

Alcona County Review

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December 4, 2019

1 Section

Serving Alcona County for 142 Years

Harrisville, Michigan 48740

Kindness abounds with local Goodfellow groups

By Mary Weber
Staff Writer

Over a century ago the old newsboys Goodfellows group in Detroit, Mich., began canvassing for funds to make sure no child went without a Christmas. The idea of good Samaritans rolling up their sleeves to help fill voids in the community with kindness and support, especially during the holidays, soon caught on and Goodfellow organizations began cropping up across the country.

Alcona County has two such organizations, the Harrisville Goodfellows and the Mikado Goodfellows. While neither have any affiliation with the old newsboys Goodfellows or any other Goodfellow organization nationally, they are still companions of the community, carrying on the tradition they set decades ago to make sure no child is without a Christmas.

The Mikado Goodfellows first began in 1932 as a men's club concerned about community neighbors who were going through a hard time during the depression years. By 1941 they formally agreed to call themselves the Mikado Goodfellows.

They are active year-round with about 22 male and female members who meet once a month. Most of the funds to assist with the group's many activities are garnered through a weekly bingo held at the

Mikado Civic Center on Monday evenings, but it also asks for community assistance to make sure everything it does is covered successfully.

The group holds a grand party in December for children to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. During the punch and cookie celebration, children receive a coloring book and crayons, a bag of candy and a wrapped gift specifically chosen for their age group.

Kay Lovelace, president, said each toy is priced around \$7 and they spend upward of \$2,000 every year on the party. The party is typically held the second Sunday in December. This year it will be December 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Mikado Civic Center on F-41, south of F-30, all children are welcome.

"We prepare for 250 kids, some years we have over 300, last year we had 205. We spend about four hours on a Monday before the party wrapping the gifts. When you get 12 or 15 people wrapping, it doesn't take long to get the job done," Lovelace said. Each gift is wrapped in newsprint comics, which people save all year.

In addition to putting on the children's Christmas party the group also uses its funds to put on funeral dinners, assists those in need with hospital and medical expenses, assists Alcona

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Terry Tait puts ornaments near the top of a large Christmas tree with Lynn Robtoy. Both ladies belong to the Mikado Goodfellows, which does a number of volunteer activities all year round including decorating the Mikado Civic Center for a children's party. Photo by Wilfred Weber.

Giving value to others through God

By Mary Weber
Staff Writer

With elegant grace and quiet wisdom, an Alcona County retiree has found happiness in serving God, church and community by finding value within herself and sending that word out to others.

Like many women, Sue Wander has held many roles in her life such as daughter, sister, student, wife, teacher, mother and grandmother. One role she didn't expect after retiring from 29 years of teaching, but goes about it as if were something she has always done, is the role of evangelistic minister.

It is a role she worked hard to obtain and one she takes great pride in with her quaint Episcopalian church, St. Andrew's by the Lake in Harrisville. Father Joe Jenney from the church said it was through Sue's leadership, foresight and organization skills the church is kept on track all year.

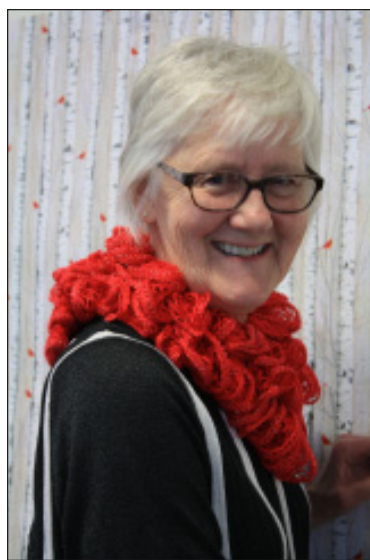
"She leads our Bible studies, plans our Advent and Lenten programs, gives half

the sermons, participates in community outreach programs and leads morning prayer one Sunday a month during the winter," Jenney said

Sue considers her role in the church as valuable, but not for who she is or what she can do. "I'm valuable because I am a beloved child of God. I don't have to do this hard life alone; God is with me. Because I am confident in that I don't have to be depressed, discouraged or cynical, which are very reasonable reactions to the world we live in. God gives me the confidence that things will work out for the good. We can do this. I think that is a wonderful gift we can offer people," Sue said.

Ever since Sue and her husband, Jim Wander, retired to Lost Lake Woods, she has been involved in St. Andrews, and goes about her day helping others.

She described herself as a "cradle Episcopalian," who grew up attending St. John's Church in Royal Oak, Mich., where her parents and three



Sue Wander

brothers attended. Her first interaction in the church was through choir, something she continued for over a decade.

"There was a lot of training involved over those years and I learned a lot. We had wonderful hymns and I was participating in the service. I wasn't just sitting there. It was a wonderful introduction to the church for me," Sue said.

She explained when she and her husband first arrived in Alcona County, St. Andrews was going through a process which appealed to her. "A common problem for small churches in northern Michigan is, despite being vital parishes, they are not able to support clergy. Our diocese tried an experiment and trained a group of local people to conduct the business of the church.

"It took five years and was quite an extensive program. In 2012, we ordained four priests and one evangelist, I was the evangelist. An evangelist is commissioned, but not ordained," she said.

Since that time St. Andrews has lost three of the four ordained priests, one through death and the others moving away from the area. Sue and Jenney are all that remain of the trained group. She explained the church is very grassroots, and despite its size of 10 to 15 pledging units - which can be a couple, a

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ACCOA board selects executive director candidate

By Cheryl Peterson
Editor

All eight members were present for a special meeting of the Alcona County Commission on Aging Monday evening to conduct the final interviews for the executive director position.

Five applicants were interviewed last week by a hiring committee and two finalists were selected - Lenny Avery of Hubbard Lake and Amanda Zielinski of Lincoln. Each spent roughly 30 minutes being interviewed by the board. Each applicant was asked the same set of questions and was also encouraged to ask questions themselves.

After interviews were completed, the board held a discussion focusing on the strengths of each applicant. Following discussion, the board unanimously agreed to offer the position to Avery. However, the personnel committee will meet to discuss a salary and benefit offer for Avery to consider.

The former executive director was terminated by the board on October 31. Suzan Krey, a previous executive director, has been working part-time to keep operation of the non-profit organization that provides services to senior citizens in Alcona County going.

It is expected that the personnel committee will meet within a day or two and then meet with Avery to make an offer, which he may or may not accept.



NOTICE

The City of Harrisville is looking to fill a vacancy for Alderman, Ward III on the city council. Please submit a letter of interest to the City of Harrisville, 200 N. Fifth St., P.O.Box 278, Harrisville, MI 48740. : All letters of interest must be submitted by Friday, December 6, 2019 at 12:00 noon. Call the city office at 989-724-6666 for any questions.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Alcona County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the FY 2020 General Fund Budget on December 18, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners meeting room on the lower level of the Alcona County Building in Harrisville. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the Alcona County Clerk's Office.

Writing Letters to the Editor

The Alcona County Review welcomes Letters to the Editor so readers can express their opinion or draw attention to local, regional or state issues. However, letters on national topics will not be accepted.

- Letters to the editor must be signed with a first and last name and include an address and phone number where the author can be reached for confirmation or questions during regular business hours. *Unsigned letters will not be published.*
- Letters must address the editor -- not government, the community, organizations or the authors of previously published letters.
- *Letters should be no longer than 300 words.* Inappropriate content will be deleted and letters will run on a space available basis.
- This forum is not intended as a thank you section for groups and organizations. *Thank yous are considered personal messages and therefore advertising.* Drop off letters to the Alcona County Review office at 111 Lake Street, Harrisville; mail to P.O. Box 548, Harrisville, Mich. 48740; or e-mail using plain text format to editor@alconareview.com.

Alcona County Review

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are always welcome. All letters MUST be signed. Freedom of speech includes the responsibility for what is said. Authors MUST include an address and telephone number for verification, not publication. Word limit is 300. Deadline is Monday at noon. All rights reserved to edit letters for style, length and libelous content. Letters express the opinion of the author, not the opinion of the newspaper or its employees.

ADVERTISING RATES are available by calling the Review office, (989) 724-6384. Display advertising deadline is Friday at 4 p.m. Classified deadline is Monday at 4 p.m.

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Obituaries



Zella M. Schwerin

Zella Mae Schwerin, 88, of Glennie, died on Friday, Nov. 29, 2019 at St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw, Mich.

She was born in Brock, Ky. on January 26, 1931 to Willie and Hannah (Overbay) Elam.

Mrs. Schwerin worked as a Title I Reading aide for the Oscoda Area Schools. She was a member of the North Country Piece Makers and the Lott Baptist Church where she enjoyed teaching Sunday school.

She was fond of gardening, baking, camping, reading her Bible and cherished time spent with her friends and family.



Mrs. Schwerin is survived by two daughters, Linda (Kelly) Karpp of Glennie and Deborah (Gary) Chapman of Brunswick, Ga.; six grandchildren, Marsha LaPointe of Lake Orion, Mich., Michelle (Rodger) LaPointe of Glennie, Joanne (Eric) Husted of Wenatchee, Wash.; Brian Chapman of Boise, Idaho, Lisa (Jason) Merryman of Brunswick, Ga., and Amanda Chapman of Birmingham, Ala.; 18 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and one sister, Lois Leadingham of Erlanger, Ky.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William; one grandson, Robbie LaPointe; one great-granddaughter, Haleigh Husted; and one sister, Zulla Clore.

Visitation is from 2-8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5 at the Buresh Funeral Home, Hale and at 10 a.m. before the funeral at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 6 at the Lott Baptist Church in Glennie. Pastor Elmer Ash will officiate. Interment will be in Glennie Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Lott Baptist Church Parking Lot Fund.

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William R. Carey

William Raymond Carey, 88, of Harrisville, died on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019 at home.

He was born May 6, 1931 to William and Helen (Mukri) Carey in Melvindale, Mich. He was raised in the Detroit, Mich. area.

On June 16, 1954, he married Lois E. Betz in Dearborn, Mich.

He served in the United States Air Force from 1954 until 1956. He was employed as an engineer at Ford Motor Company, as project engineer at Dura Corp, and as director of research and development at Eaton Corp. He invented automobile air bags.

He was a model airplane enthusiast and enjoyed building and flying his model planes. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed boating and swimming.

Mr. Carey is survived by his wife, Lois Carey; one daughter, Anne Norman of Perry, Mich. and one sister, Norma Jane Siedlik of Brighton, Mich.

He was preceded in death by one son, James Carey, and one sister, Phyllis Benitz.

Cremation arrangements were made through Gillies Funeral Home, Lincoln. Private services have been held.

Daniel L. Eddy

Daniel Lee Eddy, 54, of Greenbush, died on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019 at St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw, Mich.

He was born September 17, 1965 to Arthur Jay and Betty Lou (Taylor) Eddy in Lapeer, Mich.

He was a merchant seaman with Military Sealift Command, and worked in the construction industry as a roofer and with various tree service companies. He enjoyed hunting and gardening.

Mr. Eddy is survived by one son, Kyle W. Eddy, of Oklahoma; one daughter, Kayla L. Eddy, of Cleveland, Okla.; two grandsons, Kayden Parsons and Kamdyn Parsons; one granddaughter, Kinley Haubert; seven brothers, John Marek Jr. of Florida, David Eddy, Michael Marek of Alpena, Larry Marek of Florida, David (Rita) Marek of Birch Run, Mich., Randy



Eddy, and Jay (Debbie) Eddy of Alpena; one sister, Eileen (John) Roe, of Harrisville; many nieces and nephews; and his dog, Buddy.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Paul Eddy.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements were handled by Bannan Funeral Home, Alpena.

Brian R. Webb

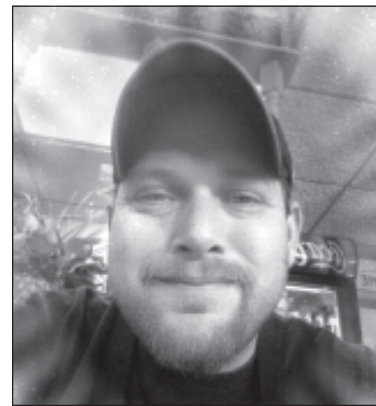
Brian Robert Webb, 45, of Harrisville, died on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Mich.

He was born August 25, 1974 to Robert and Mary Lou (Hastings) Webb in Tawas City. He has been a resident of Harrisville for most of his life.

Mr. Webb served on the Harrisville Fire Department for several years. He loved to cook, and enjoyed his job cooking at Shotmakers in Harrisville.

He liked music and spending time with his friends and family. He was an avid train enthusiast.

Mr. Webb is survived by five children, Connor Webb, Elizabeth Webb, Andrea (Kaleb) Gibson, Brooklyn Webb and Aria Webb; one grandson, Evan Andrews; his mother, Mary Lou Webb; one



sister, Laura (George Conley) Webb; one niece, Nikki (Nate Kaufman) Rousseau; one nephew, Ian Ertz and the mothers of his children, April Kammerer and Sarah Webb.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Webb in 2010.

A celebration of life event will be held at a later date. Cremation arrangements were made through Gillies Funeral Home, Lincoln.

It's believed that when a dog is mentioned in the Bible, it's referring to a Saluki, one of the oldest known breeds. Kibble.com



Calendar of Events



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

The Alcona Baby Pantry will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 5:30 p.m. at St. Raphael Church, 2531 East F-30, Mikado. Free formula, diapers, toys, new and gently-used shoes and clothing for residents of Alcona County with newborns through age four. Layettes available in the eighth month. This is not an income-based program. Santa will be there from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 5:30 p.m. with goodies for clients and the Rotary will be giving books to children.

Northeast Michigan UAW Retired Workers Alpena Council will hold its membership meeting at 11 a.m. at the 19th Hole Restaurant located on US-23 north of Alpena. Lunch will be served at noon. Bring a donation of food for the needy. A representative from Blue Cross Blue Shield will be on hand to answer questions. For more information, call (989) 356-4959 or (989) 727-4080.

Homeschoolers at the library - children of all ages are invited for a fun and educational activity at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street at 1 p.m. For more information, call (989) 724-6796.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Join fellow comrades at the veteran's coffee hour from 9 to 11 a.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 201 North Second Street in Harrisville. All veterans are welcome.

TOPS MI 1502 Mikado will meet at St. Raphael Catholic Church, 2531 F-32. Weigh-in starts at 9:10 a.m. and the meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. First meeting is free. Handicap accessible. Call (989) 736-8022, (989) 335-1107 or (989) 739-8600 for details.

Guest speaker, David Jesse of the Detroit Free Press, will share his experience and research on educational challenges in rural Michigan at the Oscoda Campus of Alpena Community College, 5800 Skeel Avenue, Room 213, Oscoda. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., presentation from 6 to 7 p.m. For more information, call (989) 739-1445.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church will host a potluck and prayer at 5 p.m. There will be a meal and a short Advent service. The church is located at 745 North US-23, Harrisville. For more information, call Jeanne at (989) 724-5090.

Mike Maturen, substance abuse prevention specialist will host a public town hall meeting to discuss the opioid crisis currently facing the nation. The meeting will be held at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street from 6 to 7 p.m.

Community Walking Club for everyone will meet at 9 a.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Storytime and craft for children at 10:30 a.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

Santa Claus is coming to town! Enjoy an evening of free family fun starting at 6 p.m. at the Lincoln Fire Hall and the Lincoln Depot. There will be hot dogs, chips, hot chocolate and coffee by the bonfire. Listen to the holiday sounds by the Alcona High School Choir under the direction of Emma Pendergrass. Additional entertainment provided by D.J. Donna Roussin. This event is sponsored by the Lincoln Lions, Friends of the Lincoln Depot and the Village of Lincoln.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Harrisville's annual Christmas in the Village will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Activities include a holiday bazaar at Maria Hall, hayrides and much more. For more information, call the Alcona County Chamber of Commerce at (989) 724-5107.

A cookie walk will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 201 North Second Street starting at 9 a.m. Why bake when you can take a cookie walk and get holiday cookies.

There will be bake sale and a lunch at the Harrisville United Methodist Church, 217 North State Street (US-23), from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Frosty's Festival of Gifts Christmas Bazaar at New Life Lutheran Church, 25 East Kirche In The Woods, Spruce from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Holiday baked goods, pantry items, frozen foods, handmade note cards, fresh green floral arrangements, craft items, Rada cutlery and much more. A brunch will be served from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The church is located six miles north of M-72 off Hubbard Lake Road, just south of Mt. Maria Road.

Christmas in the Village activities at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street from noon to 1:30 p.m. Visit with Santa, create a holiday craft and decorate a cookie. For more information, call (989) 724-6796.

An all-you-can-eat taco and nacho bar fundraiser will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Backwoods Bistro in Lincoln. Cost is \$12 for adults and includes water, pop or coffee. There will be a cash bar, drawing and Chinese auction. This event is sponsored by the Alcona Spanish Club and proceeds will go toward the trip to Costa Rica in June 2020.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Sunrise Side Strummers ukulele jam session from 2 to 4 p.m. at Wiltse's Brew Pub, 5606 North F-41 in Oscoda. All levels of ukulele players are welcome. Family and friends are encouraged to come and sing along. There is a \$1 donation to defray costs. For more information, call Paula at (989) 724-5080.

The Thunder Bay Arts Chorus will join other area musicians to perform holiday music at Trinity Episcopal Church, 124 East Washington Avenue, Alpena at 3 p.m. Song sheets for holiday music will be distributed at the door for the always popular holiday community sing. A generous reception with holiday favorites will follow the concert. There will be no charge for admission.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Individuals whose lives are affected by depression or another mental health condition are welcome to attend Fresh Hope, a Christian-based support group for those with mental health challenges. Loved ones are also welcome. Meetings are from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Old Stone Church on the corner of Shaw and Poor Farm roads, Harrisville. For more information, contact Claire at (989) 724-6665.

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FAREWELL PAMELA A. MELLEN... may you rest in peace.

Pamela A. Mellen, my soulmate, best friend, co-pilot, partner, wife and everlasting love of mine has passed away at the age of 48 on November 25th. She has left behind her most cherished loves, her daughter, Anna and son Aaron, along with family and friends, who along with me will miss her greatly. She was truly "selfless", kind, with a keen wit and humor. She was truly special in every way.

We had so many wonderful, unique adventures from our time together in Harrisville, Michigan, Florida, New Mexico, Colorado and many other places. One of our very special memories together was getting married by Obadiah Franklin in Florida. We were driving on US-27 in Sebring, Florida when we happened to see a man carrying a 12 foot long red cross, 8 feet wide, dressed in red at the side of the road. We were fascinated, so we stopped, and he explained he was a preacher, that he had literally walked from Tennessee to Sebring, Florida carrying the cross. We shared that we were getting married, he asked us if he could marry us as a preacher. He performed the ceremony for us right then and there on a grassy hill, overlooking Highway 27. It was a very powerful, moving and profound experience for Pam and I, which we never forgot. We subsequently were married again a couple weeks later at the planned ceremony performed by Admiral Busby at the Butterfly Sanctuary in Key West.

Ironically, we found out that the "legal" Admiral had never even been in the service and was really a big-time poser and the "preacher" carrying the cross, was the true, real deal. We always considered the ceremony by Obadiah as our true marriage.

Two of her most recent passions and accomplishments were the earning of her Bachelor's Degree in the spring of 2018, in Criminal Justice from the San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico and working at Hope Shores Alliance being a true advocate for helping and supporting survivors of abuse, especially the children. This was a true passion that consumed her, because of the very depth of her very "selfless" nature.

I am heartbroken and empty that I will not be able to speak to her and see her again here on this earth. However... I am equally as grateful to have had the time with her and the memories of everything we did and shared together in the many years we had together.

We privately paid our final respects and honored Pam at our family gathering on Thanksgiving day.

Sweet farewell Pam (my Dilly), I will always love you.

-Your Dilly....Mathew Thomas Burt



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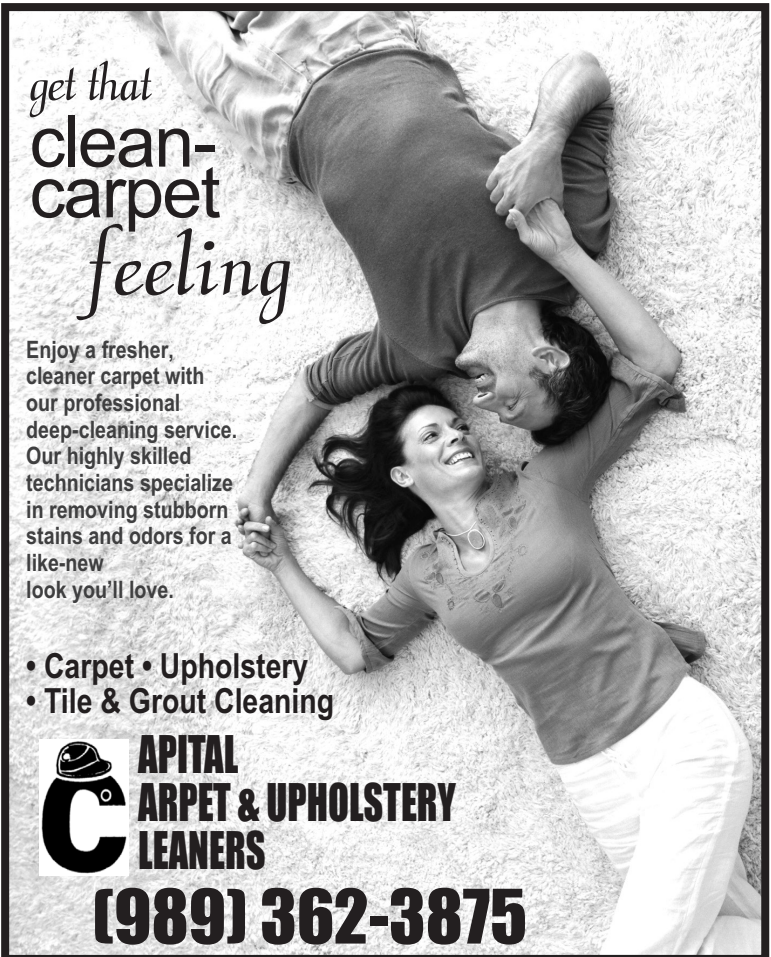
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Local Notes

Timber Tax Workshop

The Alcona Conservation District is hosting a Timber Tax Workshop on Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Alcona Natural Resource Field Office, 320 South State Street (US-23) in Harrisville. Susan Metcalfe, of Metcalfe Forestry, will lead the workshop and cover capital gain treatment of timber harvest, cost basis of timber, timber depletion allowance, proper tax record keeping, and forest property tax abatement programs. She is a registered forester, certified timber tax consultant, and co-owner of Metcalfe Forestry of Gaylord.

The workshop helps forest property owners understand and optimize the tax treatment of timber harvest income, forest management costs, and property tax relief. The program is free and open to the public. Call the Alcona Conservation District for more information at (989) 724-5272 or visit www.alconaconservation.org.

Senior Menu

The following meals will be served during the week at 4 p.m. in Glennie at the United Methodist Church and at 5 p.m. at the Lincoln Senior Center. No reservations are required at the Lincoln Senior Center, however call (989) 736-8879 by 7 a.m. for meals served in Glennie. No membership is required. Sug-

gested donation of \$3 per meal is welcome.

- Monday, Dec. 9—Stuffed green peppers, buttered noodles, wax beans, tossed salad, mixed fruit, bread, and milk.
- Tuesday, Dec. 10—Chicken chili, corn, tossed salad, Jell-O with fruit, wheat bread, and milk.
- Wednesday, Dec. 11—Tuna and noodles, broccoli, pineapple, wheat bread, and milk.
- Thursday, Dec. 12—Beef stew, diced pears, a biscuit, and milk.
- Friday, Dec. 13—Fish almondine, brown rice, lima beans, tropical fruit salad, and milk. *(Friday meals served in Lincoln only.)*

Christmas Lights Judging

The Barton City Improvement Association will be judging the Christmas decorations in Barton City on December 11 at 6 p.m. Anyone in Barton City who would like to participate in this event should have their lights on by 6 p.m. There will be cash prizes for three places. Anyone who would like to help with judging should be at the fire hall by 6 p.m. For more information, call Arlene Cirillo at (989) 736-3294.

Santa Assists Chorus

The Jolly Old Elf will appear during Huron Shores Chorus' annual Christmas program on Friday, Dec. 6 at

7 p.m. at Oscoda United Methodist Church and Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. at Tawas Area Presbyterian Church. The theme for this year's program, "Comfort and Joy," is filled with traditional melodies and poems set to music.

A few songs on the program are "A Musicological Journey Through the 12 Days of Christmas" a humorous pairing of the beloved words with classical music styles; John Rutter's "Angels' Carol" tells of the heavenly host watching over and making sure all is well; "Comfort and Joy," a modern, rhythmic rendition of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" will be performed by unaccompanied chorus; and Santa himself will be present to greet listeners and pass out candy during a musical rendition of the timeless poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Listeners will be invited to share the joy of singing during the traditional carol sing-along at intermission led by members of the chorus. There will also be the customary invitation to all who wish to join the chorus to sing in the program finale, "Hallelujah Chorus."

Huron Shores Chorus is a nonprofit organization funded by donations alone. A \$5 donation for adults is suggested with children and youth admitted for free. The chorus is under the direction of Tracee Behnke-Lentz.

Chrzanowski/Yokom plan nuptials

Jessica Chrzanowski and Dustin Yokom announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Christina Chrzanowski and Daniel Chrzanowski of New Jersey. She graduated from Oscoda High School in 2015. She is employed as a cosmetologist at Profiles Hair Design and Tanning in Oscoda.

The future groom is the son of Steve and Teri Yokom of Harrisville. He graduated from Alcona High School in 2014 and Grand Valley State University in 2019. He is employed as a teacher at Alcona Community Schools.

A June 6, 2020 wedding is planned in Lincoln.



Jessica Chrzanowski and Dustin Yokom

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Tigers host Posen in season opener

By Ben Murphy
Sports Writer

In some seasons, records can be deceiving. Take last years' 9-11 Alcona varsity boys basketball team for example. While the Tigers finished below .500, five of their losses came at eight points or less. Had Alcona found a way to flip those results, it would have been staring at an entirely different season.

Nonetheless, the Tigers are amped up for the start of the 2019-20 campaign.

"We played in quite a few close games but struggled to produce enough offense to come out on the winning side of things," said third year head coach Ryan Bilbey. "These guys are competitors and intelligent ball players. I expect our quickness will be a huge asset for us this year."

Back from last year's team are seniors Aidan Wrobel (center), Mason Clark (guard), Dominic Howe (guard) and junior Zach Stephenson (point guard).

"All four returning players will need to lead the newcomers," Bilbey said. "These guys know what I want and will keep the team focused. We are pretty even and deep this year. It is going to be nice to have so many options during a game."

New to the team is senior Robert Barbado (guard), juniors Nick Rasmussen (forward), Jacob Sytek (guard), Chris Barnes (guard), Louis Urban (forward) and freshman D.J. Howe (guard).

"We've tried to spend more time than usual on the offensive side of things during the early part of the season," Bilbey said. "This team is aggressive and smart. We will focus on applying pressure to our opponent on both ends of the court and staying unselfish. We have spent a great deal of time on ball handling but will need to prove we can shoot the ball well consistently."

The Tigers are hoping to make some noise in the North Star League Big Dipper, though they will have to contend with tough squads in Oscoda and Mio to do so.

"Both of those teams had great success last year and have returned most, if not all their key players," Bilbey said. "Certainly, other teams in the league are going to be a handful but they are the teams to beat this year. It may take us a few games to find our stride, but I believe we can surprise some people. Our team goal is always to win the league title, but that is no small task given the talent level within the North Star League."

After Monday's opener with Posen, the Tigers head to Tawas on Thursday, Dec. 12.

"We played Posen during the summer and they were tough on offense and had sound fundamentals," Bilbey said. "It will be a close game and an exciting way to start the season."

Lady Tigers open season Thursday against Wildcats

By Ben Murphy
Sports Writer

When the Alcona varsity girls basketball team hits the court Thursday in Alpena, it will also mark the start of a much anticipated season for the Lady Tigers.

While Alcona didn't win the North Star League Big Dipper or a district title last year, it did give undefeated Oscoda a scare in the district final. With a big chunk of that squad returning, the Lady Tigers are hoping for a flurry of success this winter.

"We improved a lot throughout the year and, although we lost one or two that maybe we shouldn't have, we played really well in the district tourney," said fourth year head coach Mark Feldhiser. "So far, so good (this year). We had a really good summer and practice has been going good. It will take some time to figure out how all of the new pieces fit in with the returning players, but we like our team and we like our effort so far."

"I think that this team can have some real success," he added. "The key is for them to stay committed, and trust in each other and themselves. I like the makeup of this team. We play pretty tough schedule this year, so that should help us."

While the team has only been practicing for a few weeks, Feldhiser has already found some areas he is keying in on for his team.

"We have really focused on defense, fundamentals and conditioning," he said. "There are a lot of off days in our early season practice schedule, so we really had to pay attention to the conditioning aspect. Again, just trying to get everyone on the same page with our basic packages, so we can have enough accomplished by the time the season starts. We know that we won't be have everything fine tuned for a while, but we will be ready."

Returning from last year's team that went 13-8 are seniors Megan Grove (guard, all-conference), Courtney Winter (guard), juniors Liz Henderson (post), Rachel Layton (post), Lily Bilbey (guard) and Anna Loyer (guard).

New to the team are juniors Caroline Forsythe (guard), Carly Forsythe (guard), Delaney Forsythe

(post), Taylor Clark (post), Ashlyn Gordy (guard), Karen Sharboneau (guard) and freshman Kelsey Hansen (post).

"Grove is a four year varsity player and we are counting on her to be our floor leader, just as she has been," Feldhiser said. "She works really hard in practice and games. We are also expecting leadership from our only other senior, Courtney Winter. Courtney has been in our program for a while, and she understands the expectations. We had four sophomores on varsity last year, so we will counting on all four of those players to make up for the significant graduation from last year. We also know that some of the players from last year's JV team, as well as one freshman, have a chance to play significant minutes and make contributions."

Oscoda is once again favored to win the NSL Big Dipper, though Feldhiser feels the Lady Tigers can be in the mix as well.

"I think that just about everyone would agree that, based on last year, and what you see on paper, that us and Oscoda should be the favorites," he said. "Oscoda won last year, so they are definitely the team to beat. That said, we learned last year that the practices and games happen on the floor, not on what we think should happen. I think that every team in Big Dipper is capable of beating the others, and I also expect very good games from the teams in the Little Dipper. We have to be ready to play a full game every time we step out there."

After Thursday's opener in Alpena, Alcona heads to Posen on Tuesday, Dec. 10 and hosts Tawas on Friday, Dec. 13.

"Alpena is a tall task, especially for the first game of the season, not at all sure what to expect," Feldhiser said. "We just want our girls to go out and play our style of basketball and see what happens. We need to be ready when league play starts the second week of December. The first (team) goal is to always be playing your best basketball by the end of the season, heading into districts. Our goal is always to be near or at the top of the NSL, and to win the district title."


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The **Harrisville Branch** (312 W Main St, Harrisville) of the Alcona County Library will be closed Monday December 9, 2019 to Friday December 20, 2019 for repairs. *During this time the **Lincoln Branch** (330 Traverse Bay Rd, Lincoln) will have extended hours Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.* The Alcona County Library and its staff regret any inconvenience this may cause to our patrons. If you have questions or concerns, please call us at 989-724-6796.

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Children's Activities

Alcona County Library
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Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Visit with Santa (noon to 1:30 p.m.)
Children's craft activities
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What to do when Medicare says “no”

Dear Savvy Senior,
How do I go about appealing Medicare when they won't pay for something that they covered in the past?

Rejected Rhonda

Dear Rejected,

If you disagree with a coverage or payment decision made by Medicare, you can appeal, and you'll be happy to know that around half of all appeals are successful, so it's definitely worth your time.

But before going that route, talk with the doctor, hospital and Medicare to see if you can spot the problem and resubmit the claim. Some denials are caused by simple billing code errors by the doctor's office or hospital. If, however, that doesn't fix the problem, here's how you appeal.

Original Medicare Appeals

If you have original Medicare, start with your quarterly Medicare Summary Notice (MSN). This statement will list all the services, supplies and equipment billed to Medicare

for your medical treatment and will tell you why a claim was denied. You can also check your Medicare claims early online at MyMedicare.gov, or by calling Medicare at (800) 633-4227.

There are five levels of appeals for original Medicare, although you can initiate a fast-track consideration for ongoing care, such as rehabilitation. Most people have to go through several levels to get a denial overturned.

You have 120 days after receiving the MSN to request a “redetermination” by a Medicare contractor, who reviews the claim. Circle the items you're disputing on the MSN, provide an explanation of why you believe the denial should be reversed, and include any supporting documents like a letter from the doctor or hospital explaining why the charge should be covered. Then send it to the address on the form.

You can also use the Medicare Redetermination Form. See CMS.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/download/CMS20027.pdf to download it or call (800) 633-4227 to request a copy by mail.

The contractor will usually decide within 60 days after receiving your request. If your request is denied, you can request for “reconsideration” from a different claims reviewer and submit additional evidence. A denial at this level ends the matter, unless the charges in dispute are at least \$160 in 2019. In that case, you can request a hearing with an administrative law judge. The hearing is usually held by videoconference or teleconference.

If you have to go to the next level, you can appeal to the Medicare Appeals Council. Then, for claims of at least \$1,630 in 2019, the final level of appeals is judicial review in U.S. District Court.

Advantage and Part D Appeals

If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage health plan or Part D prescription drug plan the appeals process is slightly different. With these plans you

have only 60 days to initiate an appeal. And in both cases, you must start by appealing directly to the private insurance plan, rather than to Medicare.



Savvy Senior

with step-by-step procedures on how to make an appeal, visit Medicare.gov and click on the “Claims & Appeals” tab at the top of the page.

Get Help
If you need some help contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which has counselors that can help you understand the billing process and even file your appeal for you for free. To locate your local SHIP, visit ShiptaCenter.org or call (877) 839-2675. The Medicare Rights Center also offers free phone counseling at (800) 333-4114.

If you think that your plan's refusal is jeopardizing your health, you can ask for a “fast decision,” where a Part D insurer must respond within 24 hours, and Medicare Advantage health plan must provide an answer within 72 hours.

If you disagree with your plan's decision, you can file an appeal, which like original Medicare, has five levels. If you disagree with a decision made at any level, you can appeal to the next level.

For more information, along

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Kindness Continued from page 1

County fire victims, provides donations to The Salvation Army, Friends Together, Alcona County Fair, and the Harrisville State Park's Haunted Halloween weekend.

At Christmas, the Mikado Goodfellows donate to three Mikado area churches, Calvary Baptist, St. Raphael Catholic and Community Church of Christ. It also donate to St. Vincent de Paul and the Alcona County Baby Pantry.

The Mikado Goodfellows put up the annual Christmas decorations at the Civic Center and the street decorations in Mikado.

Seniors, age 70 and up, are also on the group's priority list. Each year it supplies pocket planners and gifts of money to seniors in their service area which runs west to the county line, east to Poor Farm Road, north to M-72 and south to the north side of Kings Corner Road.

Lovlace said the group awards four \$500 scholarships annually, two for Alcona High School students and two for Oscoda High School students.

She said members have a lot of fun participating in three parades each summer, man the gates for at least one day during the Alcona County Fair and provide ice cream and volunteer help during the fair's ice cream social.

The Harrisville Goodfellows also began in the 1930s. Scott French, a Harrisville Goodfellow of over 40 years, said they got their start when Hazen "Ki-Ki" Cuyler, a local boy who became a national baseball player in Chicago, Ill., during the 30s, came home with the idea to do something for the community during Christmas.

"We are strictly Christmas guys. We celebrate the Christmas story and put the Nativity scene up every year in Harrisville. We begin meeting the third week in October and don't quit until after New Year's. We meet once a week, but we really don't have to meet -- we know what we have to do, we do the same thing every year," French said.

He explained the group is loosely organized and has between the nine and 15 men who show up to get the job done -- all are 100 percent committed to the task. There have never been any women in the group, but there is no reason a woman couldn't join them if one wanted to, French said. All are welcome to join, especially young adults. Like many groups in the county, younger members are needed to help with the heavy lifting and to keep the group moving into the future.

To fund their projects the Harrisville Goodfellows rely on the community by the "Give a Buck" campaign, something members of the group say often during the year. It also relies on business donations. Their service area covers much of Harrisville Township and the City of Harrisville.

Each year on Christmas Eve, every child on their list less than 11 years old receives a bag of candy with a visit from Santa between the hours of 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.



Harrisville Goodfellow Mike Baird puts the finishing touches on the 80-foot tree the group decorates each year at the corner of M-72 and US-23. *Courtesy photo.*

French explained they rely on parents, friends and neighbors to call them to make sure children are on the list for a Santa visit. While the Goodfellows have addresses where they stop, it's important the porch light is left on Christmas Eve so Santa can find the home.

All senior residents in the area, who are not living in an adult care facility, receive a basket of fruit prior to Christmas Eve. "In some cases, if there is a great need, we supply a dinner basket too," French said. He explained the

donations can be sent to Harrisville Goodfellows, P.O. Box 1, Harrisville, Mich. 48740.

The Mikado Goodfellows meet at the Mikado Civic Center at 7 p.m. on Thursdays with some holiday exceptions. Membership is typically sponsored, but they are always looking for new members, people can either just show up at a meeting or call (989) 464-7103. Donations to the Mikado Goodfellows can be sent to 2515 Armstrong Road, Mikado, Mich., 48745.



Donna Kovac (left) and Andrea Thibodeau (right) both Mikado Goodfellows work at putting Christmas decorations up in the Mikado Civic Center. *Photo by Wilfred Weber.*

fruit baskets go out to all seniors, whether there is a need or not, just to say Merry Christmas.

In addition to making sure children and seniors have a happy Christmas, the Harrisville Goodfellows also light the evergreen tree at the corner of M-72 and US-23. "The tree is about 80 feet tall and takes 1,950 lights to decorate it," French said. The group uses the electricity at the Craftmakers' Cabin, but they are responsible for paying the bill when the lights on the tree are lit.

The Harrisville Goodfellows meet at the City of Harrisville's fire hall at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. If interested in volunteering or to let the Harrisville Goodfellows know of a child or a senior needing a visit, call (989) 724-5420 or (989) 724-5077. Monetary



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Giving Continued from page 1

family or a single person -- it does not depend on one or two people to run the church.

She loves the Episcopal religion and the congregation of St. Andrews. "I may have started in the choir, but as I grew up, I came to appreciate the ritual, the wonderful language, the amazing promises and challenges this religion offers. It has been a church that has had to grow -- women priests, how to deal with homosexuality, and, I recently went to a workshop on how to dismantle racism. It is a church that has had to stretch.

"St. Andrews is a wonderful example of that struggle with change and how to adapt to it. We are people who try to walk the walk, in addition to talking the talk. Service and awareness of the needs in our community are very important to us," she said.

Her role at the church has also stretched with adapta-

tion, she is part of the ministry team, is a licensed preacher, worship leader and eucharistic visitor, but with soft-spoken modesty, she made it clear that very few good works are performed by one person and many at the church and throughout the community work together to spread God's joyful words.

"I am very fortunate to be part of some wonderful teams, including the Alcona County Clergy Association, which any clergy in the county can join," Sue said. She explained the association offers a safe place and support for clergy to come together to celebrate their similarities and not their differences.

The association also reaches out by offering community revivals, a Thanksgiving service and a Good Friday service.

Sue helps coordinate My Brother's Hope Café which

provides between 80 to 120 meals to people in need once a month. The meal, which is provided by 11 different community churches, is held in conjunction with the Alcona County Food Pantry distribution on the second Saturday of the month.

She is also part of a collaborative monthly service in which clergy from St. Andrews and Haynes Community (Old Stone) Church holds for residents of Lincoln Haven Nursing Home. According to Sue, the service at the nursing home, which began this year, is not a typical church service.

In a recent article published in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan Magazine, Sue wrote: "Many members of the congregation fall asleep during the service. The singing is hesitant and often out of tune and people wander in and wander out. There are shouts of 'get out of here.' Yet this service has become one of the most-attended services we offer outside the church."

She explained the community effort behind the service, how the Lincoln First Baptist Church provides the song books and how Susan Armstrong, a local organist and pianist, plays a rousing and bouncing tune at the end of service.

It isn't until after the last hymn is sung though, when the real healing of God takes place according to Sue's article: "Joe (Jenney) and Claire (Duncan) go from individual to individual offering healing prayer. We all gather around the prayer recipient, touching them and offering a hearty 'amen.'"

"Most of the resident's welcome prayer. Knowing many will not see full recovery, we pray for a calm day, a peaceful night, relief from worry, or an improvement in a condition."

"I never want to come to this service. It is a painful reminder of what might be in the future. But I am always glad I went. This service feeds the souls of the receivers and the souls of the givers."

When Sue isn't busy with church, she is spending time with her husband of 44 years having fun in Lost Lake Woods where they play darts, have a small sailboat and recently took up biking. The couple has two American water spaniels, Cody and Gracie, of which the latter is still a puppy and needs a lot of attention.

In addition to all of that, Sue has recently discovered a love of cooking, something she didn't care for when she was teaching and raising a family.

The couple has two daughters who live in Ohio and New York and four grandchildren who they keep in contact often through visits every summer and Skyping (talking face-to-face via computer).

St. Andrew's is located at 745 N. US-23. Sunday service is at 10 a.m., Christmas Eve service is at 5:30 p.m. Advent soup and pie suppers are held the first three Thursdays in December and a special event, Lessons in Carols, will be held at the church December 29. For more information, call (989) 724-5160.

American Life in Poetry

By Ted Kooser
U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006

I don't suppose there are many of our younger readers who have started to worry about the possibility of memory loss, but I'd guess almost everybody over fifty does. Peter Schneider lives in Massachusetts and this is from his book *Line Fence*, from Amherst Writers and Artists Press.

Lost in Plain Sight

Somewhere recently

I lost my short-term memory.
It was there and then it moved
like the flash of a red fox
along a line fence.

My short-term memory
has no address but here
no time but now.

It is a straight-man, waiting to speak
to fill in empty space
with name, date, trivia, punch line.
And then it fails to show.

It is lost, hiding somewhere out back
a dried ragweed stalk on the Kansas Prairie
holding the shadow of its life
against a January wind.

How am I to go on?

I wake up a hundred times a day.


Who am I waiting for
What am I looking for

Why do I have this empty cup
on the porch or in the yard?

I greet my neighbor, who smiles.

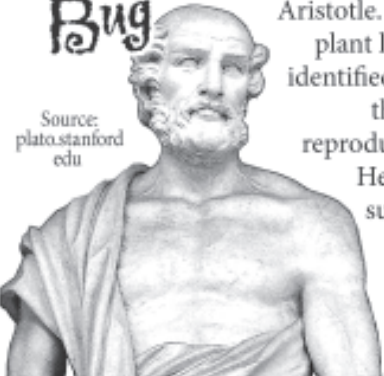
I turn a slow, lazy Susan
in my mind, looking for
some clue, anything to break the spell
of being lost in plain sight.

(*American Life in Poetry* is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of *Poetry* magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb. Unsolicited manuscripts are not accepted.)



Theophrastus (c. 371-287 BCE) was a philosopher, and a close colleague of Aristotle. One of his many interests was plant life. In his writings on them he identified hundreds of plants, detailing their appearance, various parts, reproduction, habitat and cultivation. He meticulously categorized and subdivided the plants according to their differences. Modern botany owes much to this work done in ancient times.

Source: plato.stanford.edu



- B. Weaver

Exchange student's dream comes true in Alcona County

By Mary Weber
Staff Writer

An exchange student is realizing her dream by first winning a tough competitive scholarship to be a student in the United States and then by acquiring just the right host family in Alcona County.

Nurzhamal Makhmat-alieva (pronounced Nur-ji-mal Ma-hackt-ma-ta-leave-a), known by most of her friends as Nurka, said she couldn't have found a better family or area to spend her study year abroad with. The 15-year-old senior is attending Alcona High School while living with the Jon and Ivy Pfoutz family in Harrisville until she goes back to her country of Kyrgyzstan in June.

"It was my dream to visit a cold place in the United States, I wanted to go to either Michigan or Washington state. In Bishkek, where I go to school, the coldest it gets is about 30 degrees and we never get deep snow but maybe one time in our history. I want to see deep snow," Nurka said.

She explained coming to the states was a dream of hers since she was a child. "I always watch the American movies and cartoons like Tom and Jerry. I've always wanted to visit. I love the movie 'Home Alone' and watch it every year," Nurka said.

In addition to being part of the American Scandinavian Student Exchange Program (ASSE), Nurka is one of 92

Future Leader Exchange (FLEX) students. FLEX is a program in which thousands of students compete academically for scholarships.

She speaks five languages, Kyrgyz, Russian, Uzbek, Turkish and English, fluently. She is learning Spanish and hopes to speak that and German someday. Although she felt her English was not as strong as she would like it, she had no problem communicating the differences between Alcona County and her home in Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan.

Nurka explained it was a culture shock to come here and see so many homes displaying the United States flag and how, in her country, flags are displayed but not typically on homes.

She also noted that Americans eat a lot of fast food, in her country they eat homemade food every day.

According to Nurka, it is very common for the oldest son in the household to live with his parents, even after getting married, and how his wife is expected to live with her mother and father-in-law for the remainder of their years.

Nurka is the youngest of four children in her home and has two older brothers and an older sister. She explained her sister-in-law, a Kyrgyz woman, who met her oldest brother in Mackinaw, Mich., while on a work/travel visa, cooks for the family ev-

ery day, which also includes Nurka's aunt who lives with them.

Although coming to the states was a dream, there have been a few things which were very scary which she has had to overcome -- her fear of dogs and how to sleep in a room by herself.

For the last four years, Nurka has attended Sebat, an all-girl Turkish high school in Bishkek. Because Kyrgyzstan is so mountainous, it would take her 11 hours to drive to her parents' home in Jalal-Abad, so Nurka flies home each weekend to visit with her parents.

While at school, she stays in a dormitory room with five other girls, as a result, she was not used to staying in a room by herself. "I'm very proud of how she has adjusted, now she seems to like her room," Ivy said.

Another adjustment was getting used to the Pfoutz family, which includes Ivy's children, Mekenna Seminoff, 16 and Sawyer Seminoff, 13 and the family's two dogs.

Nurka explained she enjoys the people but was traumatized when she was very young by a dog attack and that her mother would never consider having pets in the house. "My mother is clean, clean, clean, and would not have an animal in her home. We do have chickens outside. My brother likes eggs and they are expensive, so we have chickens, but no pets in the

house," Nurka said.

Ivy said it was tricky when first bringing Nurka to their home and how they would have to put the dogs outside, in another room or on another floor, when Nurka was there. "She was just terrified of the dogs, something we were not aware of until just prior to her coming here. She has done such a good job of overcoming her fear. Now she will even pet them," Ivy said.

Another surprise to Ivy was that in Kyrgyzstan, not everyone has a dryer. Ivy said when she washed Nurka's clothes and handed her the dry clothing to fold Nurka thought perhaps Ivy performed magic to get her clothes clean and dried so quickly, and they were warm, something the teenager had never had before.

Nurka explained her life at school was very busy and students have eight classes each day. The girls are up early and eat breakfast from 7:15 to 7:45 a.m. which is followed by 10 minutes of exercise and then reading time for 30 minutes. "You have to read books to warm up your brain," Nurka said.

Nurka, who is a national chemistry Olympiad in Kyrgyzstan, explained the lessons are accelerated and intense at her Bishkek school. As a result, she is having an easy time with the lessons she is learning here with the exception of U.S. history and economics, both of which she



Nurzhamal Makhmat-alieva

said the teachers were very understanding and allowing her a bit of extra time to get her work done.

Classes at Sebat end at 4:45 p.m. and the girls then have time to enjoy leisure lessons in basketball, volleyball, karate or music. Nurka is enjoying the emphasis on sports at Alcona High School and said she participated in cross-country track in the fall and is now playing basketball.

"I like cross-country very much. It helped me overcome my laziness. I have never seen people run so fast and was very surprised to see it at the big competitions. It makes me want to improve. I like the feeling when I race. It feels good to finish. I think it is the best sport for me and it helped me with basketball in doing sprinting. I have problems with my legs, so I am not

Continued on page 20

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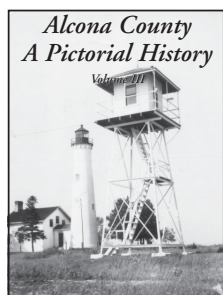
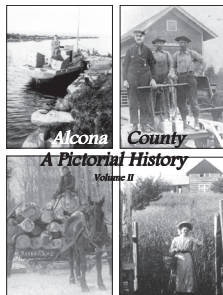
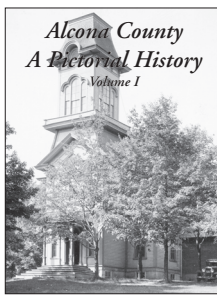
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Makes a Great Christmas Present

How firewood became a hot topic

By Joanne Foreman
Michigan DNR

Years ago, most people wouldn't give a moment's thought to tossing an armload of firewood into the trunk before heading out on a weekend getaway. But nowadays, that bundle of wood from home might create an issue if the destination is a park or campground.

In Michigan and across the U.S., state and national parks and private campgrounds are urging visitors to leave firewood at home and buy it locally – or better yet, buy U.S. Department of Agriculture-certified, heat-treated wood – due to concerns about invasive tree pests and diseases.

Invasive species are those that are not native to Michigan and whose introduction can cause harm to the environment, the economy or human health.

Two firewood producers from the Upper Peninsula, Mel Hittle of Michigan Fuelwood Products in Newberry and Chad Lemery of Beaver Creek Wood Products in Menominee, are under contract with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to provide firewood for some state park campgrounds. Their experiences help shed light on how and why the firewood industry is changing.

Why did firewood become such a problem?

Some would say the emerald ash borer, an invasive insect that destroyed tens of millions of ash trees in Michigan, raised the issue of firewood as a carrier of tree pests and diseases.

Lemery pointed to an ear-



Heat-treated wood burns hot and produces minimal smoke, making it ideal for campfires. *Photo courtesy of Michigan DNR.*

lier culprit – the gypsy moth – and the federal quarantine it inspired.

According to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, invasive gypsy moths, in their caterpillar life stages, defoliate close to a million forested acres each year.

In the early 1980s, it became apparent that this species, introduced to Massachusetts in 1869, was spreading more rapidly than natural movement could account for. The moths and their fuzzy brown egg masses were hitching rides on forest products, nursery stock and even recreational equipment to establish new populations, sometimes hundreds of miles away.

To slow the spread of gypsy moths, the USDA expanded a quarantine to infested states, including Michigan, regulating the movement of items including Christmas trees, live plants and firewood.

For certification, firewood must be heat-treated to a core temperature of 140 degrees for 60 minutes. This effectively kills organisms including insects, larvae and fungal pathogens that cause tree diseases, reducing the risk of spreading invasive species.

Certified firewood that has met USDA heat treatment and inspection standards bears a compliance stamp along with the producer's name and address.

Opening a wood products business in Menominee, on the Michigan-Wisconsin border, in 2006 required Beaver Creek to navigate both federal and state quarantine regulations.

"It seemed likely that firewood quarantines would grow, so Beaver Creek set out to become USDA-certified right from the beginning," Lemery said. "This would allow us to cross state boundaries and quarantine zones."

Quarantines have not grown – in fact, though the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's internal emerald ash borer quarantine slowed the spread of the species to the U.P., it was rescinded in 2018, after the insect had been found in most counties in the U.P. as well as areas of neighboring Wisconsin. The USDA has proposed lifting the federal emerald ash borer quarantine to focus resources on managing the pest within the 35 infested states.

What has grown is the list of invasive insects and tree diseases that can be transported by firewood. Oak wilt and beech bark disease are spreading through Michigan. Asian long-horned beetle is present in Ohio, New York and Massachusetts. Spotted lanternfly is as close as Pennsylvania, and thousand cankers disease of walnut has been detected in Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

According to Heidi Frei, a DNR natural resources steward, many state parks throughout Michigan are already showing the effects of unchecked invasive species.

"Otsego Lake, South Higgins Lake, Interlochen, Warren Dunes, Hartwick Pines, Waterloo, Brighton and Island Lake are just a few of the Michigan state parks and recreation areas that have been hit hard by invasive forest pests," Frei said.

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A female gypsy moth deposits an egg mass on a tree trunk. *Photo courtesy of Karla Salp, Washington State Department of Agriculture.*

Likewise, when the emerald ash borer was discovered in Michigan in 2002, its movement was linked to transporting firewood cut from ash trees killed by the invasive beetle. Live emerald ash borer larvae can survive and hatch from under the bark of cut ash trees, emerging to infest new locations.

A federal external quarantine restricting ash wood movement from Michigan to other states, as well as a state internal quarantine regulating ash transportation between specific zones in Michigan, went into effect in 2002.

Both quarantines allowed the movement of firewood if it was USDA-certified.

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Trumpeter swans make Alcona Pond home

There is a record-breaking number of trumpeter swans on the AuSable River at Alcona Park – approximately 375 adults and 140 cygnets. According to Alcona County resident and wildlife photographer Maggie Berch, they began migrating because of the rapid deep freeze in mid-November. The freezing of small ponds and lakes in Canada, the Seney Refuge in the Upper Peninsula and in lower Michigan contributed to the record number on the AuSable River.

She explained the AuSable River provides open water that is shallow enough for food as well as shelter. “They make a loud ‘honking’ sound and



Trumpeter swans at Alcona Pond. Photos by Maggie Berch.



markings include black swooping beak and black around the eyes. It is the largest swan with a wing span more than eight feet.

“They are still on the river and can be viewed by going to the Alcona Park, west primitive campground located west of Glennie on Bamfield Road and turn north on Brodie Road near the Curtisville Mall store and drive about one mile to the road leading to the park,” Berch said. “Once you enter the park you will see the white trumpeter swans actively eating, flying, sleeping and maybe having some confrontations with each other. Bring your binoculars, camera and enjoy this spectacular grouping of trumpeter swans.

According to the Audubon Field Guide, largest of the native waterfowl in North America, and one of the heaviest flying birds, the trumpeter swan was almost driven to extinction early in the 20th century. Its healthy comeback is considered a success story for conservationists.

Ordinarily the trumpeter is quite sensitive to human disturbance; in protected areas, such as some parks and refuges, it may become accustomed to humans and allow close approach.

Trumpeters can be found in lakes, ponds, large rivers; in winter, also bays. It favors large but shallow freshwater ponds, or wide, slow-flowing rivers, with lots of vegetation. Most of current range is in forested regions, but at one



time was also common on northern prairies. They take food from underwater, or on or above water’s surface; sometimes on land, especially in winter. To forage in deeper water, swans upend with tail up and neck extending straight down, finding food by touch with bill.

On average, they lay four to six eggs, up to nine. Eggs hatch in 32-37 days. Young can swim when less than one day old. Both adults tend young, leading them to feeding sites. Young are not fully capable of flight until three to four months after hatching.

Trumpeter diet is mostly plant material. Adults eat mainly stems, leaves, and roots of aquatic plants. They may eat terrestrial grasses and waste crops in winter. Young eat many insects and other small invertebrates, mainly during first two weeks after hatching.

Trumpeters usually form pairs from two to four years old, but nests for first time between four to seven years. They often mate for life. Nest site is surrounded by water, as on small island, beaver or muskrat house, floating platform. A nest is a low mound of plant material, several feet in diameter, with a depressed bowl in the center.

Trumpeter Swans once nested over most of North America but disappeared rapidly as civilization advanced westward. By the 1930s, fewer than 100 remained south of Canada. With protection from hunting and disturbance, populations have rebounded in parts of the northwest.

More recent efforts have focused on reintroducing the species to areas thought to be part of the former breeding range, including Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario.

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Calendar of Events

Continued from page 3

A timber tax workshop will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Alcona Natural Resource field office, 320 South State Street (US-23), Harrisville. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.alconaconservation.org or call (989) 724-5272.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Sunrise Community Food Pantry will be open from 1 to 3 p.m. at Hubbard Lake Bible Church, 13508 Hubbard Lake Road, Hubbard Lake. Clients are asked to come only one time per month and must be present to receive food. The pantry accepts clients regardless of county of residence. Identification is required. Bring a box or bag. For more information, call (989) 727-3606.

Friends of the Alcona County Library will meet for lunch at the Alcona Brew Haus in Harrisville at noon.

The Barton City Improvement Association will be judging Christmas decorations in Barton City at 6 p.m. Anyone who would like to help judge the decorations, meet at the fire hall at 6 p.m. For more information, call Arlene Cirillo at (989) 736-3294.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

TOPS MI 1502 Mikado will meet at St. Raphael Catholic Church, 2531 F-32. Weigh-in starts at 9:10 a.m. and the meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. First meeting is free. Handicap accessible. Call (989) 736-8022, (989) 335-1107 or (989) 739-8600 for details.

St. Andrews Episcopal

Church will host a potluck and prayer at 5 p.m. There will be a meal and a short advent service. The church is located at 745 North US-23, Harrisville. For more information, call Jeanne at (989) 724-5090.

A program "Celebrating 150 years of Great Lakes' Iconic Bulk Freighters" will be presented at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, 500 West Fletcher Street in Alpena at 7 p.m. Free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Stephanie Gandulla at (989) 884-6200.

Community Walking Club for everyone will meet at 9 a.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

A holiday concert featuring the Alcona bands and choir will be held at 6 p.m. in the Alcona High School Auditorium. The concert will feature holiday selections performed by the sixth-grade band, seventh-grade band, and the high school band and choir. There will also be a few small ensembles featured at the performance that performed at the District solo and Ensemble Festival in Beaverton. Admission is free and open to the public.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

Storytime and craft for children at 10:30 a.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

Community Christmas Celebration at Harrisville United Methodist Church, 217 North State Street (US-

23), at 7 p.m. Musical performances by Kim Casey, Laura Frawley, Lisa Keyser, the children's choir and the church choir. Bring the kids to hear the Christmas story. Light refreshments will be served.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Recycle Alcona County will hold drop off day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the ARA site on Barlow Road in Lincoln. Enter and exit through the north gate. For more information, call (989) 724-5077.

The Alcona Food Pantry will be open from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Harrisville United Methodist Church, 217 North State Street (US-23).

There will be a Christmas cookie sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Glennie United Methodist Church on M-65 next to the post office in Glennie. Sponsored by the United Methodist Women.

Annual Christmas Live Nativity at Family Heritage Baptist Church, 4260 M-72, Harrisville, performing one night only from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Twenty-minute tours on the half hour. For more information, call (989) 335-8282.

Alcona County Commission On Aging (ACCOA) Christmas Craft Show and Bake Sale at the Lincoln Senior Center, 207 Church Street from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (989) 736-8879.

Dean Arbour Ford of Tawas and the Iosco Animal Shelter are hosting the 10th annual Santa Pics with Pets from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a \$5 charge per picture. Pet buffet table and adoptable pets. All proceeds go to the Iosco County Animal Shelter.

(Editor's Note: Entries for Calendar are always welcome. The Deadline is Friday at noon. They will be published in chronological order as space allows. Entries should be turned in at least two weeks prior to the date of the event. Events sponsored by businesses or individuals to make a profit or governmental units for meeting notification are not eligible for this free public service. Sorry, bingo, garage sales, raffle ticket sales, or political campaigning information is not eligible.)

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 Pastor Char McGuire • 736-3486

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 Pastor: Fr. Robert Bissot • (989) 724-6713

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 • Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.

Weekly SUDOKU
 Answer

4	3	2	8	6	5	9	1	7
5	7	6	4	9	1	8	2	3
8	1	9	2	3	7	6	4	5
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9	5	3	7	4	6	2	8	1
2	8	4	5	1	9	7	3	6
7	6	1	3	8	2	4	5	9

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Buggy Rides

From the files of the Alcona County Review



Bold, bad boy burglars

Well Planned Robbery of the Post Office But the Robbers Came to Grief

December 6, 1894 ~ It has long been customary in this village to close the post office at meal time and about 5:30 o'clock last evening, pursuant to this established custom, John Macgregor locked the back and front doors of the building and went to supper. About the same time Fred Beede and Alfred Alcorn, youths of 10 and 12 years, could be observed wending their way down Lake Street, there was nothing in this action to awaken suspicion, but concealed in their youthful minds was a plan of robbery which must have been the result of mature deliberation.

As soon as the coast was clear the boys went to the rear of the post office building, where an outer and an inner sash door separated them from the interior. It was the work of only a moment for young Alcorn to break a pane of glass with his elbow and through this opening his companion was assisted. The second door was forced by Beede alone in the same manner but, in his haste he cut his hand on the glass and bloody stains left their tell tale marks upon the sash Beede was onto his job. As the saying is.

He knew where the till was and it was but the work of a few minutes to stuff the contents of one till and of the cash drawer in the open safe into his pocket and then to beat a hasty retreat. That it was a hastily executed job seems apparent for some bank bills lying upon the desk in plain view were overlooked and two watches in the till were not taken. The robbery was discovered as soon as the office was reopened. It was plain that it was the work of boys for a man could not have crawled through the door sash.

Suspicion pointed to young Beede for he has been guilty of similar offenses before and the Alcorn boy has also. The boys were met not long afterwards and were jingling the money in their pockets. They expended 40 cents of their wealth at the Alcona House for a mouth organ. Their cunningness left them after the completion of the job and they left a trail wherever they went. To capture the culprits was therefore a simple task and Sheriff Lund soon ran them to cover, secured a confession and the balance of the plunder, which amounted to \$26.96. No arrests have been made but the boys will probably be brought to justice and made an example of.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Potter honored with shower

December 4, 1969 ~ Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Potter were hosts of a stork shower held in their home Friday, November 28 in honor of their son and daughter in law, Mr. and Mrs. James Potter of Ypsilanti.

Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Gil Potter and Ginger of Mt. Clemens, Mr. and Mrs. Chris VanAntwerp of Lowell, Miss Judy Potter of East Lansing,

Mrs. Milton Moore of Harrisville, Mr. Alma Dewar of Harrisville, Mrs. and Mrs. Norman Oliver and Joyce of Lincoln, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Johnston of Harrisville and Mrs. Glen Clark of San Francisco, California.

Games and refreshments were enjoyed by all and the couple opened many lovely gifts to welcome their expected baby.

Mrs. J. Cook receives national honor

December 4, 1969 ~ Mrs. Nancy Ann Hosmer Cook, wife of James Cook, Alcona County prosecuting attorney, has been nominated to have her name published in the 1970 edition of "Outstanding Young Women of America."

Outstanding Young Women of America is a program designed to recognize the abilities of young women between the ages of 21 and 35 throughout the country.

This annual program recognizes those young women who unselfishly contribute to the betterment of their communities, professions and country.

Each year over 5,000 young women are nominated by leading women's organizations and college alumnae associations across the country. Complete biographical sketches are featured in the annual publication.

Licensed to operate disposal area

December 4, 1969 ~ Robert K. Potter of Lincoln has received his license to operate a solid waste disposal area in Hawes township on the Hubbard Lake Road from the Michigan Department of Public Health.

This is the first time Al-

cona County has had a private sanitary landfill operation under Act 87 of 1965, the solid waste disposal law.

Potter, who operates Bob's Disposal Service, a door-to-door trash and garbage pickup service, covers most of the northern part of the county.

Alcona cagers open season, Dec. 5

December 4, 1969 ~ This year's varsity and junior varsity basketball teams at Alcona High will get under way at Houghton Lake Friday, December 5, and will have their first home opener on Tuesday, December 9 against Fairview.

Under the direction of coach Jim Emington, the season's outlook is good due to the return of four starters from last year's teams, plus the solid play of two first-year seniors as well as four fine looking underclassmen.

However, the team will not be blessed with any great height, as the tallest man on the squad checks in at 6' 1".

Co-captains this year at Alcona are Robert Potvin, a three year veteran forward and honorable-mention all-stater, and Robert Somers, a two-year veteran, post man, and all-league player.

At the guard slots are two experienced players, senior Alan Stephenson, who last year scored a 13 point per game clip, and junior John McIntyre, who came into the starting line-up at mid-season.

Rounding out the starting squad may pose a problem as there is a battle for the forward; spot between David Somers, a junior who missed

last season due to a football injury and a first-year senior, Ben Torsch, who has been doing exceptionally well so far this season.

At the backup guard positions and coming on fast are Bill Bush, a first-year senior, and Tof McIntyre, a freshman. Both boys show a great deal of potential.

Working at the backup forward positions are two fine looking sophomores, Carl Ellinger and Perry Budreau.

The Tigers had a preseason scrimmage with Alpena Catholic Central High school varsity, winning in regulation time, 77-74.

Announce engagement

December 4, 1969 ~ Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Gauthier of Black River are announcing the engagement of their daughter Suzanne to Evans A. Bissonette, son of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Bissonette of Bay City.

Suzanne is employed at Michigan Bell Telephone Co. in Midland. Mr. Bissonette is employed at Dow Corning Corporation also in Midland. An April 18 wedding is being planned.



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Harrisville Climatological Observations for 2019

Weekly Report

Date	Temperature (F°)		Water Content	Miles Per Hour		
	High	Low		Av. Wind Speed	High Speed	Dominant Direction
November 24	47	26	0.00	2.2	17	WNW
November 25	40	28	0.00	3.4	16	SSW
November 26	46	28	0.00	2.1	7	SSW
November 27	48	33	1.98	8.2	29	ESE
November 28	33	30	0.00	5.6	25	NNE
November 29	32	29	0.00	4.3	17	N
November 30	34	28	0.00	12.8	26	ENE

Precipitation Summary (Inches)

2019-2020 Season

	Water Content	Snow Fall	Normal Water Content
Weekly Total	1.98	0.0	0.47
Month of November	2.79	13.3	2.08
Year/Season to Date	21.60	14.4	26.57

Climatological Observations taken by Stanley L. Darmofal at the Harrisville National Weather Service Coop Station located 1.8 miles NNE of Harrisville Post Office. Observations for each day are from midnight through 11:59 p.m. T=Trace (less than 0.005" Water Content.)

Alcona County Review Classifieds

Ads may be brought in to our office at 111 Lake St., Harrisville
 Cost per ad is \$4.50 for the first 10 words and 15¢ for each word thereafter. Boxed ads are \$5 per column inch. Ads and payment must be received by 4 p.m. Monday.

Call 989-724-6384

All Classified Ads **MUST** be Paid in Advance We accept: Cash, Checks, Visa, Mastercard and Discover

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- Harrisville Shell
- The Flour Garden
- Harrisville Grocery

GREENBUSH

- Cedar Lake Grocery

LINCOLN

- Fick & Sons
- Kris Mart

- Lost Lake Woods
- Lincoln Pharmacy

MIKADO

- Mikado Market
- Nedo's Farm Market

SPRUCE

- Chippewa Pt. Grocery

HUBBARD LAKE

- General Store

BARTON CITY

- General Store

CURRAN

- Curran BP

GLENNIE

- Roger's Food Pride

OSSINEKE

- Francis' Ossineke BP

OSCODA

- Gary Oil
- Gilbert's Drug Store
- Oscoda Shell Station
- Pete's Party Store
- Sunrise Citgo

BOARD OF REVIEW

**PUBLIC NOTICE
 DECEMBER 2019 BOARD OF REVIEW
 HAYNES TOWNSHIP**

Will be held at the Haynes Township Hall
 3930 E McNeil Road, Lincoln, MI 48742
 on Tuesday, December 10th
 From 10 a.m. until business is concluded

The purpose of this meeting is for correcting qualified errors, clerical errors, and mutual mistakes of fact. The December Board of Review also has the authority to grant principal residence exemptions, disabled veterans exemptions, and poverty exemptions. The owner of the property for which a principal residence exemption has been rescinded may appeal that recession to the December Board of Review. An owner who owned and occupied a principal residence exemption June 1st of 2016, 2017, 2018 or 2019 may appeal to the December Board of Review if the exemption was not on that year's tax roll. Qualified Disabled Veterans or their surviving spouses may file for an exemption on the 2019 Tax bills for the property they own and occupy as their homestead. Affidavits must be filed with the assessor by December 9th. Property owners may apply for a hardship poverty exemption on their principal residence if they have not already applied for the exemption in the 2019 calendar year. A fully completed application for consideration of a hardship poverty exemption must be submitted to the assessor prior to December 9th. No other appeals may be considered at this time.

Becky Schroeder, Haynes Township Assessor
 1871 Lakeshore Dr., Harrisville, MI 48740
 American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice: The Township will provide necessary and reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 5 day notice. Contact the assessor at 989/724-5676.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
 TOWNSHIP OF ALCONA
 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING
 3:00 PM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019
 ALCONA TOWNSHIP HALL
 5576 N. US-23, BLACK RIVER, MICH. 48721**

The purpose of this meeting is to correct qualified errors, clerical errors and mutual mistakes of fact relating to the assessing of taxes as described in General Property Tax Act Section 211.53b, as amended, and to hear exemption appeals only. For Principal Residence Exemption an owner who owned and occupied a principal residence on June 1, 2019, for which the exemption was not on the tax roll may file an appeal with the December Board of Review in the year for which the exemption was claimed or the immediately succeeding 3 years. MCL 211.7cc(19) as amended. For Qualified Agricultural Exemption appeals the owner of property that is "Qualified Agricultural" but not classified agricultural on June 1, 2019 may appeal to the December Board of Review for the current year and the immediately preceding tax year pursuant to MCL 211.7ee(6). An eligible Veteran or their surviving spouse may appeal their 2019 Property Tax on their Principal residence at this meeting. A person in Poverty may appeal to the December Board of Review for a Hardship Exemption from Taxation for the current year for property that is their "Principal Residence" on June 1, 2019 pursuant to section 7u as amended. A hardship Exemption Application and the required documentation must be submitted to the Township Assessor by Friday December 6th 2019.

Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA) Notice: The township will provide necessary and reasonable services to individuals with disabilities upon seven days notice. Contact Assessor Sarah Gohl at (989)464-5557.

HELP WANTED

Now hiring RNs, LPNs, CNAs and a cook. Apply at Jamieson Nursing Home, 790 South US-23, Harrisville, Mich. 48740. (989) 724-6889.

Mikado Home Health seeking CNAs and HHAs, 36 hour shift and 24 hour shift. (989) 736-3202.

The Alcona County Trial Court is seeking applicants for appointment of a full time (35 hours per week) Probate/Juvenile Register. Position will initially perform juvenile register duties and will transition to the probate/juvenile register position within 90 days of hire. Responsible for the performance of non-judicial and quasi-judicial acts required of the probate court and creation and processing of records for the juvenile division of the circuit court. Primary office located in Harrisville, Mich. Full description available at <http://alconacountyymi.com>. Advanced degree and paralegal certification preferred; high school diploma required. Preference will be given to individuals with prior court or legal experience. Letter of application and resume should be directed to Trial Court Administrator Alysa Pichler, Alcona County Trial Court, P.O. Box 385, Harrisville, Mich. 48740. Applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 2.

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Mikado Goodfellows Bingo every Monday 6:30 p.m. at Mikado Civic Center. Winner-takes-all game and hot ball. All proceeds to charity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is hereby given pursuant to MCL 600.3212, that the following will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public auction at the place of holding the circuit court within Alcona County, at 10 a.m., on December 18, 2019. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Erik S. Johnson, a married man. Original mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns. Foreclosing assignee (if any): Midfirst Bank. Date of mortgage: December 22, 2015 Date of mortgage recording: December 29, 2015. Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$118,618.50. Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in township of Haynes, Alcona County, Michigan, and described as: The west

1/2 of the west 1/2 of the southeast 1/4 of Section 34, Town 27 North, Range 9 East. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16). If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: November 20, 2019
 Trott Law, P.C.
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 11-20, 11-27, 12-4, 12-11

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Firewood Continued from page 10

“For example, over the last six years, more than 1,000 trees in P.J. Hoffmaster State Park have been lost to oak wilt. The campground, which once was home to beautiful, mature red oaks, had to be almost entirely clear-cut because of infestation. That resulted in the loss of campsites surrounded by the forest canopy, important wildlife habitat and much-needed shade.”

The potential to lose more tree species to invasive species has caused an increase in firewood restrictions.

Beginning in 2014, national parks, forests and lakeshores, including Isle Royale and Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan, adopted policies regulating firewood to limit the spread of tree-killing pests and diseases. Policies vary by park, ranging from complete bans to permitting only locally purchased wood.

In 2018, Michigan’s state parks began requiring firewood vendors serving the parks to work toward attaining USDA certification for firewood. Vending contracts prioritized those who were certified or were, at minimum, heat-treating their firewood.

Mel Hittle started his business in 2008 with the purpose of providing kiln-dried wood because, he said, “I knew there was a market for wood that was dry.”

Like Lemery, Hittle became USDA-certified to access markets beyond the U.P. quarantine zone, including the Lower Peninsula and other states.

Today, both Hittle and Lemery exceed USDA certification standards by treating their wood at higher tem-



Emerald ash borers, invasive insects that have destroyed tens of millions of ash trees in Michigan, are seen emerging from an infested ash tree. Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of Agriculture.

peratures for a much longer amount of time than required. This is less about invasive species and more about providing wood with a very low moisture content – what Hittle calls “beef jerky.”

“People are buying kiln-dried wood because they prefer a quality product dried to a moisture content that doesn’t create as much creosote,” Lemery said. “People want a product they can easily light just by throwing a match into it.”

Hittle’s customers are also looking for high BTU (British thermal units, a measure of heat output) and a product that won’t bring bugs into the house. “Those with high-efficiency wood burners really need kiln-dried, low-moisture wood,” he said.

Hittle staunchly supports a requirement for firewood certification, even though the emerald ash borer has already done its damage.

“The Asian long-horned

beetle is not a problem here yet, but it will be if we don’t heat-treat,” he said. “Why wait until it gets here? Let’s try to keep it out!” He admitted that even though he has competition from nearby gas stations, campers still are choosing his wood, “Because it burns!”

Beaver Creek has evolved into providing high-quality firewood with a higher price point. “The product speaks for itself, with demonstrated sales,” Lemery said. “We offer a more attractive product, so much so that people often pick up two bundles instead of one.”

USDA-certified wood may have a higher cost on the open market than green or seasoned wood, but so far it hasn’t affected the cost of a bundle of wood at state parks, according to Jason Fleming, resource protection and promotion chief in the DNR’s Parks and Recreation Division. “No matter what state park you visit, a bundle of wood sold by the park is \$5,” Fleming said.

Outside of state parks, many large gas station chains and big box stores carry USDA-certified wood.

“If certified wood is not available, aged or seasoned wood is not a good substitute,” Fleming said. “Wood that looks clean and healthy can still have tiny insect eggs or microscopic fungi spores that will start a new and deadly infestation.”

Buying firewood where you will burn it can help prevent the spread of invasive pests and diseases. A good rule of thumb is only using wood that was cut within 50 miles of where you’ll have your fire.

“It isn’t just state parks that are losing trees due to invasive tree pests,” said Sue Tangora, DNR forest health and cooperative programs section supervisor. “Moving wood between homes and recreational properties, taking wood up to the lake or home from the hunting cabin can jeopardize landscape trees and forests.”

When planning to travel, visit FirewoodScout.org to locate firewood vendors in that area. Since costs can vary, call ahead to find the best deal.

More information about invasive species and how to help prevent their spread is available at Michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies.

Exchange Continued from page 9

doing a lot of sprinting,” Nurka said.

Another big difference in schools, besides boys being in her classes, is that Alcona students can sometimes have cell phones in class and occasionally even listen to music on them. Cell phones are strictly prohibited in Sebat, even in the dormitories. Nurka said the school wants students to talk to each other and not on social media. Sebat offers a main phone in the dormitory so girls can call their parents if they need to.

Nurka is thrilled with her host family saying they were very nice to her and that she is trying hard to return the favor. “I think of them as my own parents. It is a big thing to host someone’s child and give to them like they are family. It’s a lot of responsibility for them and I am grateful. They took me into their home and their heart. It is very nice here,” Nurka said.

She is very excited to spend the holidays in the United States, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas and hopes to travel a bit while she is here. Ivy said they will be taking her on a family trip to Florida and possibly an exchange student trip to New York or Chicago, Ill.

Nurka said she loves American jazz music. She feels she has the soul of an American

and likes how Americans live and act. She especially enjoys how Americans do not put on airs to please others, which is something common in her home life in Jalal-Abad. Nurka said, “Everyone at home is always concerned about what other people think of them, how they dress and act for others is important. Here it is more for what the person wants, they make themselves happy. I like that a lot. That is more me.”

Ivy said her family is very blessed having Nurka to host. “This is our first-time hosting and it has been a great experience for our kids and us. She really fits in here very well. That doesn’t always happen, so it’s been very exciting. She is like a ray of sunshine.” A fitting response since Nurka’s full first name in Kyrgyz means sun and giver of light.

Nurka plans to someday become a surgeon, pharmacist or possibly go into biomedical engineering. She hopes to study someday at the University of Michigan or the University of Chicago and would like very much to keep in touch with the Pfoutz family and visit them again. In turn, the Pfoutz’ feel the same and Ivy is already researching and planning a future trip to Kyrgyzstan.

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