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# Alcona County Review

\$1.00

VOL. 150 No. 9

February 26, 2020

1 Section

Serving Alcona County for 142 Years

Harrisville, Michigan 48740

## EDC committee investigates broadband options

By Mary Weber  
Staff Writer

A committee formed just six months ago has been investigating options for broadband in Alcona County.

The committee of nine consisting of Doug Cheek, Joyce Hook, Susan Haight, Marlana MacNeill, Judy MacNeill, Cheryl Peterson, Dan O'Conner, and Scott Rice is operating under the auspices of the Alcona County Economic Development Corporation committee, (EDC) which the Alcona County Board of Commission oversees.

With county commissioners, Craig Johnston and Dan Gauthier, the group has met monthly since last November and is researching strategies to bring high-speed Internet to many more residents in

the county.

Cheek, spokesperson for the EDC committee, discussed the progress at a recent, well-attended, county board meeting. He explained the group's focus was to discover, investigate, facilitate and recommend well researched and thought out broadband strategies, partners and proposals as well as other potential economic development opportunities and potential solutions for the county.

Cheek said of the top five things which would stimulate development in the county, high-speed broadband rose to the top of the list. "Its infrastructure is so poorly served here it's unbelievable. We have farmers who cannot check their commod-

ity prices, we'd like to see telemedicine available, school kids are struggling to do their homework and must go to the library or stay after school to access the Internet. Grandparents want to see and talk to their grandchildren.

"It's become an economic driver in our county and will drive other businesses that want to put headquarters here. They walk away when they hear they cannot get broadband. It hurts real estate," Cheek said.

According to Cheek, Connect Michigan projected property values for waterfront property increased seven to 10 percent if high-speed internet was provided and a five percent increase for houses inland of the lakes.

Supplying Alcona County with high speed broadband will take some time though,

Cheek explained, because of the extraordinary number of facets needing to be connected involving multiple suppliers, vetting and research.

He explained there will be an amalgam of Internet service providers (ISPs) working through three phases, the backbone of the project being the first phase which is the fiber trunks, then the mid-mile phase where a different provider might attach to that. The last-mile and final phase will be getting the service inside every house, which according to Cheek, will be the toughest phase to solve.

The committee's first project was to map a landscape of the county to see where fiber has been laid and who owns what. "The current fibers which are dotted

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Doug Cheek, EDC Committee spokesperson, reports to the Alcona County Board of Commissioners at a recent meeting. Photo by Mary Weber.

## Fugitive found in Arkansas

By Cheryl Peterson  
Editor

A fugitive who has avoided arrest for almost three years will be coming back to Alcona County to face the sentencing he skipped out on in 2017.

According to the Alcona County Sheriff's Department, John Clifford Tesmer, 52, of Mountain Home, Ark., has been a fugitive from justice since October 2017 when he failed to appear for sentencing in 23<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court.

The sheriff's department has been working with the Michigan State Police Fugitive Team since 2017 to locate Tesmer. He will be extradited to Alcona County after facing charges allegedly occurred while being arrested during a traffic stop in Baxter County, Ark. He was arrested there on February 20 and charged with obstructing governmental operations, resisting arrest and fleeing. He is lodged in the Baxter County Jail.

Tesmer pleaded guilty on August 8, 2017 to four felony counts in two different cases in Alcona County's 23<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court. The first case happened on January 7, 2017 and he was charged with two felony counts -- assault to do harm less than murder and assault with a weapon. The second case which, according to court records, happened between January 26 and March 4, 2017, included two felony counts for forgery and obtain, possess, transfer with intent to commit identity theft.



John C. Tesmer

He was to appear on October 10, 2017 to be sentenced in both cases. He was also scheduled to appear in 81<sup>st</sup> District Court on October 11, 2017 for two preliminary examination hearings for two cases in which he was charged with larceny in a building and receiving and concealing stolen property more than \$1,000 but less than \$20,000. He was out on bond while waiting to appear in court for all four cases.

According to the Alcona County Sheriff's Department, at the time of his disappearance, Tesmer was wearing a tether which is a GPS system used to monitor his location. He was also ordered to physically report to the sheriff's department each morning.

"On October 9 at 11:58 a.m. the tether/GPS system showed a location south of Standish, Mich.," said Sgt. Jim McGuire in 2017. "This was the last location reported by the tether." McGuire explained that during the investigation into Tesmer's disappearance, it was determined that he had purchased a motorhome "shortly before October 10."

## Alcona Tigers nab two road wins

By Ben Murphy  
Sports Writer

With districts right around the corner, the Alcona varsity boys basketball team has strung together perhaps their best play of the season recently.

The Tigers claimed North Star League crossover win (52-46) at Atlanta on Friday, Feb. 21. The victory was their third in a row and fifth in their last seven games.

"We started strong but we had stretches where we didn't score very well," said head coach Ryan Bilbey. "We were getting a lot of good looks just not converting at times. I felt it was hard to get in a rhythm because it was a physical game and we weren't making our foul shots."

Aidan Wrobel netted four

of the team's eight points in the opening quarter, though Atlanta matched each Tiger basket as it was 8-8 after one.

In the second quarter, D.J. Howe hurt the Huskies for 10 points, with Dominic Howe adding a three-pointer as Alcona pushed ahead 28-20 at the half.

The third quarter saw Wrobel get back into the scoring column with six more points, though Atlanta pulled within 38-36 entering the fourth.

The Tigers were busy at the line in the final period, hitting 10-of-16 to help them seal the victory.

"We closed out the game from the foul line in the fourth," Bilbey said. "D.J. Howe, Gavin Walker and Chris Barnes gave us great

minutes off the bench and did a nice job running our press."

Leading the way in the win was D.J. Howe with 15 points. Wrobel put in 12 and Dominic Howe added nine. Jacob Sytek, Mason Clark and Walker were good for four points apiece. Netting two apiece were Zach Stephenson and Robbie Barbato.

On Wednesday, Feb. 19 the Tigers picked up another NSL crossover win, 57-35.

"I thought we played pretty well other than about a two minute stretch in the second quarter, where we let up and they knocked some shots down," Bilbey said. "We got good contributions from everyone. We limited our turnovers to 13 which is an important part of our success."

Dominic Howe and Wrobel led the way in the opening quarter, putting in five and four points respectively. Alcona only scored six points total in the second frame, though it still held a 23-14 lead at the half.

In the third, threes by Walker and D.J. Howe helped Alcona extend the lead and Clark netted seven points total in the period.

Wrobel also netted seven points in the fourth as the

Continued on page 6



Alcona varsity bowlers Isabella Bates (152.56 average) and Brenden Hudgins (202 average) earn All Conference, first team honors. Courtesy photo.



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**EDC** Continued from page 1

around the county are very disparate. It's not connected in any sensible way. It's a little like playing whack-a-mole, some of those pipes may be owned by several providers," Cheek said.

Johnston talked about the fiber optics laid in the last several years in the county and how these installers received grants to do the work but didn't accomplish much. "We've got fiber going down dead-end roads that nobody can hook up to. That's been a big part of this committee's work, finding out where it is, who owns it, who is in control of it and how we can get the right people to tap into it."

The committee has been going to surrounding areas to see what is working and not working for other rural communities like Alcona County. Currently, the committee is talking with a knowledgeable supplier that understands the

complexity of the issue, but Cheek would not disclose the name of the supplier saying it was too early in the process.

He also explained what has happened recently in Oscoda Township when they were looking for a solution with voice over Internet protocol (VOIP).

"We've been watching that project carefully and it has turned out to be successful both for the initial problem with the phone system and getting the infrastructure in place. They had a company come in and put in a massive fiber hub with one side being Merit the other side AT&T, so if one goes down the other will cover it," Cheek said

According to Cheek not every household in Oscoda Township is wired and their next problem will be to get those suppliers into the mid-mile and last-mile phase of the equation.

Members in attendance at the meeting asked Cheek if grants had been sought to fund a provider to come in. He explained the problem with a lot of the grants is they

to acquire a volunteer who has a strong financial background conversant in writing grants.

Cheek explained the community will have to be patient

"It's become an economic driver in our county and will drive other businesses that want to put headquarters here. They walk away when they hear they cannot get broadband. It hurts real estate."

Doug Cheek,  
Alcona County EDC Committee Spokesperson

require a provider already be in place, and most providers wouldn't even consider Alcona County.

According to Johnston, because this is such a rural area, the profitability for many providers just isn't here, so they aren't interested.

However, Cheek acknowledged there are many different types of grant funding and said after the meeting that the committee would like

as it takes time working with providers. Cheek was instrumental in getting a cell phone tower in Harrisville which took three years to complete but was accomplished.

Johnston said finding the right providers and then giving them confidence that the county is behind them is essential.

Cheek is optimistic the process of the first phase, a hub installation in the county, may happen in the next year but didn't want to guarantee anything.

He explained that bringing high speed broadband to Alcona County will take some time.

Johnston said he was very pleased with the committee's determination and drive and would like to see a similar committee formed to increase hunting and fishing tourism in the county.

Cheek will be reporting to the board of commissioners quarterly on the EDC committee's progress. For further information or if someone with grant writing experience would like to volunteer, contact [alconaedc@gmail.com](mailto:alconaedc@gmail.com).



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**PUBLISHED** weekly on Wednesday at the county seat of Alcona County. Mailed as periodical class matter at Harrisville, Michigan 48740. (UPS 012-900).

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS** are \$25 for residents of Alcona County, \$29 for snowbirds and \$32 for out-of-county subscribers. Rates are based on mailing costs. Online subscriptions are \$20 per year. Subscriptions are not refunded.

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## Mikado resident dies in crash

By Cheryl Peterson  
Editor

A Mikado resident was killed in a single-vehicle accident over the weekend.

According to the Alcona County Sheriff's Department, the accident occurred on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 12:30 a.m. on F-41 north of King's Corner Road in Mikado Township.

Dale Alan Dykes, 41, of Mikado was the driver and sole occupant in the vehicle when it crashed. He was ejected from the automobile and pronounced deceased at the scene, according to Alcona County Sheriff Scott Stephenson.

The crash remains under investigation; speed and alcohol are suspected as contributing factors.

"We've had three (other) pretty serious crashes in this area in the last year," Stephenson said. "Oscoda Township has also had at least one serious crash that I can recall as well. However, they are all very dissimilar. There doesn't seem to be anything wrong with the roadway."

Mikado Township Fire Department and Medical First Responders, along with Alcona EMS responded. The sheriff's department was assisted at the scene by the Michigan State Police and Oscoda Township Police. Alpena County Sheriff's Department assisted with the accident investigation.



## Obituaries

### Gregory T. Bolam

Gregory T. Bolam, 54, of Harrisville, died on Friday, Feb. 14, 2020 at MidMichigan Medical Center in Alpena.

He was born May 20, 1965 to Thomas and Lorraine (Matusik) Bolam in Pontiac, Mich. He was raised in Walled Lake, Mich.

In 1990, he moved to Harrisville where he worked in construction with Harvey Builders.

Mr. Bolam was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing.

He was an exceptional mushroom hunter and known as the "Morel King."

Mr. Bolam is survived by one son, Kyle Bolam; one daughter, Shelby (Josh) Bolam; his mother, Lorraine Bolam; one sister, Laurie (Jeff) Moll; two brothers, Perry (Kara) Bolam and Todd (Lisa) Bolam; many nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles, including his dear aunt, Gloria Lauzon; and his beloved canine friend, Drake.

Cremation arrangements were made through Gillies Funeral Home, Lincoln. A family memorial service is being planned.

### Merle G. Good

Merle G. Good, 82, of Boyne City, Mich., formerly of Gustin Township, died on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020 at home.

He was born October 31, 1937 to Russell and Eva (Procnier) Good in Gustin Township, where he was raised.

Mr. Good worked at Ford Motor Company as a tug driver. On September 24, 1960, he married Arlene Johnson, and they were residents of Livonia, Mich.

He was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose in Livonia, Mich.

He retired from Ford in 1989, and the couple moved to Gustin Township in September 1992.

Mr. Good was a former member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Barton City. He enjoyed hunting and golfing.

In January 2018, he moved to Boyne City, Mich. to be closer to his family. He was a member of the Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Petoskey, Mich. and the Boyne City Fraternal Order of the Eagles.

Mr. Good is survived by his wife, Arlene; two daughters, Betsy (John) Hicks of Charlevoix, Mich. and Nancy (Harold) Eklund of Charlevoix, Mich.; seven grandchildren, Michael Hicks, Alan Hicks, Megan Hicks, Tina Carpenter, Harold Eklund Jr., Danielle Gunderson, and Erik Eklund; seven great grandchildren, Wyatt Hicks, Tyler Hicks, Gunnar Hicks, Jax Hicks, Whitney Eklund, Brandon Eklund, and Nathan Eklund; and one brother, Arthur (Evelyn) Good of Lincoln.

The funeral was held Saturday, Feb. 22 at Gillies Funeral Home, Lincoln. Christina Bright officiated. Burial will be in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Barton City in the spring.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Michigan, Gaylord, Mich. or to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Petoskey.

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# Calendar of Events



## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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 info., call (989) 727-3606.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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.

TOPS MI 1502 Mikado will meet at St. Raphael Catholic Church, 2531 F-30, 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.

Enjoy fresh, buttered popcorn at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street at 2 p.m.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

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.

Reformers Unanimous, a faith-based addictions recovery program, will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Greenbush Community Baptist Church, 2430 South State Street. For more information, call Pastor Wayne Whitten at (989) 335-0172.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Celebrate the extra day of the year at the Barton City Eagles 4141, 671 Sanborn road. Coney dogs and fries for \$6 from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information, call (989) 736-6570.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 1

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.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 3

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.

Knitting Klub and Crochet will meet at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street from 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. All levels welcome. For more information, call (989) 724-6796.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

The Alcona County 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 in Mikado. Free formula, diapers, toys, new and gently used shoes and clothing will be available for residents of Alcona County with newborns through age four. Layettes are available in the eighth month. This is not an income-based program.

Northeast Michigan UAW Retired Workers Alpena Council will hold the monthly meeting at the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Restaurant in Alpena at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon. Bring a donation of food for the needy. A representative from Blue Cross Blue Shield will attend the meeting. For more information and to register, call Nick Williams at (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, MARCH 5

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.

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-30, 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.

Learn what the chamber can do for local businesses, meet other chamber members or become a member at the Networking Mixer from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Alcona Brew Haus, 676 North US-23, Harrisville. Free non-alcoholic drinks, discounted beer and appetizers. For more information, email alconacounty-chamber@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Alcona County Chamber of Commerce.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 6

Storytime and craft for children from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

The Alcona Baby Pantry

will host a Texas Holdem Tournament at Vista Lanes, 5214 North US-23, Oscoda. Cash games start at 4 p.m., tournament starts at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Huron Poker Room at (989) 305-1826.

Reformers Unanimous, a faith-based addictions recovery program, will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Greenbush Community Baptist Church, 2430 South State Street. For more information, call Pastor Wayne Whitten at (989) 335-0172.

Northeast Michigan NORML will present Knuckleheads Comedy at the Alcona Township Hall, 5576, North US-23, Black River at 7 p.m. Admission is \$15, doors open at 6 p.m. Concessions available.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Gary McKinney will lead a four-session drawing class designed for adults. The class will meet from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. each Saturday, March 7 to March 28 at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street. The cost is \$20 for the series. All supplies are included. To register, call (989) 724-6796. Sponsored by Inspiration Alcona.

The Alcona Baby Pantry will host a Texas Holdem Tournament at Vista Lanes, 5214 North US-23, Oscoda. Cash games start at 4 p.m., tournament starts at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Huron Poker Room at (989) 305-1826.

Northeast Michigan NORML will present Knuckleheads Comedy at the Alcona Township Hall, 5576, North US-23, Black River at 7 p.m. Admission is \$15, doors open at 6 p.m. Concessions available.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 8

The Alcona Baby Pantry will host a Texas Holdem Tournament at Vista Lanes, 5214 North US-23, Oscoda. Cash games start at 4 p.m., tournament starts at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Huron Poker Room at (989) 305-1826.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Annual Truth and Taxation Meeting for the City of Harrisville will take place on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. at City Hall, 200 N. Fifth St., Harrisville, MI 48740. Please call the City Office at 989-724-6666 for any questions.

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'14 CHEVY SILVERADO LT 4X4 With topper, box liner, trailer pkg. & remote start	<b>\$24,995</b>
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*Local Notes* *Local Notes*

**NOTICE**

Mikado Township will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2020 in the Mikado Civic Center Conference Room on March 9<sup>th</sup> during its regular monthly meeting starting at 7 p.m. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.** A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the clerk's office at 2268 Hamilton Road. Please call (989) 736-7721 for further information.  
 Rita D. Sands  
 Mikado Township Clerk

**Youth Basketball 3 on 3**

Matrix Madness 3 On 3 Basketball Tournament will be held on Saturday, March 14 at Alcona High School. Youth in grades seven through 12 will start at 8 a.m. Youth in grades three through six will start at 1 p.m. Teams are made up of three to five persons (no coed). Team registration is \$30. Register by March 6 by calling (989) 787-2154; email to matrixpastors@gmail.com or Facebook - .com / MatrixSolidRock.

recreation plans, which contains future plans for recreational facilities within Alcona County. Communities are required to have five-Year DNR-approved Recreation Plans in order to qualify for grant funding from the Michigan DNR.



**Chris Peterson**

The planning process incorporates a community participation element that encourages input from citizens. Alcona County officials are encouraging citizens in and around Alcona County to fill out and submit this survey because public input is a vital component of the future of the area and the public's opinion is highly valued.

hazardous fuels targets by 30 percent or more. Hazardous fuels treatments protect communities by reducing the amount of leaves, needles, and other materials that can generate high-intensity wildfires.

**Recreation Survey**

The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) is assisting Alcona County with updating its rec-

Alcona County has chosen to gather this public input in an online survey. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and is available online on the following websites: [alconacountymi.com](http://alconacountymi.com), and [discover-northeastmichigan.org/recreation.asp](http://discover-northeastmichigan.org/recreation.asp). A direct survey link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AlconaRecreation>.

According to Peterson, his greatest accomplishment has been building relationships with state and local fire departments. In his efforts to foster relationships inside and outside the forest service, he has served as chairman of the Michigan Prescribed Fire Council, director of the Northern Michigan Fire Chiefs Association, and representative to the National Fire Equipment Committee. "We couldn't accomplish as much as we have without cooperation from other agencies," said Peterson. "Those relationships are critical to the success of any fire management program."

**K OF C  
FISH FRY**  
 Friday, February 28  
 5-7 p.m. ~ \$10.00  
 Maria Hall behind St. Anne  
 Take Out Available

For those without internet access, copies of the survey will be available at the Alcona County Building or at the libraries in Harrisville, Mikado, Lincoln, Caledonia Township and Curtis Township.

**Senior Menu**

The following meals will be served during the week at 4 p.m. in Glennie at the United Methodist Church and at 4:30 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. Suggested donation of \$3 per meal is welcome.

- Monday, March 2—Tuna and noodles, carrots, pineapple, wheat bread, and milk.
  - Tuesday, March 3—Rosemary and garlic chicken, sweet potatoes, broccoli, hot cinnamon apples, and milk.
  - Wednesday, March 4—Beef chop suey, brown rice, peas, pears, and milk.
  - Thursday, March 5—fish almandine, baked potato, sour cream and chives, green beans, bread, apple sauce, milk, and cake and ice cream.
  - Friday, March 6—Pork chop, baked potato, squash, pineapple, wheat bread, and milk.
- (Friday meals served in Lincoln only.)*

He received the "USDA Unsung Hero Award" last year for "having demonstrated momentous leadership, immediate action, and courageous behavior in the course of his duties."

Throughout his career, Peterson has also regularly trained federal, state and local officials in wildfire operations and fire fighter safety. Last November he spent two weeks in Nigeria teaching Nigerian officials the ins and outs of operational planning. In retirement, Peterson plans to continue educating others about wildfire management.

**Money Smart for Youth**

Michigan State University Extension 4-H is offering three free opportunities to all Michigan youth (4-H membership not required) to build their financial savvy and maybe even win some cash in the process.

- Youth can learn about credit and how to avoid the craze of debt in a one-hour webinar, Credit Craze: Basics of Credit for Youth, which is free and open to all youth ages 13-19. There are four dates from which to choose: March 26, March 30, April 1, or April 7. Times vary. For more information and to register, visit: <https://events-anr.msu.edu/CreditCraze/>.

**Fire Fighter Retires**

In 1986, Chris Peterson became a fire fighter for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and later joined the U.S. Forest Service as an engine captain. He has since served as fire management officer, the acting deputy regional fire director for the eastern region, and for the last nine years, Peterson has been the fire staff officer for the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

Peterson's teams respond to more than 150 fires annually and regularly exceed their

- In honor of Michigan Money Smart Week, April 4-11, Michigan State University Extension 4-H is sponsoring the Money Smart Kid Essay Contest. A grant from Chemical Bank to the Michigan 4-H Foundation, allows

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**NOTICE  
 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY  
 Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

**TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF ALCONA COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN:**

**Notice is hereby given** that an election will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the following polling locations.

Alcona Township Caledonia Township Curtis Township Greenbush Township Gustin Township Harrisville Township Hawes Township Haynes Township Mikado Township Millen Township Mitchell Township City of Harrisville	Township Hall, 5576 N. US-23, Black River Township Hall, 6461 Gillard Road, Spruce Fire Hall, 5019 Bamfield Road, Glennie Township Hall, 5039 Campbell Street, Greenbush Township Hall, 113 S. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street, Lincoln Township Hall 114 S. Poor Farm Road, Harrisville VFW Hall, 2120 W. Trask Lake Road, Barton City Township Hall, 3930 E. McNeil Road, Lincoln Township Hall, 2291 S. F-41, Mikado Township Office, 671 Sanborn Road, Barton City Township Hall, 6849 W. Tower Road, Curran City Hall, 200 5 <sup>th</sup> Street, Harrisville
--	---

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Alcona County residents will be voting on Democrat and Republican Presidential Primary candidates. Mitchell Township residents will also vote on the following millage proposals:

- I. C.O.O.R. INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL (RESTORATION OF HEADLEE REDUCTION) 0.1171 MILL ON EACH \$1,000.00 FOR 10 YEARS
- II. C.O.O.R. INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL 0.047 MILL ON EACH \$1,000.00 FOR 10 YEARS

Full text of the ballot propositions may be obtained at the administrative office of C.O.O.R. Intermediate School District, 11051 North Cut Road, Roscommon, MI 48653 (989) 275-9555

Registered electors may apply for an absentee ballot with the city or township clerk where they are registered. Sample ballots can be found at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote) or from your township clerk.

All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities and voting instructions are available in alternative formats of audio and Braille. Arrangements for obtaining instructions for these alternative formats can be made by contacting the township clerk in advance of the election.

Stephany Eller, Alcona County Clerk



# SENIOR LIFESTYLES

## Beware of potential 2020 Census scams

Dear Savvy Senior,  
Can you offer some tips to help seniors guard against census scams? With the 2020 census gearing up, I've read that there are a lot of potential scammers out there looking to take advantage of older people and I want to protect myself.

Cautious Judy

Dear Cautious,  
Unfortunately, scams have become a persistent problem when the U.S. Census Bureau does its once-a-decade count of the U.S. population. Here's what you can expect from the 2020 Census in the coming weeks, and how you can protect yourself from potential scams.

**What to Expect**

In mid-March, you and nearly every other U.S. household will receive an invitation in the mail to respond to the 2020 Census. This year, you will have the option of completing the 2020 census questionnaire either online, by mail, or by phone. The invitation will include detailed in-

structions of what you need to do.

If you don't respond to this invitation letter, you will receive several follow-up postcard reminders from the Census Bureau by mail. If you still don't respond by late April, a census worker will come to your door to collect your response in person.

It only takes a few minutes to complete the census questionnaire.

While census participation is very important and required by law, you also need to be vigilant of census-linked scams. This is especially important for seniors who tend to be prime targets.

The Census Bureau warns against phishing email scams as well as con artist masquerading as census workers who will try to solicit your personal financial information.

Here are some tips that can help you protect yourself.

**Guard Your Information**  
Don't give out your per-

sonal or financial information. The Census Bureau or a legitimate census worker will never ask for your Social Security number, bank account number, credit card number, money or donations. And they will never contact you on behalf of a political party. If you're asked for any of these, whether it be via phone, mail, email or in person, it's a scam and should be reported to [rumors@census.gov](mailto:rumors@census.gov).

**Avoid Online Scams**

The Census Bureau will not send you an unsolicited email to request your participation in the 2020 Census. So, ignore any emails you get that may direct you to a census website that looks real but is fake - and may be infected with malware.

Also, don't reply to the email or open any attachment because they could contain viruses that could infect your computer. Forward the email or website address to the Census Bureau at [rumors@census.gov](mailto:rumors@census.gov). Then delete the message.



Savvy Senior

**Be Safe at Home**

If someone visits your home to collect a response for the 2020 Census, make sure you verify their identity. A legitimate census taker must present a field badge that includes a photograph of themselves, a Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date. Census workers will also be carrying a Census Bureau laptop or cell phone, as well as a bag with a Census Bureau logo.

Also, remember that a census worker will only ask you the questions that appear on the questionnaire - your name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, phone number, type of residence and number of

people living with you. They will not ask for sensitive personal information, such as your Social Security or credit card number.

If you have questions about their identity, you can call (800) 923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative. If it is determined that the visitor who came to your door does not work for the Census Bureau, contact your local police department.

For more information on the 2020 Census, visit [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov).

(Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, Okla. 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org).)

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# Tigers

Continued from page 1

teams played out the game. Leading the way in the win was Wrobel with 16 points. Dominic Howe put in 13 and Clark scored 11. Stephenson and D.J. Howe chipped in five apiece. Barbato was good for four and Walker added three.

Alcona (9-9 overall) hosted Ogemaw Heights on Tuesday and wraps up the regular season Thursday, Feb. 27 at Roscommon.

"It was nice to string a few wins together. I feel like we're playing better basketball as we heading to districts," Bilbey said. "We still have a couple very strong teams left on the schedule starting with Ogemaw on Tuesday who is playing great basketball. This is definitely the most difficult schedule we've had in quite a while. It is our hope that it's going to help us when it comes to tournament time."

### Super Crossword

#### Answers

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

2/19 & 2/26

2/19 & 2/26

## NOTICE

The Lincoln Village Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for 2020-2021 at 6:45 p.m. on Monday March 2nd, 2020. The meeting will be held at the Lincoln Village Hall at 117 W. Fiske Street, Lincoln MI. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.** Copies of the proposed budget will be available at the meeting. The regular monthly village council meeting will follow at 7 p.m.

Sheila Phillips  
Village President

## NOTICE

The Village of Lincoln is seeking sealed bids for a lawn mowing contract for a period of three years, 2020, 2021 & 2022. Contractors will be required to include proof of licensure and insurance along with bid. Bids will be opened at the Village of Lincoln Council Meeting on March 2, 2020. Selected contractor will be required to have a background check before final approval. The Village of Lincoln reserves the right to refuse any or all contract bids. The Village of Lincoln also reserves the right to terminate said contract due to infractions of approved specification.

Bid specifications will be available by contacting Sheila R. Phillips, Village President at 989-335-0012. Bids must be mailed to:

Village of Lincoln  
Attention: Village Clerk  
Lawn Mowing Bid  
P.O. Box 337  
Lincoln, MI 48742

# Ice conditions could prompt early removal of fishing shanties

Changing ice conditions could require removal of fishing shanties before required removal dates. This is a possibility every year, as all shanties must be removed once ice can no longer safely support them, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

DNR officials urge extreme caution for people venturing onto the ice should as temperatures begin to rise or fluctuate. The repeated thawing and refreezing of ice weakens its integrity, decreasing its ability to support additional weight of people, snowmobiles, ORVs and shanties. Deteriorating ice, water currents and high winds increase the probability of pressure cracks, which can leave anglers and others stranded on ice floes or at risk of falling through the ice.

"Regardless of the required date, ice shanties must be removed before the ice becomes too weak to support them," said Lt. Jason Wicklund, DNR Law Enforcement Division. "It's the angler's responsibility to safely remove their shanty before it falls through the ice."

Shanty owners whose structures fall through the ice are subject to penalties of up to 30 days in jail, fines of

\$100 to \$500, or both. If a shanty is removed by a government agency, the court can require the owner to reimburse that agency for an amount of up to three times the cost of removal.

If ice conditions don't warrant early removal, these are the final dates for shanty removal in the Lower Peninsula:

- Ice shanties on Lake St. Clair, located northeast of Detroit, Mich. must be removed before sunset Sunday, Feb. 23.

- Shanties in the northern Lower Peninsula must be removed by midnight Sunday, March 15. Counties include Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Bay, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Crawford, Emmet, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Isabella, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Montmorency, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon and Wexford.

Ice shanties in the remaining counties of the Lower Peninsula must be removed by midnight Sunday, March 1.

For more information, watch the Michigan DNR ice visit the ice safety section of the DNR Education webpage.



Violet Roiter (left) and Erykah Lalonde, both of Greenbush, and members of Oscoda's Venturing Crew 7 (sponsored by American Legion Post No. 274 in Oscoda) have been chosen for employment at scout camps this summer. Last summer, both attended Goshen Scout Reservation near Lexington, Va. for two weeks and "D Bar A" Scout Ranch, near Metamora, Mich., for a week. Additionally, they spent a second week at "D Bar A" as counselors in training (CITs). Roiter was rewarded with the prestigious "Director's Award" - never before given to a CIT in the first week of service. She interviewed for and was offered a staff position with the Water and Woods Council Camp. Lalonde interviewed for and was offered a staff position at Goshen Scout Reservation's - Camp Bowman for the entire summer. Both positions are paid. Crew 7 meets every other Sunday night at Hope-St. John's Church in AuSable, call Pete at (937) 212-8435 for information. *Courtesy photo.*

**Do you have news we can use?**

Call the Review (989) 724-6384  
or email

[editor@alconareview.com](mailto:editor@alconareview.com)

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# Alcona Humane Society recognizes dedicated volunteers

**By Mary Weber**  
Staff Writer

If animals in Alcona County could talk, they'd be giving hearty accolades to two of its most humane citizens.

Connie and Kent Sysak's work for the animals, especially the lost and abandoned dogs and cats who come into the Alcona Humane Society (AHS), hasn't gone unnoticed. The couple recently received a plaque recognizing their efforts from the society and Connie received a Proclamation of Appreciation for her efforts from the Alcona County Board of Commissioners.

The Greenbush couple, who has spent years volunteering for AHS and brought a new financial avenue to keep its doors from closing, decided 2020 is the year to step back and regain the hours normally spent volunteering for the shelter to pursue other interests.

Connie, a past president of the Alcona Humane Society board, was the mastermind of the society's Precious Paws Resale Shoppe in Harrisville, which has been a profitable venture for the shelter and now provides half of its \$120,000 yearly budget.

Connie explained she left the board several years ago when she moved her thriving jewelry store, Blue Bear Jewelry, which had been housed at Harbortown Marketplace in Harrisville, to East Tawas.

Shortly after the move a board member, Diane Rea, called her to see if she had any ideas on fundraising for the shelter. She told Connie the shelter was in dire straits and very close to having to close its doors permanently.

"Diane knew I had a strong business background and might be able to help. I was friends with an executive director of a women's shelter in Alpena, which is now Hope Shores Alliance, and I knew about her work opening two resale stores to help fund their shelter.

"I also knew and visited a friend in Arizona who was involved in a very large non-profit resale store there which raised a lot of money. After researching, I made the proposition to AHS (to) start a store in Harbortown (Marketplace).

She explained at the time the Harbortown Marketplace, which is owned by the county and was used as an incubator for new business entrepreneurs, was practically empty. The Sysaks agreed to donate costs for starting the store themselves, allowing the



Kent and Connie Sysak

humane society to reap the profits without any setup costs.

After negotiating with county commissioners, Connie opened the store inviting loyal AHS supporters to donate their gently-used household belongings for resale.

"We started with the smallest room, but we had so much stuff come in it grew from one room to two, then three and now five. We don't even have to ask for donations anymore, people just bring things in and we get a lot of nice donations," Connie said. She explained they have received donations from several estates where they brought truckloads of items to the store for resale.

Customers have told her that Precious Paws is so logically laid out with items beautifully displayed, it has more of the appearance of a fine gift shop or antique furniture store than a resale store.

Kent, who has been the AHS treasurer for the last five years, said he wasn't even sure the resale store would take off, but knew his wife well and said when she puts her mind to something, not much stops her.

"From a business point of view, this model is pretty amazing. Items are donated so there are no inventory costs and it's staffed with volunteers so there is no employee cost. The only expenses being rent and supplies," he said.

Connie sold her jewelry store in Tawas in 2014 and since then has devoted count-

less hours volunteering to make Precious Paws one of the first places locals and tourists think of when wanting to purchase a gift or to donate gently-used and new items.

The Sysaks said the key driver of the store's success was the devotion the community, tourists and AHS volunteers have in helping animals. "They know the funds are going to be used for good, it all goes to help the animals," Connie said.

Connie recently received a diagnosis and a working treatment for a persistent cough and respiratory issues she has suffered with for years and is now looking forward to a bright and busy future.

Continued on page 10

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### PUBLIC NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF CURTIS 2020 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING CURTIS TOWNSHIP HALL 4875 F-30, GLENNIE, MICHIGAN 48737

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday, March 12, 2020

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

An organizational meeting will be held by the Board of Review on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. to examine the assessment roll.

No appeals will be reviewed at the organizational meeting. Nonresidents may protest to Board of Review by letter mailed to 4808 Webster Rd., Glennie, MI 48737. Letters must be received by March 12, 2020.

Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA) Notice the township will provide necessary and reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon seven days notice. Contact Tammy Fall Assessor at 989-735-2122.

2/12 thru 2/26

## \$3,000 SCHOLARSHIP



OSCODA - WURTSMITH AIRPORT



### 2020 Pilot Training & Aerospace Education Scholarship

- Must be in High School or employed in Iosco or Alcona County
  - Must be a full-time resident of Iosco or Alcona County
  - For a tuition scholarship, the applicant must be enrolled or accepted in an aerospace education curriculum of a college, university or vocational school.
- \*\*\*\*\*Application Deadline April 1, 2022\*\*\*\*\*

Application information is available on the Airport's website at [oscairport.com](http://oscairport.com) or by calling Oscoda - Wurtsmith Airport at (989) 739-1111.

#### NOTICE

The Alcona Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for the fiscal year 20-21 at the Alcona Township Hall at 5576 US-23 on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 during the regular monthly meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. **The proposed tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.** A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection on-line at [alconatownship.com](http://alconatownship.com) or you can contact Clerk LaLonde at 471-2948 for a copy.



# Lady Tigers breeze by Atlanta, AuGres

**By Ben Murphy**  
Sports Writer

Host Atlanta couldn't put up much of a fight with Alcona on Friday in the North Star League game. The Lady Tigers took a big, early lead and rolled from there, claiming a 58-20 win.

"It was nice to get contribution from all of our players," said head coach Mark Feldhiser. "I thought we did a good job playing hard the entire game."

Alcona took a double-digit lead at 16-6 after the first quarter and controlled the game 30-10 by the half. The

lead swelled to 53-13 entering the fourth quarter.

Megan Grove led the Lady Tigers with 19 points while Rachel Layton netted 12.

On Monday, Feb. 17 Alcona won another NSL contest, easily beating visiting AuGres, 53-14.

"We did a really good job of moving the ball," Feldhiser said. "I thought we played really good in the first half to build the big lead."

It was an 18-7 lead for the Lady Tigers after the first quarter. They made that gap 35-9 at the half and 51-12 entering the fourth quarter.

Leading the team in the win was Rachel Layton with 22 points. Kelsey Hansen netted 11. Grove put in seven and Karen Sharbeneau chipped in with six.

Alcona (14-4 overall) hosted Roscommon on Monday and wraps up the regular season on Friday, Feb. 28 at Mio.

Alcona opens play in the division three district on Wednesday, March 4 against Tawas, at Whittemore-Prescott.

The finals are set for Friday, March 6 with Oscoda, Rogers City and host W-P also in the bracket.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW**  
**MIKADO TOWNSHIP**  
**MIKADO CIVIC CENTER**  
2291 S. F-41, Mikado, MI 48745

Tuesday, March 3 at 5:30 p.m. - Organizational Meeting  
No appeals will be taken at this meeting.

Wednesday, March 11, 1:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, March 13, 1:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

By Board Resolution, residents are able to protest by letter. Written protests should be mailed to: Mikado Township Assessor, 2836 E. McNeil Rd., Lincoln, MI 48742 and **MUST be received by March 11th**

Appearing below are the recommended tentative Equalization Ratios and Estimated Multipliers as provided by Alcona Equalization Department.

	RATIOS	MULTIPLIERS
AGRICULTURAL	51.42	0.97238
COMMERCIAL	49.22	1.01584
INDUSTRIAL	N/A	N/A
RESIDENTIAL	43.98	1.13688
TIMBER CUTOVER	N/A	N/A
DEVELOPMENT	N/A	N/A
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00000

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice  
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 7 - day notice. Contact (989) 736-7721.

2/12 thru 2/26

# Alcona bowlers ready for regional competition

The Alcona varsity girls bowling team traveled to Bay Lanes in Bay City, Mich. on Saturday, Feb. 22 to compete against the Tawas Braves and the Oscoda Owls.

In the first match, the Lady Tigers swept the Baker games with a score of 248 to the Braves' 223. Alcona stayed strong in the team event bowling a total of 1,268 to the Braves' 1,207. Final scoring Alcona 25, Tawas 5.

High game for Alcona went to Isabella Bates with 168 and high game for Tawas was Kristen Mikkola with 148.

In the second match Alcona faced the Oscoda Owls. The Lady Tigers split the Baker games with a total of 296 to the Owls' 304. In the team event the Lady Tigers also split the team games with a score of 1,475 to the Owls' 1,493. Final scoring Alcona 13, Oscoda 17.

High game for Alcona was Brielle Keyser bowling 210 and high for Oscoda was Harley Leesberg with 188.

This ended the regular season for the team finishing in second place with a record of 10 wins and 6 losses.

The Lady Tigers will travel



Alcona varsity girls bowling team (front row, from left) Victoria Skuse, Morgan Munsey (back row) Isabella Bates, Brielle Keyser, Samantha Nordstrom, and Coach Lynn Gibson. *Courtesy photo.*

to Traverse City, Mich. on Friday, Feb. 28 and Saturday, Feb. 29 to compete in regionals. The top three teams and top 10 individuals qualify for state competition.

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Alcona varsity boys bowling team (front row, from left) Levoohn Palmer, Sam Prince, Koedy Berryhill, Brenden Hudgins, (back row) Coach Tina Stern, Zachary Richardson, Levi Kline, Logan Bates, and Asst. Coach Steve Hudgins. *Courtesy photo.*



# Alcona teacher receives doctorate

**By Mary Weber**  
Staff Writer

After a long journey through years of academics, a local Spanish teacher has received her doctorate.

Mandie Willey, the Spanish teacher at Alcona High School, received a doctorate degree with an emphasis on English as a second language last month through North-central University. She began her last lap of education studies in 2013 and did her research at Saginaw Valley in the English language program.

Willey explained she has always been an ambitious person and wanted to go as far as she could in education. "There was nowhere else for me to go. It was hectic the past few years and I even went through some depression. It was daunting, but I'm super relieved to attain it," Willey said.

According to Willey, making her final presentation was the worst struggle of getting the degree and she was terrified. "But at the end of it they said, 'Congratulations Dr. Willey.' It felt like a herd of elephants came off my chest. Now I can be me again," she said.

Willey has taught at Alcona High School since 2017 and has taken a group of students to Peru during the summer of 2019 and will be taking another group to Costa Rica this June.

She plans on visiting Peru again next year with students and said if any students would like to plan for that trip, they are welcome to talk with her.

In addition to teaching at Alcona High School, Willey has a few other plans on the horizon. She and a teaching colleague, Kelly Murphy, a Spanish teacher in Hale, Mich., are working on opening a school called Gringa Voca in the Sacred Valley of Peru around the Cusco area.

Their goal is to provide free

education to help women and children of that area, who don't readily have access to education and teach them how to speak English so they can communicate with tourists.

"That's usually how they make their living, by selling handmade goods to the tourists who come there. If they can't communicate, they don't do as well in sales," Willey said. She wants others who want to learn English to attend their school too.

Over the last winter break, Willey and Murphy went to Peru to scout out next year's trip and see if a school would be lucrative and successful. "We found a few groups that want to start with us, so we are hoping to build our nonprofit (school) from there. We did a pilot class while there



Mandie Willey

and the response was phenomenal," Willey said. She explained their biggest hurdle with the school will be finding the necessary funding for it. Willey also plans on having fun by spending a bit more time with her six shepherds.

For more information about the nonprofit school in Peru email gringavoca@gmail.com.

## 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.

## NOTICE

Hawes Township will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for 2020-2021 at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. The meeting will be held at the Barton City VFW Hall, 2120 W. Trask Lake Rd., Barton City. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.** Regular meeting to follow.

Janette Richardson-Stover  
Hawes Township Clerk

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## Local Notes Continued from page 4

any Michigan youth in fifth through eighth grade a chance to win up to \$1,000 by writing a 300-word (or less) essay on predatory lending.

Four finalists will be interviewed for final placing. The winners will be named this year's Michigan Money Smart Youth Ambassadors, and they will have opportunities to share their financial knowledge and develop additional leadership skills. The essay and application form are due by March 29. There is no cost to participate. For more information and for an applica-

tion, visit: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest>.

• In the second annual Show Your Money Smarts Contest, Michigan youth ages 13-19 learn how to use credit wisely as they compete in an online challenge during the entire month of April. Participation is free, and high-scoring youth will be entered in a drawing for \$200. Deadline to register is April 16. For more information and to register, visit: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts-contest](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/show-your-money-smarts-contest).

ous contribution from Consumers Energy and salute the CMU/MCA fundraising partnership that made it possible. Each year, NEMCSA helps hundreds of struggling households throughout northeast Michigan with their utility bills. This funding will help further that important work," said Lisa Bolen, executive director/CEO for NEMCSA.

### NEMCSA Receives Funds

Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency (NEMCSA) recently received a \$11,298 donation through the "Warm Hearts, Warm Homes" campaign for northeast Michigan residents in need of heating assistance. This fundraising effort was in collaboration with Central Michigan University's CMU Public Radio (WCMU-FM) and Michigan Community Action (MCA). Every donation made to CMU Public Radio during the "Warm Hearts, Warm Homes" campaign was matched dollar for dollar through the corporate sponsors Consumers Energy and Isabella Bank.

"We appreciate this gener-

ous contribution from Consumers Energy and salute the CMU/MCA fundraising partnership that made it possible. Each year, NEMCSA helps hundreds of struggling households throughout northeast Michigan with their utility bills. This funding will help further that important work," said Lisa Bolen, executive director/CEO for NEMCSA.

"Consumers Energy is proud to help our neighbors who we serve in communities across northeast Michigan and the state," said Carolyn Bloodworth, Consumers Energy's executive director of corporate giving. "We are pleased to again support Warm Hearts, Warm Homes and know this effort will keep many families warm through the rest of this winter."

### NOTICE

The Curtis Township Board of Trustees will hold its first budget hearing on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. with the regular board meeting starting immediately after at Glennie United Methodist, M-65, Glennie, Michigan. Copies of the 2020-2021 proposed budget may be picked up at the clerk's office after Friday, March 6, 2020.

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
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 10 A.M. SUNDAY SERVICE

**Haynes Community Church**  
 4505 Shaw Road, Harrisville, Michigan 48740  
 Sunday Morning Service 11 a.m.  
 989-724-6665  
 Pastor Claire Duncan • [haynescommunitychurch.org](http://haynescommunitychurch.org)

**Family Heritage Baptist Church**  
 4260 M-72 Harrisville (2.5 miles west of the light)  
 Pastor Ernest Ruemenapp (989) 724-6728 • [www.church72.org](http://www.church72.org)  
 Sunday worship services 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
 Sunday school 10 a.m.  
 Wednesday 6 p.m. midweek service (preaching and prayer service).

**First Baptist Church of Lincoln**  
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. - Worship 11 a.m.  
 Bible Study/Prayer, Wed. 7 p.m.  
 Pastor Dr. Arie VanBrenk • 202 Main Street • 736-8796

**New Life Lutheran Church (ELCA)**  
 Sunday Worship & Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
 Hubbard Lake Rd.,  
 1/4 mile south of White Pine National Golf Course  
 Pastor Christina Bright Office 736-7816

**Spruce Presbyterian Church**  
 Induction Loop equipped for tele-coil hearing aids  
 6230 Gillard Road (P.O. Box 37) Spruce, MI 48762 • 471-5464  
 Worship 9 a.m.  
 Rev. Ken Krause - Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)**  
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 Pastor Joseph Llewellyn • (989) 727-2496

**Westminster Presbyterian Church U.S.A.**  
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 Rev. Ken Krause ~ 724-6734

**Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
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 Pastor Char McGuire • 736-3486

**Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)**  
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**Faith Lutheran Church**  
 3395 E. M-72 (4 1/4 miles west of US-23) Harrisville, MI  
 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. ~ Barrier Free  
 Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

**ALCONA COUNTY CATHOLIC CHURCHES**  
 ST. RAPHAEL, Mikado, Saturday 4:30 p.m.  
 ST. GABRIEL, Black River Saturday 6:30 p.m.  
 ST. CATHERINE (Ossineke) Sunday 9 a.m.  
 ST. ANNE, Harrisville Sunday 11 a.m.  
 Pastor: Fr. Robert Bissot • (989) 724-6713

**GREENBUSH COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 2430 S. State, Greenbush • 724-5264 • Pastor A. C. Caincross  
 • Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
 • Sunday Morning Service 11 a.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.  
 • Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.

## Volunteers

Continued from page 7

She will be spending some of her free time away from Precious Paws to work on a book she has been writing, a mystery titled, "A Six-Pack of Blondes." She will still volunteer at Precious Paws to collect donations and help the store's new shopkeeper, Marlene Pear Hawes.

Connie likes to keep active, so with some of her new free time, she would like to help the community become more attractive to tourists and businesses. She also plans to spend more time gardening and playing golf with Kent.

Kent, who has also stepped down as treasurer of the humane society, grew up in Alcona County and is a 1964 graduate of Alcona High School. His late father, Joe, was the postmaster in Lincoln, his mother, Pat, a spry 95, still lives in the county.

Kent chuckled as he recalled when he left Alcona County to attend college after graduating high school, he swore he would never return. The couple said they couldn't think of a better place to retire.

The proclamation of appreciation from the county shined a light on Connie's enduring dedication to animals and commended her business talent, "Because of Mrs. Sysak's efforts, hundreds of cats and dogs have been provided a safe, warm shelter with food and water and an opportunity to find their forever home through adoption."

Ironically, neither Connie nor Kent ever had pets growing up. Kent said he was 60 before he owned a pet and thought if maybe he had done that sooner, he would have been a better parent.

Connie said she had always been highly allergic to pet dander as a child and it wasn't until the last decade and helping with the shelter, she realized she grew out of it. The couple now owns two cats they adopted from the shelter.

"People don't understand how many animals are abandoned or lost. Those animals would either be put down or die outdoors if the shelter didn't exist. Animals are a wonderful addition to any household.

"They are good for kids, good for seniors, for anyone. They are great company. It's just a shame more people do not get their animals spayed and neutered, that's the major reason why the shelter is always full, Connie said.

Both feel very comfortable in leaving their AHS duties in good hands. The new AHS treasurer is Sean Pear a certified public accountant. Connie said she will miss the daily interaction with customers at Precious Paws which is what most of the volunteers love about working at the store.

Precious Paws Resale Shoppe is located at the Harbortown Marketplace on Main Street in Harrisville. The Alcona Humane Society is located at 457 W. Traverse Bay Road in Lincoln and can be reached by phone at (989) 736-7387.



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# Buggy Rides

From the files of the Alcona County Review



## State park name changed to Negwegon

**February 26, 1970** ~ Formal action taken by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission in Lansing, on Friday, February 13, 1970, changed the name of the unfinished state park on Lake Huron shore north of Black River from Alpena State Park to Negwegon State Park.

This action was taken following extensive research and correspondence by Mrs. Lou Kramer of Hubbard Lake with the unanimous endorsement and cooperation of the Alcona County Board of Supervisors, the Alcona County Chamber of Commerce and other groups of interested citizens of the area.

The new park, originally named Alpena State Park when the 2,230 acres of recreation land along Lake Huron in Alcona and Alpena Counties were acquired by the state in 1962. Over three miles of Lake Huron shore from Black River, north, forms the east boundary of the acreage with the greater part in Alcona Township, and a portion of the property extending into Alpena County. The land was purchased for the development of "the largest and most beautiful State Park in Michigan."

In early 1965 a change in name was suggested by Mrs. Kramer to Robert J Furlong, executive-assistant and secretary to the Commissioner, to Senator Richardson and to Representative Swallow, with negative reaction. Her suggestion was to name the park in commemoration of the Chippewa Indian tribe that inhabited this area in earlier years. Her firm conviction that this was a worthwhile project prompted her to follow through on the idea.

The name Negwegon, in honor of a famous Chippewa Indian Chief, staunch friend of the Americans during the War of 1812, was suggested by the Alcona County Chamber of Commerce.

This name had been given to the Alcona County area in 1840 and later named Alcona. "Alcona" was coined by Henry R. Schoolcraft in 1843 and means "the beautiful prairie". On November 25, 1969, Mrs. Kramer wrote to the Commission and many other State officials, asking that the name be officially changed to Negwegon. Favorable responses were received and final action by the Commission brought this long-standing project to a conclusion.

Development of the new park will be carried on with funds from the state recreational purpose bond issue approved by voters a year ago. It is now open to the public for hunting, fishing and boat launching.

### Chief Negwegon

Chippewa Indian Chief Negwegon lived in the Mackinac area during the 1800s. He was a most courageous man who was a long forgot-

ten - but important - part of our Michigan Heritage, and whose heroic deeds appeared headed for oblivion. During the War of 1812 when America was attempting to break away from British rule, many of the Indians on this frontier offered their services to the United States, but from a mistaken policy the government declined the offer. The restless young braves could not be kept quiet and joined the enemy. Negwegon, then a man of middle age, remained a steadfast friend and as far as permitted took up the tomahawk for the Che-Mo-Ke-Mum (American).

One of his sons fell fighting our battle at Maguaga and the great Chief adopted the late Austin E. Wing Esq. as his son in the place of the deceased.

When the enemy had taken possession of the country, Negwegon, with his family and band, retired to his hunting grounds on the mainland near Mackinac. He planted his small American flag in his camp in the woods and lived by the chase. The British Commanding Officer at Mackinac sent an officer and fifteen men to take away the flag. The officer and his party found the chief alone, his band was hunting. "I have come" said the officer, "to take away that flag; it is the flag of the Che-Mo-Ke-Mum (Ameri-

can) and must not fly here. The Saginash (British) alone now own the country."

Negwegon was one of the finest specimen of humanity, he was over six feet in height, straight as the oaks of his own forest - with powerful muscular developments and with a manly countenance and bearing. He was a man of strong intellect and possessed the resolution and courage of a lion. The old chief's dark eyes flashed at the demand for his flag. He rose to his feet, strode forward to his flag, lowered it, and winding it around his left arm, drew his tomahawk from his belt, and turning to the officer he sternly said, "Saginash, Negwegon is the friend of the Chemokemum. He has but one flag and one heart. If you take one you shall take the other."

Then giving a tremendous war whoop, the signal for his braves to assemble, he looked sternly and silently at the officer who lastly retired to his boat and returned to Mackinac. The gallant old chief re-hoisted his flag and kept it flying till the end of the war.

After the war Negwegon with his family visited Detroit, annually making the trip down the Lake Huron shore with two large and beautiful bark canoes with the stars and stripes flying at

the stern of each. General Cass never failed to reward his integrity with abundant supplies and among other things, with two new flags which floated in triumph over his wigwam in the wilderness of Mackinac until the spirit of the old warrior departed to join the countless myriads of his race beyond the great western rivers. (*Much of the*

*above historical information is taken from the Wisconsin Historical Collections.*)

What better and more appropriate name could be given to this acreage of public recreational land? Our hats are off to Mrs. Kramer and all who helped for their perseverance in pursuing this project to a successful conclusion.

## Societies benefit by A. McClatchey's will

**February 26, 1920** ~ Checks were received this week by Mrs. Charlotte McClatchey, widow of the late Abram McClatchey, from the administrator of her late husband's estate, to be distributed to various religious societies which are beneficiaries under Mr. McClatchey's will.

A bequest of \$100 goes to the general fund of the M. E. Church at Harrisville and \$100 to a reserve fund for the Sunday school. In addition to these a bequest of \$15.00 each goes to the M. E. Ladies Aid Societies of Harrisville, Killmaster, Haynes, Lincoln, Mikado and Greenbush.

While the giving of these sums may come as a surprise to many of the members of

the societies benefitted, it will cause no surprise among those who knew Mr. McClatchey best. In his quiet, unassuming way he was known to possess a wholesome regard for sacred things and charitable institutions which found practical expression in many ways during his life time, and this last donation is entirely consistent with his acts during his lifetime.

### CryptoQuip

answer

If a basketball player kept the ball to himself, someone could yell "hoarder in the court!"

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## Harrisville Climatological Observations for 2020

### Weekly Report

Date	Temperature (F°)		Water Content	Miles Per Hour		Dominant Direction
	High	Low		Av. Wind Speed	High Speed	
February 16	35	12	0.00	4.3	26	N
February 17	29	7	0.00	6.0	21	S
February 18	36	24	0.00	6.6	34	S
February 19	27	10	0.00	2.3	18	N
February 20	22	2	0.00	1.9	18	WSW
February 21	36	9	0.00	6.4	22	SSW
February 22	45	18	0.00	4.3	18	SSW

### Precipitation Summary (Inches)

	2019-2020 Season		
	Water Content	Snow Fall	Normal Water Content
Weekly Total	0.06	1.6	0.35
February to Date	0.50	13.6	1.05
Year/Season to Date	1.81	49.7	2.81

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.)



# Trivia Test

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. **SCIENCE:** What is dendrochronology?
2. **FOOD & DRINK:** What are the ingredients in a Tom Collins drink?
3. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** Who is considered to be the father of nuclear Navy submarines?
4. **LITERATURE:** Who wrote the novel "Anne of Green Gables"?
5. **AD SLOGANS:** Which product is advertised as "the quicker picker-upper"?
6. **U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Who was the shortest president in U.S. history?
7. **HISTORY:** Who was the oldest signer of the U.S. Declaration of Independence?
8. **GEOGRAPHY:** Which country lies on the eastern border of Ukraine?
9. **MOVIES:** Which 1980s movie featured the Top Ten hit song "Danger Zone" (Kenny Loggins)?
10. **MEDICAL:** Who is the drug morphine named for?

**Answers:** 1. The scientific method of dating tree rings; 2. Gin, lemon juice, simple syrup and club soda; 3. Admiral Hyman Rickover; 4. Lucy Maud Montgomery; 5. Bounty paper towels; 6. James Madison, 5-foot-4; 7. Benjamin Franklin (70); 8. Russia;; 9. "Top Gun"; 10. Morpheus (Greek god of sleep and dreams) (c) 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Moments In Time

By The History Channel

- On March 15, 1820, Maine is admitted into the Union as the 23rd state. Administered as a province of Massachusetts since 1647, the entrance of Maine as a free state was agreed to by Southern senators in exchange for the entrance of Missouri as a slave state.
- On March 12, 1894, Coca-Cola is sold in glass bottles for the first time. It had been available only as a fountain drink. A bottle of Coke cost 5 cents, and it stayed that way until 1959.
- On March 11, 1918, a U.S. Army soldier reports to the hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas, complaining of cold-like symptoms. By noon, over 100 of his fellow soldiers had reported similar symptoms, marking what are believed to be the first cases in the influenza pandemic of 1918. The Spanish flu would eventually kill 675,000 Americans and up to 50 million people worldwide.
- On March 13, 1942, the Quartermaster Corps of the U.S. Army begins training dogs for the newly established War Dog Program, or "K-9 Corps."
- On March 9, 1959, the first Barbie doll goes on display at the American Toy Fair in New York City. Barbie was the first mass-produced toy doll in the United States with adult features. Ruth Handler, co-founder of Mattel, named the doll after her daughter, Barbara.
- On March 14, 1967, the body of President John F. Kennedy is moved to a permanent spot at Arlington National Cemetery. The president had been assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963. The gravesite includes a natural gas line with a continuous electronic flashing spark that reignites the flame in case it is extinguished by rain or wind.
- On March 10, 1988, disco sensation Andy Gibb dies at the age of 30. With his heart greatly weakened from years of cocaine abuse, Gibb succumbed to an inflammatory heart virus.

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## SHALL I COMPARE THEE?

# Super Crossword

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>ACROSS</b><br>1 Scared<br>7 Side of a cut gem<br>12 Fighting junk e-mail<br>20 GMC truck<br>21 Sunni's god<br>22 "Mona Lisa" painter<br>23 Danes wearing more frills?<br>25 Easily caught baseball hits<br>26 TV reception enhancers<br>27 Tend the soil<br>29 Court mallets<br>30 SSgt., e.g.<br>31 Steel city in the Ruhr<br>33 Feldman acting more bashfully?<br>36 Time spent in office<br>38 Rubbish<br>41 Angry with director<br>42 "Modern Family" airer<br>45 Certain quadrilateral<br>47 One who's worshiped<br>51 Griffin suffering more pain?<br>56 Vacuum tube variety<br>58 Pastoral tract<br>59 Spanish for "houses"<br>60 Prefix with mobile<br>63 Charles of chair design<br>64 Founding father Franklin<br>66 Hemingway feeling more uptight?<br>69 Noblewoman<br>70 Flowers from Mexico<br>72 Med. scans<br>73 Fisher using more off-color language?<br>76 Believing in one God<br>80 "Remember the —!"<br>81 "Splendor in the Grass" director<br>82 John of lawn tractors<br>83 I, to Klaus<br>84 Import taxes<br>86 Allen being more sly?<br>90 Venue | <b>DOWN</b><br>1 Leaning<br>2 Engaged man<br>3 Parish leader<br>4 Singer India.—<br>5 Papis of "Z"<br>6 Mends, as holey socks<br>7 Less true<br>8 — carte menu<br>9 Film teaser<br>10 British noble<br>11 2003-07 Fox drama series<br>12 High mount<br>13 Revived: Prefix<br>14 First-rate<br>15 "Actually ..."<br>16 Gunfire burst<br>17 Nosy sort<br>18 "Someone Like You" singer<br>19 Lichen-filled<br>24 Film's actors<br>28 Uterus<br>32 Drug busters<br>34 Hoopster Ming<br>35 Newspaper employee<br>37 — tai<br>39 "Button it!"<br>40 — polloi<br>43 Happened to | 44 "Mad Money" host Jim<br>46 Bad guy<br>47 Pakistanis' neighbors<br>48 Not foreign, as policy<br>49 Lyric works<br>50 "Judge not, — ye be judged"<br>51 Tirana's land: Abbr.<br>52 Dee lead-in<br>53 Vendor's pushable vehicle<br>54 "Do — say, not ..."<br>55 "Grease" director<br>57 Hunting dogs<br>61 Old Glory's country<br>62 One being examined<br>65 "Thor" actress<br>66 Alexander<br>67 Lilly of drugs<br>68 Come to light<br>71 Jackie's #2<br>73 "Curses!"<br>74 Jai —<br>75 Basso Siepi | 77 That girl's<br>78 Here, to Fifi<br>79 Fidel's friend<br>82 Immerse<br>85 Opposite<br>87 Pretend<br>88 Long-jawed fish<br>89 Biblical beast<br>92 Philips rival<br>93 Attire<br>95 Lunar feature<br>97 Defames in writing<br>98 — jet<br>100 Keys of R&B<br>101 Least naive<br>102 Singer Simpson<br>103 Ruses<br>104 John on the Mayflower<br>105 Chili server<br>106 Boxer Griffith<br>107 Fortuitous<br>109 Pole dance?<br>110 "Oh My My" singer Ringo<br>114 Lion's locks<br>115 "SOS!," e.g.<br>117 Drescher or Tarkenton<br>119 Gift for music lines: Abbr.<br>120 Many GPS<br>122 Gathered |
|--|--|---|---|

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## Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

- It was American journalist, author and humorist Don Marquis who made the following sage observation: "Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday."
- The first recorded newspaper that published on a daily basis was in Rome -- in 59 B.C.
- A giant carnivorous plant has been discovered on a remote mountaintop in the Philippines. The second largest pitcher plant on record, *nepenthes attenboroughii* secretes a nectar that lures insects, frogs and even rats into its trap, where enzymes and acids break down the animal and digest it.
- There has been a lot of debate about whether older drivers should be required to pass driving tests in order to renew their licenses, with failing sight and diminished judgment being cited as reasons for the more stringent requirement. However, statistics tend to indicate that, as a group, teenagers are the more dangerous drivers, with their auto-accident death rate roughly triple that of seniors.
- The men's formal attire known as the tuxedo takes its name from the Tuxedo Park Club in New York, where the clothing first became popular. The word itself is derived from the Algonquian word for wolf.
- In some parts of Europe, red roses are considered to be omens of evil. Seeing the petals fall from a red rose is a portent of death.
- The Zagat restaurant rating system recently conducted a survey of Americans' tipping habits. The results? It seems that residents of Philadelphia are the most generous tippers in the nation, leaving an average of 19.6%. The average across the country is 19%.
- President Benjamin Harrison was 25 years older than his wife, Mary -- and he also was her uncle.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "People who have no weaknesses are terrible; there is no way of taking advantage of them." -- Anatole France

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## CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: E equals B

DW X EXLFAUEXQQ RQXHAO FARU  
 UZA EXQQ UI ZDTLAQW, LITAIVA  
 GICQN HAQQ "ZIXONAO DV UZA  
 GICOU!"

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# Alcona County Review Classifieds

Ads may be brought in to our office at 111 Lake St., Harrisville  
 Cost per ad is \$5.00 for the first 10 words and 20¢ for each word thereafter. Boxed ads  
 are \$6 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

## LEGAL NOTICE

This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

### Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judiciary act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Alcona County, starting promptly at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The foreclosure sale is pursuant to the terms and conditions of a mortgage made by Gerald Orban, mortgagor, to First Na-

tional Bank of America, mortgagee, dated February 7, 2007, and recorded February 14, 2007, in Liber 439, page 315, of Alcona County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due as of the date of this notice \$40,220.69, including interest at 10.95 percent per annum.

Said premises are situated in Alcona Township, Alcona County, Michigan, and are described as: The north 1/2 of the north 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 19, T28N, R9E, except a parcel of land located on the SW corner of this legally described property being 200 feet on Barlow Road and being 250 feet in depth; and the south 1/2 of the south 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 19, T28N, R9E, c/k/a 5150 F 41 North, Black River, MI 48721. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of the sale, unless the premises are determined to be abandoned pursuant to MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be one month, or until the time to provide the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later. The redemption period further

may be shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3238(10) if the property is not adequately maintained, or if the purchaser is denied the opportunity to inspect the property. Please be advised that if the mortgaged property is sold at a foreclosure sale by advertisement, 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.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Dated: February 5, 2020  
 Randall T. LeVasseur P41712  
 LeVasseur Dyer & Associates, PC  
 Attorneys for Mortgagee  
 3233 Coolidge Hwy.  
 Berkley, Mich. 48072  
 (248) 236-1765  
 2-5, 2-12, 2-19, 2-26

lender and lender's successors and/or assigns foreclosing assignee (if any): U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee for Residential Asset Securities Corporation, home equity mortgage asset-backed pass-through certificates, series 2005-KS6.

Date of mortgage: May 4, 2005. Date of mortgage recording: June 2, 2005. Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$53,892.41. Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in township of Harrisville, Alcona County, Michigan, and described as: The north half of the south half of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 1, Township 26 North, Range 9 East, lying east of US-23 less and excepting the north 198 feet of Section 1, Township 26 North, Range 9 East. Common street address (if any): 920 N. US-23, Harrisville, Mich. 48740-9600

The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 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 Judiciary 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.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.  
 Date of notice: February 26, 2020  
 Trott Law, P.C.  
 31440 Northwestern Hwy.  
 Suite 145  
 Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
 (248) 642-2515  
 1410902  
 2-26, 3-4, 3-11, 3-18

Mortgage Company, LLC.  
 Date of Mortgage: January 16, 2018. Date of Mortgage Recording: January 24, 2018. Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$122,590.54. Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in township of Greenbush, Alcona County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at the southwest corner of Government Lot 2, Section 11, Township 25 North, Range 9 East, thence South 89 Degrees 28 minutes East 1270.8 feet; thence north 0 degree 45 minutes West 1,988.35 feet, thence north 76 degrees 18 minutes west 827.3 feet and north 10 degrees 16 minutes east 15 feet to the point of beginning; thence south 73 degrees 48 minutes east 100.0 feet; thence south 86 degrees 25 minutes east 106.5 feet; thence along existing fence line northwesterly 408 feet, thence westerly along existing fence 166.0 feet to easterly right-of-way of Cedar Lake Road; thence south 16 degrees 16 minutes west 385.7 feet to the point of beginning. Common street address (if any): 2535 W. Cedar Lake Road, Greenbush, Mich. 48738-9602. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such

sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 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 Judiciary 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.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

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 Date of notice: February 26, 2020.  
 Trott Law, P.C.  
 31440 Northwestern Hwy.,  
 Suite 145  
 Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
 (248) 642-2515  
 1411016  
 2-26, 3-4, 3-11, 3-18

### Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judiciary act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Alcona County, starting promptly at 10 a.m., on March 25, 2020.

The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Lawrence G. Stoyke and Georgina K. Stoyke, his wife. Original mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for

### Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judiciary act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Alcona County, starting promptly at 10 a.m., on March 25, 2020.

The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Zachary J. Perry and Brittany Perry, husband and wife. Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns foreclosing assignee (if any): AmeriHome

### State of Michigan 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit Family Division Alcona County Publication of Hearing Notice to Putative Father Case No. 18-002682-NA

In the matter of:  
 Angel Marie Hensey, date of birth August 12, 2018,

Take notice: A petition has been filed with this court regarding the following minor: Angel Marie Hensey, who was born on August 12, 2018 at MidMichigan Medical Center—Alpena, located in Alpena, Michigan.

The mother of the minor is Britany Leigh Hensey. If you are, or may be the natural father, you should appear at 106 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Harrisville, Mich., 48740 on March 26, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. to state any interest you may have in the minor child.

Failure to appear at this hearing is a denial of interest in the minor child, waiver of notice for all subsequent hearings, and a waiver of a right to appointment of an attorney. Failure to appear at this hearing will result in permanent termination of parental rights.  
 2-26-20

### State of Michigan Probate Court County of Alcona Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate File No. 2020-6061 DE

Estate of Violet M. Gonzales  
 Date of birth: April 28, 1939

To all creditors:  
 Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Violet M. Gonzales, died January 21, 2020.

Creditors of the the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Teresa Gonzales, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 106 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Harrisville, Mich. 48740 and the personal representative within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: February 17, 2020  
 David H. Cook, P04560  
 5466 M-72  
 Harrisville, Mich. 48470  
 (989) 724-5155  
 Teresa Gonzales  
 3738 North Lakeshore Drive  
 Black River, Mich. 48721  
 (989) 657-1763  
 2-26-20

### State of Michigan Probate Court County of Alcona Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate File No. 2020-006042 DE

Estate of Myron L. Bundy  
 Date of birth: April 2, 1926

To all creditors:  
 Notice to creditors: The decedent, Myron L. Bundy, died January 10, 2014.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Valerie M. Howe, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 106 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Harrisville, Mich. 48740 and the personal representative within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: February 21, 2020  
 David H. Cook, P04560  
 5466 M-72  
 Harrisville, Mich. 48740  
 (989) 724-5155  
 Valerie M. Howe  
 84 Arbor View Drive  
 Crawfordville, Fla. 32327  
 (850) 933-2214  
 2-26-20

## 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.

Looking for a caring, compassionate dental assistant to work full time at Healthy Smiles Dental Care's Jewell Lake Dental. We offer full time benefits including: Medical insurance, vision, dental, a retirement plan and paid time-off. Please contact Rachel South at (517) 599-6167 or send your resume to rsouth@healthysmilesdentists.com. Experience is preferred.

## FOR SALE

Four good condition 18 inch tires, \$10 each. (989) 471-2083

Central Boiler Certified Classic Edge outdoor furnaces. Exceptional performance and value. Call today! Gauthier Heating & Cooling (989) 471-2478.

## HARRISVILLE TOWNSHIP MINUTES

The Harrisville Township monthly board meeting was held January 14 at 7 p.m. at the township hall. Four board members opened the meeting with the "Pledge of Allegiance." Absent trustee Healy. Harvey/Johnston: Approve the December 10 minutes. Motion carried. Treasurer's report given and reconciled with the clerk. Other reports given. Jamieson/Harvey: Install zoned community signs. Motion carried. Johnston/Harvey: Pay the bills. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.  
 Roger D. Jamieson  
 Township Clerk

## Moving+ AUCTION!

**Sat. Feb. 29. 10 A.M. - Perry Creek & M-33 Mio**  
 Furniture; Art; Exercise; Antiques; Collectibles; Primitives; Cast Iron; Glass; Pottery; Jewelry; Sportsman; Bows; Fish Related; Shop Tools; Garage; Outside; Snow Blower; Chain Saws; Log Splitter; 1983 Bravo Snowmobile; 2004 Bombardier 4x4; Coins & More!

**LET'S TALK AUCTION**  
 (989) 848-5158 • WWW.LETSTALKAUCTION.COM

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**CAMPBELL CONTRACTING**  
 Masonry/Concrete  
 Carpentry  
 Licensed & Insured  
**(989) 335-0440**

## BINGO

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

## BUYING TIMBER

Buying standing timber, minimum five acres. Cole Forest Products (989) 736-8928.

**Get Results in the Classifieds**



# Alcona County Review Classifieds

Ads may be brought in to our office at 111 Lake St., Harrisville  
 Cost per ad is \$5 for the first 10 words and 20¢ for each word  
 thereafter. Boxed ads are \$6 per column inch.  
 Ads and payment must be received by 4 p.m. Monday.

All Classified Ads **MUST** be Paid in Advance  
 We accept: Cash, Checks, Visa, Mastercard and Discover  
**Call 989-724-6384**

## BOARD OF REVIEW

### 2020 Board of Review Notice Gustin Township

**Gustin Township Hall**  
**113 South Second Street, Lincoln, Mich. 48742**  
 2020 Board of Review Meeting Schedule  
 Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 5 p.m.  
 Organizational Meeting  
 No appeals will be taken at this meeting.  
 Monday, March 9, 2020, 1:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
 Thursday, March 12, 2020, 1:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2020 assessments. Residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 9, 2020.  
 The tentative ratios and estimated multipliers provided by the Alcona Equalization Department for each class of real property and personal property for 2020 are as follows:

	Real Property	Personal Property
Agriculture	51.43%	N/A
Commercial	49.69%	50.00%
Industrial	51.19%	50.00%
Residential	51.19%	N/A
Timber-Cutover	N/A	N/A
Development	N/A	N/A
Utilities	N/A	50.00%

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice: The township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon seven-days notice. Contact Supervisor Muriel Goddard at (989) 736-8712.  
 2-12 thru 2-26

### 2020 Board of Review Notice Mitchell Township

**6849 W. Tower Road, Curran, MI 48728**

The Mitchell Township Board of Review for 2020 will be held at the Mitchell Township Hall, 6849 Tower Road on the following dates:  
 March 9, 2020; 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.  
 March 11, 2020; 2 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.

An organizational meeting will be held March 3, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. to examine the assessment roll. No appeals will be taken at this meeting. **Residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 9, 2020.**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2020 are as follows:

Agricultural	49.78	1.00000
Commercial	49.97	1.00000
Industrial	49.95	1.00000
Residential	49.51	1.00000
Personal Property	50.00	1.00000

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice: The township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon seven-day notice. Contact Supervisor Carla Brimm at (989) 848-2401.  
 2-19 thru 3-4

### 2020 Board of Review Notice City of Harrisville

**City Clerk's Office, 200 Fifth Street, Harrisville, MI 48740**

The City of Harrisville Board of Review for 2020 will be held at the City Clerk's Office, 200 Fifth Street on the following dates:  
 March 10, 2020; 3 to 9 p.m.  
 March 12, 2020; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

An organizational meeting will be held March 3, 2020 at 10:15 a.m. to examine the assessment roll. No appeals will be taken at this meeting. **Residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 10, 2020.**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2020 are as follows:

Commercial	50.00	1.00000
Industrial	49.99	1.00000
Residential	50.00	1.00000
Personal Property	50.00	1.00000

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice: The city will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon seven-day notice. Contact Barbara Pierce at the city clerk's office, 9 a.m. to noon daily at (989) 724-6666.  
 2-19 thru 3-4

### 2020 Board of Review Notice Harrisville Township

**114 S. Poor Farm Road, Harrisville, MI 48740**

The Harrisville Township Board of Review for 2020 will be held at the Harrisville Township Hall, 114 S. Poor Farm Road on the following dates:  
 March 11, 2020; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 March 12, 2020; 3 to 9 p.m.

An organizational meeting will be held March 3, 2020 at 8 a.m. to examine the assessment roll. No appeals will be taken at this meeting. **Residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 11, 2020.**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2020 are as follows:

Agricultural	50.00	1.00000
Commercial	50.00	1.00000
Industrial	50.00	1.00000
Residential	49.40	1.00000
Personal Property	50.00	1.00000

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice: The township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon seven-day notice. Contact Supervisor Chad Spitznagel at (989) 335-1960.  
 2-19 thru 3-4

### 2020 Board of Review Notice Hawes Township

**VFW Post 8135, 2120 Trask Lake Road, Barton City, MI 48705**

The Hawes Township Board of Review for 2020 will be held at the VFW Post, 2120 Trask Lake Road on the following dates:  
 March 9, 2020; 3 to 9 p.m.  
 March 13, 2020; 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

An organizational meeting will be held March 3, 2020 at 7 p.m. to examine the assessment roll. No appeals will be taken at this meeting. **Residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 9, 2020.**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2020 are as follows:

Agricultural	49.97	1.00000
commercial	49.95	1.00000
Industrial	49.99	1.00000
residential	49.98	1.00000
Personal Property	50.00	1.00000

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice: The township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon seven-day notice. Contact Supervisor Rodney Cordes at (989) 736-8466.  
 2-19 thru 3-4

### 2020 Board of Review Notice Millen Township Barton City FOE

**4141, 671 N. Sanborn Road, Barton City, MI 48705**

The Millen Township Board of Review for 2020 will be held at the Barton City FOE, 671 N. Sanborn Road on the following dates:  
 March 10, 2020; 3 to 9 p.m.  
 March 14, 2020; 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

An organizational meeting will be held March 3, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. to examine the assessment roll. No appeals will be taken at this meeting. **Residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 10, 2020.**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2020 are as follows:

Agricultural	49.98	1.00000
Commercial	49.99	1.00000
Residential	49.89	1.00000
Personal Property	50.00	1.00000

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice: The township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon seven-day notice. Contact Supervisor James Burger at (989) 736-3401.  
 2-19 thru 3-4

### Public Notice

#### Township of Caledonia 2020 March Board of Review Caledonia Township Hall

**6461 Gillard Rd., Spruce, MI 48762**

Appeal Dates

Monday, March 9; 3 to 9 p.m.

Thursday, March 12; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

An organizational meeting will be held by the Board of Review on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 11 a.m. to examine the assessment roll. Residents will be able to protest by letter, provided the letter is received prior to March 9, 2020 meeting.

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice  
 The township will provide necessary and reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon seven days notice by sending a request to Garry Boldrey, Caledonia Township Assessor, P.O. Box 7, Spruce, MI 48762.  
 2-26 & 3-4

### Public Notice 2020 March Board of Review

**Haynes Township**

**3930 E. McNeil Road, Lincoln, MI 48742**

Public protests will be heard at the Haynes Township Hall  
 Monday, March 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Thursday, March 12 from 5 to 9 p.m.

An organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3 at 1 p.m. to allow the Board of Review members to examine the assessment roll. Protests may be filed in writing and must be received by March 11, 2020. The board may meet additional; days as needed to conclude all business.

Appearing below are the recommended tentative equalization ratios and estimated multipliers as provided by Alcona Equalization Department.

	Ratios	Multipliers
Agricultural	53.44	0.93563
Commercial	46.66	1.07158
Industrial	N/A	N/A
Residential	47.01	1.06360
Timber Cutover	N/A	N/A
Developmental	N/A	N/A
Personal Property	50.00	1.00000

Becky Schroeder, Haynes Township Assessor, 1871 Lakeshore Dr., Harrisville, MI 48740

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice: The township will provide necessary and reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon seven-day notice. Contact the assessor at (989) 724-5676.  
 2-19 thru 3-4

### Public Notice

#### 2020 March Board of Review Alcona Township

**5576 N. US-23, Black River, MI 48721**

Public protests will be heard at the Alcona Township Hall  
 Monday, March 9 from 1 - 4 p.m. and 6 - 9 p.m.  
 Tuesday, March 10 from 9 a.m. - 12 and 1 - 4 p.m.

An organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3 at 3 p.m. to allow the Board of Review members to examine the assessment roll. Protests may be filed in writing and must be received by March 11, 2020. The board may meet additional; days as needed to conclude all business.

Appearing below are the recommended tentative equalization ratios and estimated multipliers as provided by Alcona Equalization Department.

	Ratios	Multipliers
Agricultural	52.83	1.000000
Commercial	49.39	1.000000
Industrial	52.25	1.000000
Residential	49.18	1.000000
Timber Cutover	N/A	N/A
Developmental	N/A	N/A

Sarah Gohl, Alcona Township Assessor  
 Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice: The township will provide necessary and reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon seven-day notice. Contact the assessor at (989) 724-5676.  
 2-19 thru 3-4

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**P.O. Box 548, Harrisville, MI 48740**



# MI Birds - working together for bird conservation

In the midst of a cold, sometimes dreary winter season, many people don't think about birds, which are often considered harbingers of spring.

But a great variety of birds can be found throughout Michigan all winter long, both those that migrate from colder climates, like dark-eyed juncos and common redpolls, and those that stay year-round, such as white-breasted nuthatches and northern cardinals.

Efforts to monitor bird populations also don't stop over the winter. Scientists need help from the public in collecting important citizen science data through winter bird counts, which help them better understand winter bird movements and population health.

Encouraging Michiganders to get involved in citizen science opportunities – and bird conservation overall – is the aim of MI Birds, a bird-focused outreach and engagement program jointly founded in 2016 by Audubon Great Lakes and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The program focuses on bridging gaps between the hunting and birding communities and increasing all Michiganders' engagement in the understanding, care and stewardship of public lands important for birds and people.



Some species, like this common redpoll, visit Michigan during the winter months from northern areas. *Photo courtesy of Michigan DNR.*

A steering committee with members from a dozen conservation organizations, some focused on game species and others on wildlife that isn't hunted, came together to form MI Birds. "Creating an environment of collaboration between birding and hunting groups is something we've been pushing for years, and this program has really made it happen," said Audubon Great Lakes' Director of Conservation Nat Miller.

MI Birds' founding partners included Ducks Unlimited, the Ruffed Grouse Society, Pheasants Forever, the National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, Detroit Audubon, Kalamazoo Nature Center,

Michigan State University Extension, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, American Bird Conservancy and the Detroit Zoo.

These organizations, and the others MI Birds has partnered with since, are dedicated to bird conservation in Michigan. "We are excited to have all of these conservation groups at the same table to have conversations that show how our values are aligned and how we can work together to achieve something really great," said Holly Vaughn, Public Outreach and Engagement Unit manager for the DNR Wildlife Division. "When we are able to work together and engage our collective audiences, we can make a positive impact on bird conservation in Michigan."

One conservation success story MI Birds has supported is the comeback of the osprey, a species of special concern that has returned in record

numbers after its populations sharply declined due to pesticide use and habitat loss.

The DNR has worked closely with Osprey Watch and the Detroit Zoo to monitor osprey nests in southeast Michigan. In 2019 they joined forces with MI Birds to expand this monitoring effort, with the Adopt-A-Nest Osprey Monitoring Program across the Lower Peninsula, enlisting the help of volunteer community scientists.

"I am overwhelmed with the response we had on the adopt-a-nest program," said Julie Oakes, the DNR wildlife biologist who manages the osprey monitoring program. "With over 280 people responding, it tells me that there are a lot of people out there who are very dedicated to helping wildlife!"

With the assistance of volunteers, 150 active nests across 29 counties were monitored in 2019.

While osprey and other raptors have seen increases in their populations, many other birds are experiencing population declines. A recent study published in the journal *Science* showed a wide-range loss of 30 percent of adult breeding birds across the country since 1970. Perhaps most surprising was that this loss, which includes common birds like finches, blackbirds and warblers, was observed across a wide variety of habitats.

However, this study also showed that when people work together to prioritize healthy lands and waters, birds will come back.

With the banning of DDT,

increased environmental protections, improved management, and on-the-ground work of a coalition of conservation groups, raptors, woodpeckers, waterfowl and wild turkeys all have bounced back from the brink of extinction.

In 2019, with the help of 18 partner organizations, MI Birds hosted more than 30 programs and reached more than 1,200 Michiganders. The program also successfully recruited more than 150 volunteers for a series of stewardship events, where people pitched in on projects like building nest boxes for wood ducks, and community science programs like bird-monitoring efforts.

Together, the members of its diverse group of partners help develop messages MI Birds communicates to Michigan citizens and cohost immersive guided birding tours at state game and wildlife areas they have enhanced or restored.

The program's biggest presence is online, with a Facebook page more than 9,400 followers strong, and a new Instagram account with more than 500 followers. These pages feature real-time information about Michigan's birds and community science opportunities.

MI Birds also has a website where blog posts on a variety of bird conservation topics and citizen science opportunities are shared.

"The MI Birds coalition gives all partners a platform to share their conservation successes with each other's organizations, improving our individual and collective abilities to raise awareness of our shared goal to conserve Michigan's birdlife," said Ben Beaman, biologist and Adopt-A-Game-Area program coordinator with Michigan Pheasants Forever.

MI Birds is also working to raise awareness of the DNR's important habitat work statewide, leading tours of key state game areas and other public lands, which double as Audubon Important Bird Areas. These events offer opportunities to engage the public in conversations with DNR biologists about habitat work and the species it benefits and how that work is funded through hunting license purchases.

"When people who don't hunt understand how non-game species benefit from primarily hunting-funded work, they instantly follow-up with the question, 'how can we help?'" Vaughn said.

"We encourage all Michiganders to purchase federal Migratory Duck Stamps, donate to the Adopt-A-Game-Area program, and volunteer as public lands stewards or community scientists. Each field trip is an opportunity to discuss this important conservation issue and brainstorm possible funding framework solutions."

For more information on MI Birds, visit the MI Birds website, Facebook page, Instagram page or Twitter page.

## 2020 Backyard Bird Count brings surprises

Local observers turned out in good numbers and reported some interesting finds during the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Great Backyard Bird Count held February 14-17. Iosco County ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> out of 83 counties and totaled 42 species. Washtenaw County topped the state list with 78 species. Alcona County tallied 26 species with a surprising viewing of 44 horned larks. Four American robins were also sighted in the Alcona area.

Worldwide 6,617 species were counted with over 35 million individuals reported.

Other interesting finds in Alcona and Iosco counties included, two ring-necked pheasants; three ruffed grouse; 12 house sparrows; five snow buntings; and one brown thrasher.

Patsy and Jim Mortimer of Hale have had the thrasher visiting their feeding stations regularly since late fall. Patsy was thrilled to be able to photograph it at the suet feeder during the count. This was the only brown thrasher seen in the entire state. Normally, this bird winters in the southern portions of the U.S.

Areas of open water along river corridors allowed many sightings of trumpeter swans, mallards and common goldeneye ducks. Eighty-three trumpeters were observed at Iargo Springs and were also tagged as a state high count.

Blue jays were numerous and 56 were viewed at a feeder in AuSable Township. Rock pigeons and starlings were also very abundant in both counties. As many as 50 wild turkeys were observed in the Lakewood Shores subdivision in Oscoda. Throughout the state this fowl is doing very well. Redheaded woodpeckers are also on the rise.

However, black-capped chickadees are experiencing some decline locally. Notably less abundant were cedar waxwings, which numbered 200 in Iosco County in 2019. Fewer were seen at locations across the state.

The 10 top species in Iosco County included trumpeter swan (83); mallards (68); rock pigeons (60); European starlings (58); blue jay (56); American goldfinch (55); wild turkey (50); common goldeneye duck (25); mourning dove (24); and dark-eyed junco (19).

Alcona County's top 10 species were American goldfinch (46); horned lark (44); trumpeter swan (42); common goldeneye duck (33); black-capped chickadee (16); blue jay (13); cedar waxwing (12); mourning dove (12); and dark-eyed junco (10).



MI Birds helps expand efforts to monitor Michigan osprey, a species that had been on the decline but that has made a comeback in recent years, through the Adopt-A-Nest program enlisting the help of volunteers. *Photo by Robert Black/Audubon Photography Awards.*