have made her first year far less overwhelming.

Her biggest challenge so far is keeping track of everything happening at once: lessons, activities and meetings. While she enjoys all of it, it took her a little while to "find her groove." But according to Austin, things already feel more manageable than they did at the start of the year.

Her goal for the year is simple: achieving growth with every student, academically and socially, and helping them to have fun while learning. According to Austin, parents can help, too. She recommends practicing reading and math facts at home and talking through social skills with your kids, for example, how to resolve conflicts.

When she has the time, Austin loves to travel. She enjoys sharing fun facts about her life with her students, and traveling figures big in those stories. Her students were surprised to learn she has walked the beautiful beaches of Thailand and swam in that country's gorgeous blue water. She's also come nose-to-nose with some of the most incredible wildlife in Ecuador's Galapagos Islands. Closer to home, her favorite Michigan spots include camping in Ludington and traveling to the historic park at Fayette, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where she once was treated to watching the northern lights over Big Bay de Noc.

See additional photos at www.stockbridgecommunitynews.com.

MUNITH HALLOWEEN PARADE















Trick or Treat!

Photos by Dennis McCann, Double D Image Creations.
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STOCKBRIDGE HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREATING















Trick or Treat!

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