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Alcona County Review

\$1.25

VOL. 153 No. 48 November 29, 2023 1 Section Serving Alcona County Since 1877 Harrisville, Michigan 48740



Wooded trails, remote camping sites and miles of Lake Huron Shoreline make up Negwegon State Park, located in northern Alcona Township and Alpena County. Photo courtesy Michigan DNR, by Michigan state parks photo ambassador Samantha Hageman.

Alcona Township names new fire chief

By Mary Weber
Staff Writer

Carrying over 25 years experience with the Alcona Township Fire Department, the township has officially named a new fire chief.

Chad Kamischke first began working with the Alcona Township Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter in 1998 and has been promoted through the ranks to captain, training officer, deputy chief and now, chief.

He said it was his honor to fill such big shoes left by Ralph Klotz who recently retired from the position at age 81. "Ralph hasn't been well and as the deputy chief I've had to help cover through this process. The township asked for me to officially step

into the role and I told them I would give it a try." Kamischke said.

He said Klotz was always a good promoter of getting properly trained which he plans to continue moving forward. "He was a good fire chief for a lot of years," Kamischke said.

Kamischke is looking forward to bringing new skills, equipment and technology to the department. "I'd like to catch us up with the times with an emphasis on safety, professionalism and compliance while increasing our membership, especially in Lost Lake Woods," he said.

Anyone thinking of becoming a volunteer firefighter should call Kamischke at (989) 471-2353 or email him at alconatwpfire@gmail.com.



Chad Kamischke receives a handshake from Alcona Township Supervisor Marlina MacNeill after he was named the new fire chief for the township. Courtesy photo.

DNR seeks public input on Negwegon State Park planning

Those interested in long-term planning for Negwegon State Park are invited to a public meeting from 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, at the Alcona Township Hall, 5576 US-23 in Black River.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting the meeting, which provides an opportunity for people to learn about the new draft Phase 2 general management plan, proposed improvements and planning process, followed by feedback and questions with DNR staff.

The DNR uses general man-

agement plans to define long-range planning and management strategies that protect the resources of state parks, while addressing recreation and education needs and opportunities. The updated plan will replace the park's Phase 2 general management plan completed in 2010.

Negwegon State Park is located on the shores of Lake Huron between Alpena and Harrisville in Alpena and Alcona counties. This 4,130-acre park is popular for hiking, hike-in/paddle-in campsites, and hunting and trap-

ping. It features more than eight miles of sandy shoreline and is home to a state-designated dark sky preserve.

A copy of the draft plan and a public input survey – open through December 22 – are available for those who can't attend the meeting. Find links at Michigan.gov/Negwegon.

Comments/questions about the park, plan and meeting also can be shared via email with DNR Parks and Recreation Division land specialist Matt Lincoln at LincolnM@Michigan.gov.

Water consumption drops in Great Lake cities, study finds

By Eric Freedman
Capital News Service

Residents of major Great Lakes cities, including Lansing, are using less water, a trend that has economic, societal and environmental implications, a new study found.

And the relationship between per capita water use and socioeconomic factors such as income and race may prove significant as policymakers address inequities in the distribution and affordability of water, according to

the first such study focused on the Great Lakes region

"Ground and surface water resources across the Great Lakes Basin serve as a drinking water supply for nearly 40 million citizens in Canada, First Nations and the United States," it said. "Understanding the drivers behind water use trends is critical as the Great Lakes looks towards a future of potentially increasingly variable water supplies, emerging and legacy contamination, and the possibility of

a growing population driven in part by climate migration."

In addition to Lansing, researchers from the Ann Arbor-based Great Lakes Commission, the University of Michigan and Wisconsin Sea Grant looked at trend data for a 21-year period in four other regional cities with publicly owned water utilities: Milwaukee, Cleveland, Duluth and Green Bay.

The Council of Great Lakes Governors provided funding for the study.

The study points out that although water use is dropping in the region, "service rates and fees are rising at almost twice the rate of median household income, and water shut-offs are increasingly common."

In August, Detroit announced an end to its moratorium on water shut-offs for households with large unpaid bills.

Earlier this year, the Legislature appropriated \$25 million for the Department of

the Treasury to design a water shutoff prevention fund.

And in December 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed legislation to bar shutoffs of residential water for nonpayment, but that statewide moratorium was only short term. The intent, she said at the time, was to help guarantee that all state residents "can wash their hands and give their child a

Continued on page 4



God Bless America



Obituaries

Gena Yockey

Gena Yockey, 64, of Hubbard Lake, died on Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, at home.

She was born April 26, 1959, to Jim and Betty Yockey in Alpena, where she was raised.

Ms. Yockey worked in the office at her family's company, Yockey Construction.

Her love of animals led her to be one of the first people to work at the Alcona Humane Society. She was a longtime employee of Alcona County, starting in the Friend of the Court office, and then became the county's public guardian.

She was an avid equestrian and loved riding horses. She enjoyed the outdoors, and spent countless hours in her kayak on Hubbard Lake. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family.

Ms. Yockey is survived by her son, Nathan (Emily) Gauthier of Lincoln; two grandchildren; and two sisters, Karen Plecker and Sal Yockey.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Kecia Gauthier on July 22, 2010, and two siblings, Chris Yockey and Jano Yockey.

Cremation arrangements were made through Gillies Funeral Home, Lincoln.



Wayne W. Johnson

Wayne William Johnson, 57, died on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, in Traverse City, Mich.

He was born to Wayne and Gaye (Collins) Johnson on November 11, 1966, in Harrisville.

He was raised in Harrisville and Lincoln by his mother and stepfather, Charles Davis.

He graduated from Alcona High School in 1984 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

Following his time in the Navy, Mr. Johnson worked in oil fields and machine shops.

He loved the out-of-doors, having bonfires and his two feline companions.

Mr. Johnson is survived by two sons, Wayne Johnson and Brandon Johnson; two brothers, Tony Johnson of Fife Lake, Mich. and Charles Davis of Petoskey, Mich.; two sisters, Shona Davis of Harrisville and Shelly Rifembark of Harrisville; his beloved cats; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Gaye Davis; his stepfather, Charles Davis; and his father, Wayne Johnson.

No service is planned. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Alcona County Review

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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 \$28 for residents of Alcona County, \$32 for snowbirds and \$35 for out-of-county subscribers. Rates are based on mailing costs. Online subscriptions are \$25 per year. Subscriptions are not refunded.

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Local Notes



Blue Goose Stuffing

Help Michigan State troopers help those in need by stuffing a "blue goose," (MSP patrol car) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kris Mart in Lincoln. Nonperishable food items, toiletries and winter hats and gloves will be collected to fill a patrol car. All items collected will be distributed to families in need in Alcona County. Kris Mart will have a drop box located in the store prior to the event to collect additional items. For more information, contact Trooper Jake Strong at (989) 354-4101 at the Alpena post.

Judging Christmas Lights

Barton City Improvement Association members will be judging Christmas lights on Wednesday, Dec. 13 starting at 6 p.m. For more details, contact Arlene Cirillo at (989) 736-3294.

School Earns Recognition

Alcona Middle School has received recognition as one of the top 40 percent of middle schools in Michigan, earning the prestigious title of a U.S. News Best Middle School.

"We are thrilled to be recognized as one of the top middle schools in Michigan and to receive the U.S. News Best Middle School distinction. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our educators, support staff, and, most importantly, our incredible students," said Dan O'Connor, superintendent of Alcona Community Schools.

According to O'Connor, the school's commitment to academic excellence is complemented by a diverse range of extracurricular activities and a supportive community that actively engages in the educational journey of its students. Alcona Middle School's success is a collaborative effort

involving the school's faculty, students, and the entire community.

Alcona Middle School received this award because of the dedication of the school's administration, faculty, and students in maintaining a commitment to excellence in education. Alcona Middle School has consistently demonstrated outstanding academic performance, innovative teaching methods, and a nurturing environment that fosters the holistic development of its students. The U.S. News Best Middle School ranking is a highly respected accolade that highlights Alcona Middle School's dedication to providing a high-quality education that prepares students for success in high school and beyond. The ranking considers various factors, including student performance on state assessments, advanced coursework offerings, student growth, and student-teacher ratios.

DNR investigates dredging near Black River

By Mary Weber
Staff Writer

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is looking into obtaining a permit to dredge not only the mouth of Black River but possibly a channel of Black River out into the Lake Huron.

According to Eric Ostrander, DNR unit supervisor for Harrisville and Negwegon State Parks, the DNR visited the area in mid-October to get depth soundings.

"It is the DNR's hope it can change the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) permit to include dredging the mouth of the river and a channel of Black River out into the lake.

"It is very shallow even out a distance from the mouth of the river. Everything else in the sense of possibly doing a larger project to keep that area from filling with sand is still in the very beginning stages of determining what

will be done for a long-range fix," Ostrander said.

Alcona Township Supervisor Marlena MacNeill said the township has handed off the responsibility of dredging at the mouth of Black River to the DNR.

Up until recently, Alcona Township, under a long-term lease agreement with the DNR, monitored and hired dredging as needed, but according to MacNeill, the nature of the flow changed causing additional frequent dredging which the township board felt it could no longer afford.

"We do understand the importance and value of providing access to Lake Huron via Black River from a recreational and safe harbor perspective. To that end, we are working closely with DNR to figure out a solution to the mouth being continually closed off by sand accretion," MacNeill said.

She explained that studies conducted by consultants for DNR are suggesting some sort of structure to abate the sand drift; however, nothing conclusive has been decided.

An ad-hoc committee comprised of local volunteers has been formed to work with DNR on behalf of the township to find a solution and funding for any proposed mitigation projects.

"The park along the shore of Black River where it meets Lake Huron is a popular recreation area and access, part of which is owned by Alcona Township and part under DNR ownership, with a long-term management lease agreement with the township.

"It could and should offer the only safe harbor for small craft between Harrisville and Alpena. It could and should be open for water rescue for which Alcona Township Volunteer Fire Department is trained and has a rescue vessel that cannot access Lake Huron because of the unreliability of the river mouth being open," she said.

This fragrant substance is harvested from the *Boswellia sacra* species, also known as the olibanum. This tree is native to Oman, Yemen and Somalia, and has a long history in folk medicine throughout Africa and Asia. In the Bible, it is one of three gifts offered to Jesus by the "wise men." It is said to control bleeding, help heal wounds, fight inflammation, improve oral health, and studies have shown it may even help treat cancer. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.medicalnewstoday.com, thetruthaboutcancer.com, wikipedia

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Desperately needing to re-shingel the roof of VFW Post 8135, Level Up Roofing of Alpena, District 11 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Grayling VFW Post 3736, Department of Michigan VFW, and National VFW, all stepped up, and the job was completed on November 10.

A special thanks to Mike and his crew from Level Up Roofing for the timely completion and cost savings for Post 8135.

Jim Burger, Commander Post 8135 VFW



Calendar of Events



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

All homeschoolers elementary age and up are welcome to attend the Homeschool Hour at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library. Each lesson includes materials and a hands-on experiment. For more information, call (989) 724-6796.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

The Community Walking Club for Everyone will meet in the parking lot of the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library at 9 a.m. Call (989) 724-6796 for more information.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

A Christmas bazaar will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at New Life Lutheran Church. There will be holiday baked goods, pantry items, frozen foods, handmade note cards, craft items, sauerkraut, fresh green floral arrangements, and much more. Brunch will be served from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The church is located six miles north of M-72 on Hubbard Lake Road, just south of Mt. Maria Road.

Christmas in the Village, Harrisville's annual holiday celebration, will be held throughout the community from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Maria Hall will have its holiday bazaar from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Westminster Presbyterian Church will have a cookie and craft sale, plus other homemade canned items from 9 a.m. to noon. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Harrisville Arts Council office is hosting Santa from 11 to 11:45 a.m. There will also be coffee, hot chocolate, cookies and a take home craft for kids. Hay rides will also be available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the arts council office. From noon to 1:30 p.m. Santa will be at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library. There will also be youth activities, a craft making and cookie decorating.

Children ages five and up are invited to participate in the Community Children's Choir. Participants do not have to be a member of any church to participate. Rehearsals begin at 11:15 a.m. at the Harrisville United Methodist Church. The choir will perform at the Community Christmas Celebration in December. For details, call (989) 724-5450.

Adults who enjoy singing are welcome to join the Christmas Choir and participate in the Christmas Cantata that will be performed during the Community Christmas Celebration on December 15. Rehearsals are from 10:45 to 11 a.m. at the Harrisville United Methodist Church. All skill levels are welcome, and participants do not need to be a member of any church. For more information, call (989) 724-5450.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Buddy Jewell, the first winner of "Nashville Star" talent contest, will perform in a Christmas show in Alpena for Northeast Michigan Crime Stoppers. It will be held at the Alpena High School auditorium at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 per person and \$45 for families. For tickets and concert details, call (989) 340-6002 or (800) 205-7174

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

All seniors are welcome to play euchre from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Senior Center, lower level, 207 Church Street, Lincoln.

The Alcona County Baby Pantry is open from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at St. Raphael Church, 2531 E. F-30, Mikado. Alcona County residents with newborns through age four are eligible and welcome. This is not an income-based program. There is free formula, diapers, toys and new and gently used clothes and shoes. Layettes are available in the eighth month.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

Veterans are invited to join fellow comrades for coffee and fellowship between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Harrisville. For more info., call (989) 724-9581.

Help Michigan State troopers help those in need by stuffing a "blue goose," from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kris Mart in Lincoln. Nonperishable food items, toiletries and winter hats and gloves will be collected to fill a patrol car. All items collected will be distributed to families in need in Alcona County. For more information, contact Trooper Jake Strong at (989) 354-4101 at the Alpena post.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

CrossRoads Recovery, a faith-based addiction program, will meet at 7 p.m. at Greenbush Community Baptist Church, 2430 S. State Street, Greenbush. For more information, contact Paster Caincross at (989) 569-1298.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

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

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Pictures with Santa can be taken at the Harrisville Train Depot from 1 to 4 p.m. Be sure to dress warmly and bring a camera for the photos. There will be a bake and craft sale, and hot chocolate and candy canes. This family-friendly event is free and open to everyone.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

The Mikado Goodfellows Children's Christmas Party will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Mikado Civic Center. Chil-

Continued on page 6

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Preschool immunization lags U.S. average

By Kenzie Terpstra
Capital News Service

Childhood vaccination rates in the state are at the lowest since 2011 and remain slightly lower than national rates.

Major reasons include misinformation and inadequate financial resources for public health agencies, creating a heightened risk of spreading diseases, according to medical experts.

According to the latest data from the Department of Health and Human Services, only 66.5 percent of children aged 19 to 36 months have completed the recommended doses of the primary childhood vaccine series. "I think

lowest communities in the state with a vaccination rate of 51.2 percent.

The five counties with the highest rate of vaccinations are Ontonagon (81.6 percent), Midland (77.5 percent), Kent (77 percent), Bay (76.9 percent) and Leelanau (76.8 percent).

Department of Health and Human Services data shows routine childhood immunization rates by school building for over 2,000 public and private schools. "Some of those school building vaccination rates are very low," Bagdarian said. "We've got schools out there with a rate of zero percent vaccination, 10 percent, and then there

obtaining a medical or non-medical immunization waiver.

According to the department, a nonmedical waiver is a written statement by parents or guardians describing their religious or philosophical objections to a specific vaccine. Additionally, any parent or guardian seeking a nonmedical immunization waiver must receive information regarding the benefits of vaccination and the risks of disease from a county health department.

Joseph Fakhoury, the vice president of the Michigan chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said there are multiple reasons

Super Crossword

Answers

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PREZ JOCKEYS WELK DRJ
REDO TNASNIT OXEN RIA
EPTO MONTANE VIVACITY
RATON IAMNAES VELLEZ
EVERYLETTEROF TCELL
OED ULA ELK LASER TAX
SKOSH IOWAN MYHERO
JERK SEANN AGAPE MANX
ARIANA RIGBY GIN OMOO
XACTO ESQ RIG QTR
THEALPHABETISUSEDAT
MIO BIVNNE TOQUE
WALK TCM JESSE ADJUST
AROO CHAPO QUAFF OAKS
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BILLGE BAMS HIP ERIES
AMUSEDBY THEFONZ ANNI
JAM MOLE EARLOBE QUIZ
AXE SHES ESSENCE TSEE
    
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CryptoQuip answer

I couldn't think of the name of a familiar basic chemical substance. I had an elemental block.

GREENBUSH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW VACANCY

The Township of Greenbush Board of Trustees is looking to fill vacancies on the Tax Board of Review (BOR). Board of Review members are required to be electors (residents) and property taxpayers of the Township of Greenbush, and must complete BOR training required or approved by the State Tax Commission. The BOR meets five times a year. Board of Review members are paid for meetings, training, and mileage.

Letters of interest should be mailed to Supervisor C. Lee Major at 2600 W Cedar Lake Road, Greenbush, MI 48738. Call Supervisor C. Lee Major at 989.724.6071 for more information. Please respond to this opportunity to serve your community by November 30, 2023. 11/1 THRU 11/29

BOARD VACANCY

Alcona County Library Board has an opening for a five-year term as a Library Board Trustee (the term expires 12/31/2028). The Board is seeking a person with an interest in continuing to provide excellent library service and educational opportunities. Please send letter of interest and a brief resume to Alcona County Library Board, 312 W. Main St, Harrisville, MI 48740 or via email to director@alcona.lib.mi.us (With the subject: Board Member Letter of Interest) prior to 5:30 p.m. Friday December 8, 2023. The Board is most interested in persons with prior community involvement. Interviews will be conducted at the Alcona Library Board meeting on Decembr 13, 2023 at the Harrisville Branch. You will be notified of the interview time. Alcona Library Board of Trustees By-Laws are available on website www.alconalibrary.com. For more information call Denise at 989-724-6796 ext. 221. 11/15 THRU 11/29

Schools with Lowest Vaccination Rate among Kindergarteners, 2022

School	District	County	Vaccination Rate
International Academy of Saginaw	International Academy of Saginaw	Saginaw	33.3%
Lakeshore Virtual School	Gibraltar School District	Wayne	37.5%
Multicultural Academy	Multicultural Academy	Washtenaw	40%
Nottawa Community	Nottawa Community	St. Joseph	41.2%
Fostering Leadership Academy	Fostering Leadership Academy	Wayne	50%

Courtesy of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

that because we've been so successful in public health, people don't understand how damaging these diseases were," said Natasha Bagdarian, the state's chief medical executive.

According to state data, the five counties with the lowest vaccination rates for children aged 19 to 36 months are Oscoda (36.5 percent), Keweenaw (50 percent), Clare (52.9 percent), Houghton (53.9 percent) and Lake (55.1 percent). The city of Detroit also ranks among the

are schools that have 95 percent vaccination rates."

Children in the state are required to receive multiple vaccinations to attend school at varying ages. Required vaccinations are:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTP or DTaP)
- Polio
- Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal conjugate
- Varicella (chickenpox)

Parents can exempt their children from vaccinations by

for the declining vaccination rates.

"There's increasing misinformation related to any sort of vaccine," said Fakhoury, a faculty member at Western Michigan University's Homer Stryker School of Medicine. "Another big piece of the puzzle is that we did have decreased office visits during the pandemic."

Fakhoury explained that county health departments used to be active with clinics

Continued on page 10

PUBLIC NOTICE

IOSCO COUNTY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS SECOND SEMESTER 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR SCHOOLS OF CHOICE OPENINGS

GRADE	OSCODA AREA	TAWAS AREA	WHITTEMORE-PRESCOTT
K	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
1	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
2	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
3	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
4	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
5	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
6	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
7	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
8	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
9	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
10	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
11	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
12	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited

The above-identified Iosco County Public Schools will now accept applications for enrollment from nonresident pupils for the 2023-2024 school year. Applications are now available.

Completed applications for unlimited student enrollment in **Oscoda Area Schools and Tawas Area Schools** will be accepted **January 02, 2024 through January 19, 2024** and **Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools** will be accepted **December 11, 2023 through December 22, 2023**.

To obtain an application, contact the superintendent's office in the Schools of Choice district.

Issued by Iosco RESA per State Aid Act of 1979 as amended PA300 of 1996 Section 388.1705 and 388.1705c

The Iosco Regional Education Service Agency does not discriminate in any activity, program, or employment on the basis of race, color, disability, national origin, gender, religion, age, height, weight or marital status

Water Continued from page 1

glass of water at the dinner table."

The new study said higher water costs have an uneven impact on households, depending on their financial resources. On one hand, households that are more financially secure can afford to pay for using above-average amounts of water, while "wealth inequity" may mean lower quality of water.

Affordability factors include the demographic makeup of a community and its water infrastructure, said professor Drew Gronewold of U-M's School for Environment and Sustainability.

Gronewold, who co-authored the study with two graduate students, said public water utilities need a lot of the same infrastructure and have the same day-to-day maintenance and operating costs, whether the number of customers stays constant or whether there is a dramatic expansion or loss of the population served.

And with speculation that the region's population may grow due to an influx of "cli-

mate migrants," policymakers will need to consider how that will change water use and customer's ability to pay for it, he said.

The study said researchers are uncertain what the "driving" force is behind the decline in per capita water use. The researchers said their conversations with water resource managers suggest a "very likely combination" of increased conservation practices and mandatory use of water-efficient fixtures and appliances. They also identified updated federal water efficiency standards as another contributing factor.

Michigan has a program to fund financial incentives to reduce water use and improve efficiency but the program doesn't set minimum guidelines or requirements, according to the study, which appeared in the Journal of Great Lakes Research.

Next steps include expanding the research to 20 to 30 more cities, including Detroit, Chicago and ones in Canada, Gronewold said.

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Calendar of Events



Continued from page 3

dren from infant to 12 years old are welcome to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus, have punch and cookies and receive a gift and goody bag.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

All seniors are welcome to play euchre from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Senior Center, lower level, 207 Church Street, Lincoln.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

The Sunrise Community Food Pantry is open from 1 to

3 p.m. at Hubbard Lake Bible Church. Clients are asked to come only one time per month and must be present to receive food. Recipients must remain in their vehicle for curbside pickup and follow volunteer traffic control. The pantry accepts clients regardless of county residence. Identification is required. Bring a box or bag. The church is located at 13508 Hubbard Lake Road, Hubbard Lake. Call (989) 727-3443 for more information.

Alcona bands will perform in the annual Winter Concert

starting at 6 p.m. at the community auditorium on Barlow Road, Lincoln. This fee concert is open to everyone. The sixth grade band will be first on stage, followed by the seventh and eighth grade band and the high school band will close the hour-long concert. Songs of the season, including popular movie/radio hits and interesting renditions of classic carols will be performed by band members.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

CrossRoads Recovery, a faith-based addiction pro-

gram, will meet at 7 p.m. at Greenbush Community Baptist Church, 2430 S. State Street, Greenbush. For more information, contact Paster Caincross at (989) 569-1298.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

All seniors are welcome to play euchre from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Senior Center, lower level, 207 Church Street, Lincoln.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

The Lincoln Pop-Up Pantry for Alcona County resi-

dents will be held at 3 p.m. at Cole's Appliance storage building in Lincoln (near the AAA Credit Union) until the food is gone.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Veterans are invited to join fellow comrades for coffee and fellowship between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Harrisville. For more info., call (989) 724-9581.

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Protecting beloved pets after passing away

Dear Savvy Senior,
What is the best way to ensure my pets are taken care of after I'm gone? I have two dogs and a cat that are my four-legged family, and I want to make sure they'll be well taken care of after I die.

Solo Senior

Dear Solo,
It's a great question. Every year, approximately 500,000 cats and dogs enter shelters when their pet parents experience an emergency or pass away. Without a proper plan in place for the future care of your pets, they are at risk of ending up in a shelter where they could be euthanized.

To avoid this terrifying scenario and ensure your furry family is cared for both physically and financially after you're gone, you should consider including them in your estate plan. Talk to your attorney about how to insert them in your will or trust in accordance with your state's laws. Here's what you'll need to do.

Wills

If you already have a will or are planning to make one, you could simply add in a trusted caretaker clause for your pets, along with an alternative if your first choice falls through. You should also set aside money in your will for your pet's care with an explanation of how the funds should be spent.

To determine how much to leave, multiply your pet's annual food, care and medical costs by their life expectancies. You may want to add a separate document, called a letter of instruction, describing your pet's routine, food and medication.

But be aware that even with this provision in your will the caretaker is not legally obligated to follow your instructions, spend the money as you intended or send the pet to another caretaker that you've named. Once the money is distributed to the caretaker, it's an honor system.

Trusts

Another option is to create a pet trust, which provides more legal protections. Depending on your state's laws (see [asPCA.org/pet-care/pet-planning/pet-trust-laws](https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/pet-planning/pet-trust-laws)), you could set up either a revocable pet trust, which can be changed or canceled during your lifetime, or an irrevocable pet trust that can't be reversed. A pet trust can be completely separate or part of an existing trust that encompasses your other assets.

Along with appointing a trustee to manage your trust's finances, you name your pet's caretaker (who could also serve as the trustee), and any alternative caretakers, as well as an optional trust protector for added oversight of the trustee given that the beneficiary (your pets) can't defend their own rights. Unlike a will, the caretaker has a fiduciary duty to follow your letter of instruction if you include one.

The cost for a living trust ranges anywhere between

\$1,000 to \$3,000, while a will typically costs between \$20 and \$1,000. There are also cheaper do-it-yourself resources for making a simple will or trust, like Nolo's Quicken WillMaker & Trust (Nolo.com, \$99) and Trust & Will (TrustandWill.com, \$159). Or, if that's more than you're willing to pay, you can make your will for free at FreeWill.com or DoYourOwnWill.com.

Other Arrangements

If you don't have anyone who would be willing to take care of your pets after you're gone, you should make arrangements to leave them to an animal retirement home, a rescue, humane society, pet care program or other animal welfare group. Many of these organizations find new homes for pets or offer lifetime care but may require a fee or donation. Talk to your veterinarian about the options available in your area.

Dear Savvy Senior,

Do I still need life insurance after I retire? I've been thinking about dropping my

policy to escape the premiums. Is this a good idea?

Approaching Retirement

Dear Approaching,

It depends on your family and financial situation. While many retirees choose to stop paying their life insurance premiums when they no longer have young families to take care of, there are several reasons you may still want to keep your policy. Here are some different factors to help you decide.

- Family situation: Life insurance is designed to help protect your spouse and children from poverty in the case of your untimely death. But if your children are grown and are on their own, and you have sufficient financial resources to cover you and your spouse's retirement costs, then there is little need to continue to have life insurance.

On the other hand, if you had a child late in life or have a relative with special needs who is dependent on you for income, it makes sense to keep paying the premiums on your policy.



Savvy Senior

You also need to make sure your spouse's retirement income will not take a significant hit when you die. Check out the conditions of your pension or annuity (if you have them) to see if they stop paying when you die, and factor in your lost Social Security income too. If you find that your spouse will lose a significant portion of income upon your death, you may want to keep the policy to help make up the difference.

- Debts: If you are still paying off your mortgage or have other large debts, you should probably keep your policy to help your loved ones pay off these debts when you die. But if your debt payments are a small part of your

net worth that poses no risk of financial difficulty, then you may not need it.

- Work: Will you need to take another job in retirement to earn income? Since life insurance helps replace lost income to your family when you die, you may want to keep your policy if your spouse or other family members are relying on that income. However, if you have very little income from your retirement job, then there's probably no need to continue with the policy.

- Estate taxes: Life insurance can also be a handy estate-planning tool. If, for example, you own a business

Continued on page 11

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Alcona Township fire chief retires

By Mary Weber
Staff Writer

After a career of over 60 years, a well-known local hero has hung up his helmet and retired as the fire chief of Alcona Township.

It is a direction Ralph Klotz, now 81, never thought about taking and is finding it difficult to step away from the career he loved and devoted his life to, still, he knows it is the only decision to make considering his failing health.

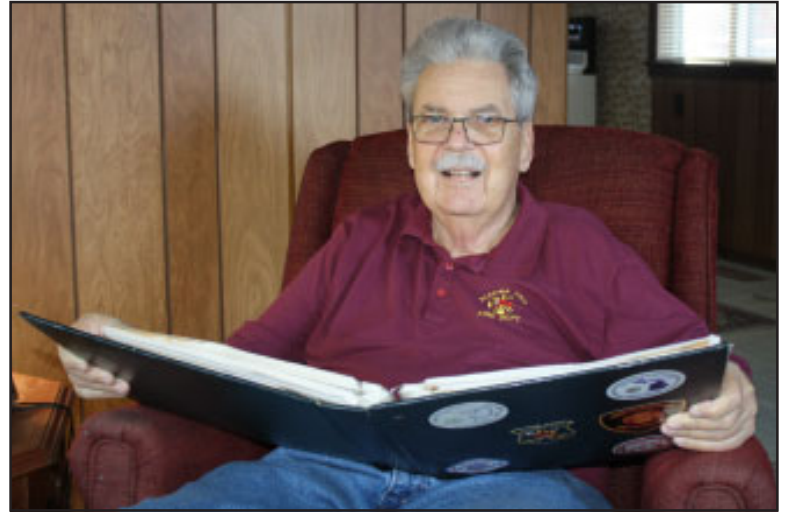
Klotz began his career when he was 19 years old. When he was a young boy, he knew becoming a fireman was what he wanted to do, but he didn't think he was smart enough.

Now, looking back on more than six decades of obtaining necessary training and training many others, the man who didn't think he was smart enough has an entire room filled with certificates, accolades and awards.

Looking at the many certificates of completion that decorate his bedroom wall, Klotz explained none of the training came easily for him. "I've been to Albuquerque, New Mexico and Fort McClellan in Alabama to take classes. I've taken courses in things I never dreamed I'd take, courses in radiology and so many things. It took a lot of work and a lot of time. I'm proud of all I've learned and all I've taught others. I can't even believe I've done all I have," Klotz said.

He has received training in rescue and recovery diving, emergency response to hazardous material incidents, arson investigation classes, an instructor's course in weapons of mass destruction and incident response to terrorist bombing awareness training.

Klotz explained he never served in the military because he had a fall when he was very young that caused petite mal seizures. "I was in civil air patrol in Pennsylvania and tried to enlist in the Air Force, but when they found out about my health history from when I was three years old, they didn't want anything to do with me even though I had no more problems. Three weeks later the Army called me to come down to the induction center. I did and waited and then they told me the same thing. They didn't want me either," Klotz said.



Ralph Klotz reflects on his 60-year career after retiring as fire chief of the Alcona Township Fire Department. Photo by Mary Weber.

He began working as a volunteer firefighter for Lingsletown, Pa., in 1961. He became a firefighter, rescue and first responder before moving to New Jersey. Another move brought him to Michigan where he found work in 1970 as a shift supervisor for security, fire and safety for the Ford Motor Company while still answering fire and rescue calls in Dearborn Heights, Mich.

"I was able to work 24-hour shifts with the Dearborn Heights Fire Department on my days off from the Ford Motor Company. I was able to ride rescue on those shifts. I didn't get paid for it. I did it to learn about the job.

"Because of my background, I taught Ford employees how to fight fires in the plant. I was a first aid instructor with the American Red Cross and also taught advanced first aid classes," he said.

"I've done it all. I've fought forest fires in the mountains of Pennsylvania for many years. They were wicked fires. I've searched for a girl's body in the Delaware River. I was at the arson fire in Lost Lake Woods and assisted Harrisville Fire Department in 2002 with the lumberyard fire, and a lot more."

~ Ralph Klotz
Alcona Township Fire Chief, Retired

Another illness, a nonmalignant brain tumor, ended his career after working for 14 years with Ford Motor Company. "I had to take a disability retirement from Ford. I spent 12 days in the hospital after they did surgery for that and had to learn how to walk again. I'd get dizzy with headaches, but through rehabilitation, I recovered," Klotz said.

It was after that he and his late wife, Cindy, who was raised in Oscoda, felt they needed to move north, and in 1990 settled in Alcona County. Cindy was killed just four years later in an automobile accident. The couple had no children.

Always extending himself to learn new skills, Klotz, who has a natural gift of making all around him feel comfortable, began taking courses to mentor troubled juveniles and took on a position as a juvenile court transporter, mentor, and drug and alcohol tester in Alpena County and a certified mentor and transporter for Alcona and Presque Isle counties.

Klotz explained picked up and transported juveniles from one county to another

all over the state and, even had to go out of state to pick them up in February snowstorms. He'd often stop before reaching their destination and buy the juvenile a pop or a burger out of his pocket, even though he didn't get paid much.

"Those kids were always very appreciative. Years later I've been approached by a few of them who recognized me and told me I made a difference in their life and that they were able to turn things around for the better. That means a lot," Klotz said.

When the Alcona Township fire chief position was offered to him in 1997, Klotz said he jumped at the chance. Over his tenure with the township, Klotz expanded the staff with both volunteer and permanent position employees, implemented a trained dive/rescue team, designed and implemented a vehicle maintenance program, and over-

saw training for all medical first responders and emergency medical technicians both basic and advanced.

He worked with the township board to identify and fulfill equipment and budgetary needs expanding both staff and equipment and procured funding through grant opportunities.

Even though Klotz lives alone, he is rarely lonely and said many friends have been visiting and helping him often. He also has a cat, Smokey who has become very protective over Klotz's whereabouts since he spent a long time in the hospital and then in a rehabilitation center last August.

"He watches me, he will come down and watch me do laundry. He checks on me throughout the day and watches every step I take. I've never seen a cat do that, it's amazing to me," Klotz said.

One of the most memorable fires Klotz was called to was in 2007 when he acted as incident commander at the scene of an Alcona Township dairy farm that involved the rescue, removal and disposal

Continued on page 11

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Fifty years of collaboration to preserve ‘The Big Wild’

By Casey Warner
Michigan DNR

In the middle of Michigan’s northern Lower Peninsula, just a few miles northeast of Gaylord, lies a special place known as “The Big Wild.”

This unique, rustic area known for its seclusion from civilization – a young Ernest Hemingway called it “wild as the devil” and “the greatest I’ve ever been in,” became the Pigeon River Country State Forest in 1919.

The forest began as 6,468 acres of tax-reverted land and has grown to 109,000 acres, 12 miles wide and 20 miles long, making it the largest block of contiguous undeveloped land in the Lower Peninsula. It’s home to one of the largest free-roaming elk herds east of the Mississippi River and offers abundant opportunities to explore the outdoors.

Michigan residents have long valued the Pigeon, as it’s often called, for its natural splendor and wild character. And 50 years ago, when controversy arose around use of the forest, a group of those

“broadly representative citizen advisory body” and “a key provision of the conceptual management plan developed by the Department and approved by the Commission.”

The council’s duties and responsibilities, as outlined by Gazlay, include seven objectives. Among those, helping the DNR “in framing management programs which will assure wise future use of the Forest’s varied resources, minimize and harmonize conflicts to the extent possible, and above all, insure wise conservation of the special resource values for present and future generations to use and enjoy.”

One of the council’s first members, and vice chairman at its first meeting, was Dave Smethurst, avid Gaylord-area trout fisherman and one of the founding members of the Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Smethurst, who passed away in 2021, talked about the formation and original members of the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council in the video “Advisory Council:

down with representatives of other points of view, including members of the hydrocarbon industry, in an effort to make the best decisions possible.”

Later in the book, he added, “In retrospect, they were exciting times, when ordinary citizens began to sit in rooms with the highest-level politicians and representatives of one of the most powerful industries on earth, not making speeches but talking to each other.”

Ned Caveney, who was appointed area forester for the Pigeon River Country State Forest in January 1974, recalls the first advisory council meetings that began in July that year.

Caveney said that, at the outset, he was “very concerned at how well this would all work” and questioned whether the group could really be successful at meeting all the management objectives it was charged with, but “the Concept of Management and the Charge to the Council were the important guiding documents.”

the forest.

As stated in the advisory council’s charge document, the group’s charge “is necessarily broad and general. Many of the problems and issues to which the council will address itself are identifiable now; others not presently foreseen undoubtedly

will arise. The department welcomes the council’s sharing in the stewardship of this state forest and its wonderful wealth of resources.”

John Walters, a member of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, was

Continued on page



The Pigeon River Country State Forest is home to one of the largest free-roaming elk herds east of the Mississippi River. Photo courtesy of Michigan DNR.

residents was called upon to help decide how to manage it.

In the 1960s, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) began leasing state land, including much of the Pigeon River Country State Forest, for oil and gas exploration.

Oil was discovered in the Pigeon in early 1970, and later that year, more than 700 people attended a DNR public hearing on oil and gas issues, most opposed to continued development in the forest. When lawsuits were filed over oil and gas drilling in the Pigeon River Country State Forest in the early 1970s, the DNR put a special management plan in place for the forest.

In December 1973, the Michigan Natural Resources Commission approved a Pigeon River Country Concept of Management. The plan included creation of the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council, with diverse membership drawn from conservation, oil and gas, and recreation interests.

In 1974, DNR Director A. Gene Gazlay appointed the first members of the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council. Gazlay’s charge to the advisory council framed it as a

A Bold Idea.”

“Smart, experienced, knowledgeable people ... It was all these smart people coming together and saying, how can we make this work? I don’t know that the forest could have succeeded, I’m sure it couldn’t have succeeded as well, without the advisory council because controversial issues, the department could hand off to the advisory council for advice, and it wasn’t the ‘damn DNR’ doing it, it was a group of citizens,” Smethurst said.

The Concept of Management created the council with diverse membership drawn from conservation, oil and gas, and recreation interests.

In the book “Pigeon River Country: A Michigan Forest,” Dale Clarke Franz called it “the state’s pioneering experiment in involving people of opposing views in the long-term management of its natural resources.” Franz also wrote, “As a result of the controversy, an advisory council of citizens was established and given an official role in setting forest policy. Many people opposed to hydrocarbon development were appointed to the council. They were ultimately unable to prevent drilling, but at least sat

During four council meetings that took place over six days in 1974, Caveney said, “It was evident that the majority of the council members took their role very seriously.”

In 1980, the debate over oil drilling in the Pigeon came to a close with a compromise settlement that formalized the advisory council, protected the northern two-thirds of the forest from oil and gas development, and laid out many provisions for development in the southern third of the forest.


“Nobody had a won a clear victory, but neither had the forest suffered a clear loss,” wrote Dave Dempsey in the book “Ruin and Recovery: Michigan’s Rise as a Conservation Leader.”

One outcome of the oil and gas controversy was the 1976 creation of the Kammerer Land Trust Fund, precursor to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, under which royalties from oil and gas would be directed to a land trust fund to acquire recreational lands. In addition to oil and gas development, the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council has provided input to the DNR on many issues including road access and equestrian use of




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Immunization Continued from page 4

as part of the Vaccine for Children program designed to provide better access to vaccines and pediatricians for children. "Those clinics shut down during the pandemic to redistribute personnel and staffing to focus on the pandemic," Fakhoury said.

He said that with declining vaccination rates, the state is at increased risk of dangerous outbreaks of deadly diseases that are preventable with proper immunization, similar to Ohio's recent measles outbreak.

That outbreak resulted in 85 children being infected

and 36 were hospitalized. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, said 94 percent of those children had not received the MMR vaccine, which protects against measles, mumps and rubella.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, when fewer than 90 percent of children in a particular community are vaccinated, an environment where diseases can take hold and spread is formed.

Nationally, 93 percent of children entering kindergarten during the 2022-23 school

year had received the recommended doses of vaccinations, according to the CDC.

The state's rates are slightly lower, with 90.9 percent of kindergarteners having received complete vaccination requirements in 2022.

According to the state's data, 160 school buildings reported 100 percent vaccination rates for kindergarteners. They include Wilcox Elementary in Ingham County, Herig Elementary in Saginaw County, Bemis Elementary in Oakland County and Alcona Elementary in Alcona County.

Fakhoury said health care practitioners are encouraging families to have open conversations with their physicians. "We want to take care of their child with them in a collaborative approach for all things, not just vaccines," Fakhoury said.

Raising awareness, includ-

ing school clinics and nurses in the discussion and reopening public health agency vaccine clinics are viable routes to increase vaccination rates, according to Fakhoury and Bagdasarian. "This is not about politics - this is about science and health," Bagdasarian said.

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Savvy Continued from page 7

that you want to keep in the family and you don't have enough liquid assets to take care of the estate taxes, you can sometimes use a life insurance policy to help your heirs pay off Uncle Sam when you die.

To help you with this decision, consider talking to an estate-planning expert or a fee-only financial advisor who can help you weigh out the pros and cons.

If you decide that you don't need your life insurance policy any longer, you may

want to consider selling it in a "life settlement" transaction to a third-party company, which typically pays four to eight times more than the policy cash surrender value. The best candidates are people over age 65 who own a policy with a face value of \$100,000 or more.

If you're interested in this option, get quotes from several life settlement providers or brokers in your state. To find them, the Life Insurance Settlement Association provides a directory at LISA.org.

Another option is to use a tax-free 1035 exchange to swap your policy for a hybrid product that blends life insurance with long-term-care insurance coverage. These products come in various forms, but they often combine a whole or universal life policy with a long-term-care rider. If you don't use the long-term-care coverage, your heirs get the death benefit.

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

Retires Continued from page 8

of over 350 head of cattle. "I got called to a conference in Traverse City and talked to students at Michigan State University about that fire.

"I've done it all. I've fought forest fires in the mountains of Pennsylvania for many years. They were wicked fires. I've searched for a girl's body in the Delaware River. I was at the arson fire in Lost Lake Woods and assisted Harrisville Fire Department in 2002 with the lumberyard fire, and a lot more," Klotz said.

In addition, Klotz, who said he could never say no to any task asked of him, has been the president of the Thunder Bay Fire Fighters Association for about 16 years and was involved with many fund-raising activities to earn money for equipment and victim services. He was also asked to be a guest speaker for Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program graduates and even played Santa Claus in Harrisville for several years.

Some of the best times Klotz has had on the job were spent visiting the elementary school and teaching young students about fire safety.

"Overall, I've had a great time. I've never regretted a thing. I have been busy since

we moved north. I've enjoyed working with the people here. People have been good to me and I've tried to do what I could for them. I've always helped people. It's hard to step away from that, it's hard to give it up.

"Chad Kamischke, Alcona Township's new fire chief is doing a fantastic job and is very knowledgeable with an extensive background in firefighting. He and I have worked together for 25 years. I have the greatest admira-

tion for him and I know he can do the job," Klotz said.

Klotz is thankful for friends like Kevin Dunham, a retired captain of the Dearborn Heights Fire Department, who comes up from downstate with his wife to assist in getting Klotz to doctor appointments in Rogers City, Mich. and Petoskey, Mich. He was thankful for good neighbors and friends like Kamischke who have assisted in getting him to and back from McLaren Hospital.

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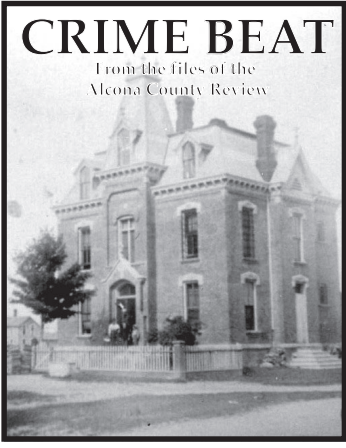
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 If no appointments have been received by 5:00 p.m. Friday December 8th the meeting will be cancelled. For an appointment, please contact the assessor at (989) 736-7689
 The purpose of this meeting is for correcting clerical errors, mutual mistakes of fact and qualified errors. The December Board of Review also has the authority to grant disabled veterans' exemptions and poverty exemptions. Completed applications, affidavits and supporting documentation for these exemptions must be filed with the assessor by December 8th. For questions or assistance in obtaining the required forms please contact the Assessor (989) 736-7689.
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Americanisms



“The proper response, as Hanukkah teaches, is not to curse the darkness but to light a candle.”
—Irving Greenberg

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Staff from NEMCSA on-hand to receive the award (from left) Kimberlee Hincka, chief financial officer; Tricia Grifka, early childhood director; Lisa Bolen, chief executive officer; Dorothy Pintar, community programs director; Frances Ommani, strategy and development director; and Cathy Macfalda, human resources director. *Courtesy photo.*



Buggy Rides



Lady Tigers lose bid for regional title

December 2, 1998 ~ By Michael G. Popkey

So close and yet so far. Having defeated McBain 62-57, on Nov. 23 to win their first regional game in four years, the Lady Tigers lost to the Harbor Springs Rams 70-

Alcona Tigers lose season opener 58-44

November 29, 1973 ~ The Alcona Tigers opened the 1973 basketball season with a 44-58 loss to Arenac Eastern on their court Tuesday night.

Alcona led at the end of the first quarter 12 - 11. But that was to be the last. At intermission it was A. E. 31. Alcona 21, and Arenac increased their lead to 42 to 29 at the end of the third quarter.

Harold Truman led Alcona scorers with 14, Mike Goddard added 11. For Arenac, two were in double figures. Bob Morgan had 18 and Gene Williamson 12.

The Alcona J V's had little trouble in winning their opening game of the season as they bombed Arenac 63 to 27. Top scorers for Alcona were John Katona with 27 and Wayne Sterner added 20.

According to Athletic Director James Emington, tickets are available at Alcona High School to see the Harlem Globetrotters in person at the Alpena High School Gymnasium on Wednesday.

December 5 at 7:30. There will be professional acts before the game and at half time. Admission is \$4 adults and \$2 for students.

62 last Wednesday night in Houghton Lake, ending the bid for a regional title.

“I’m a little disappointed,” said Coach John Katona. “We didn’t get the job done on defense, I’m proud of the team though. We took it one step further. The team never quit.”

The Lady Tigers down by three at the end of the first quarter, 19-16, could not contain the Rams in the second quarter, giving up a 15 point lead. The Lady Tigers scored the last five points of the second to end the half trailing by 10, 39-29.

Harbor Springs came out in the third quarter and pushed their lead back by 16 points, scoring the first six points of the quarter. The Lady Tigers were forced to play catch up and only managed to close the gap with in five

points throughout the remainder of the game.

The Lady Tigers outscored the Rams in the third quarter, 19-16 but still trailed by seven, 55-48. Freshman Chelsey MacNeill led the scoring with 26 points, Melinda Kilbourn had 15 points and Sarah Kruttlin scored nine points.

The Rams ranked third in the state in Class C, defeated Maple City Glen Lake 81-67 to make the regional title game.

In winning their first regional game in four years, the Lady Tigers took a 16-12 first quarter lead against McBain but trailed at the half 28-21.

Responding in the third quarter the Lady Tigers outscored McBain 24-12 to take a 45-40 third quarter lead.

Curtis Township recall election set for January 12

December 2, 1998 ~ By Cheryl Peterson

Any Curtis Township resident who plans to cast a ballot in the Curtis Township special election will need to be registered to vote no later than Monday, Dec. 14.

The special election, which is a recall election, will be held Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1999, in the Curtis Township Hall.

Rupert A. Smith, Curtis Township trustee, is on the recall ballot. Originally, petitions were also circulated for three other members of the board to be recalled. However, there were not enough signatures from registered voters to have the other three board members on the ballot.

The wording on the petition to recall Curtis Township Trustee Rupert Smith states the following reasons:

- Committing the unlawful act of arson while on township property
 - Passing an ordinance that carries undue and unnecessary hardships on township residents
 - Not acting in the best interest of the township taxpayers
 - Frivolous lawsuits
- Anyone who wants to register for the election can do so at any secretary of state branch office, the county clerk’s office in Harrisville or the township clerk’s office in Glennie.

NEMCSA wins Top Work Place award

The Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency (NEMCSA) has been awarded a Top Workplaces 2023 honor for the second consecutive year by the Detroit Free Press Top Workplaces award program. Workplaces that receive the award are selected based solely on employee feedback gathered through a third-party survey, with more than 70 percent of NEMCSA staff participating in the survey this year.

“Accepting this award on behalf of NEMCSA, its board, employees, and clients is a privilege. The recognition, derived from the perspectives of our 700-plus employees, speaks volumes about the organization,” said Lisa Bolen, executive director/CEO for NEMCSA.

This is the fourth time NEMCSA has received the Top Workplace award.

NEMCSA is a private, non-profit Community Action Agency that provides many programs and services throughout its eleven northeast Michigan core counties. These counties include Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle. Other counties are included in several program areas. To find out more information about NEMCSA’s programs and services, please visit www.nemcsa.org.

Giving up the lead early in the fourth 50-48 to McBain, MacNeill hit a three pointer and Kruttlin a free throw to give the Lady Tigers the lead for good 56-52.

McNeill led the scoring with 14 points. Kruttlin scored 13 points with nine rebounds.

Lauren James scored 13 points and had five rebounds. Maria Unkovich had 11 points and Kilbourn had nine points.

The Alcona Lady Tigers finished their season at 21-3. “I’m sorry to see the seniors leave,” said Katona, “I’m really happy with the way the team played throughout the season and I’m happy with the support the Alcona fans gave us.”

Elmores celebrate 50th anniversary

December 2, 1998 ~ Marilyn and Stuart Elmore of Cement City, Mich, observed their 50th wedding anniversary November 7 with an open house.

They were married on November 6, 1948. Marilyn is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Huffman of Lincoln.

They are the parents of S. Dane of Jackson, Mich, and Denise (Lynn) Hutchinson of Lincoln.

Relatives attending from Lincoln were Henry and Elinor Maj; Howard and Laura Kuenzli; Dick and Beatrice George; Ernest Sanborn and Joann Frazier. Another sister unable to attend from Lincoln was Kathy Litz.



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Veterans Host By Greddy Groves

Alert: Disability benefits questionnaire scam

The Veterans Administration Office of Inspector General recently issued a fraud alert. They don't do that very often, but this one is important: the Disability Benefits Questionnaire.

The DBQs are those forms you give to your health care provider that, along with information from your provider, lets the VA evaluate your disability claim. The fraud involves trying to get money out of veterans in exchange for getting a provider to fill out the questionnaire and getting the claim filed.

You do not have to pay to have that done. It's free at the VA or through their accredited representatives.

Per the alert, it's the initial filing that's free. Later, if there's an appeal, yes, there might be fees for that appeal. Apparently, the scammers are asking for a percentage of any payments that you get or fees to file your first claim.

And there's more: The scammers might want to send you to a different health care provider, claiming you'll have a better chance for higher benefits, likely by "finding" a diagnosis to get a better claims

decision. For this reason they might even tell you to stay away from the VA exams. Worse, you might be asked to have your benefit payments deposited into the scammer's bank account.

To avoid the scammers, if you want help from a genuine accredited rep, go to the VA's database to see if your proposed rep is listed: www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp.

If you have an accredited rep and there are fees, discuss them in advance and check to see if those fees are legit: www.va.gov/ogc/accreditation.asp.

Remember: Even if your rep is on the up and up, you're responsible for the accuracy of the information in your disability claim. Don't take chances. If you submit fraudulent paperwork, it's a federal offense.

Want to know what the VAOIG has been doing in your state and what they uncovered? Go to www.vaoig.gov/reports/data-dashboard and click on your state. That will give you all the reports they've done near you.

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Here's A Tip By JoAnn Derson

- On internet memes, they call them "life hacks," simple tricks to save you perhaps time, money or simply frustration. Here's mine: Place a bowl near your entryway. Place your keys in the bowl when you come home. They stay there until you leave. No more lost keys. Now more life hacks for your tip file. -- JoAnn

- Put a dryer fabric softener sheet on the back of a fan. It sticks and will distribute a fresh scent through your room. - T.I. via email

- Put an apple in the potato bag to keep them from growing buds. Check often. -- E.W. in Oregon

- Sharpen your scissors by cutting through aluminum foil. All you have to do is fold a piece over on itself and use your dull scissors to cut strips.

- Store popcorn in the refrigerator. You will have less unpopped kernels, because the cold temperature makes them heat more evenly. -- W.A. in Massachusetts

- Got chewing gum stuck in your hair? Rub with a spoonful of peanut butter. Massage into the gum-stuck hair. The oil in the peanut butter breaks down the gum, and you then can comb it out or wash out residue once you pick away the globs. How about on your clothes? Remove the garment and stick it in the freezer for several hours. The gum hardens, and you can literally peel it off in chunks. Use an old toothbrush to brush out any remaining crumbs of gum.

- Don't throw away that damaged garden hose. Here are three great uses: 1. Use as a weather strip along the bottom of your garage door. 2. Use sections to protect the blades on your ice skates. 3. Use as a safety edge on your saws in the shop. Cut to fit and slip it over the blade.

- "If a small screw keeps coming loose on something, remove it, paint it with clear nail polish and rescrew quickly. This often does the trick. Makes it more grippy." -- I.W. in Minnesota

- Doggie got a greasy coat, but it's too cold for a bath? Liberally sprinkle your pup with baking soda or cornstarch. Rub into coat and brush out.

- "Those little soft cardboard sleeves that light bulbs come in are really great for mailing photos. If you fold them flat, you can slip your pics inside, and it goes right in the envelope. They'll be nice and protected." -- D.L. in Georgia

- "If your curling broom is losing its spring, try trimming the bristles a little bit. This worked for me." -- R.D. in Canada (Tipsters: Curling is an ice sport.)

- Defog your mirror with shaving cream. Smear it over the entire surface and then wipe away with a clean towel. Keep cleaning until clear. It works for at least two weeks -- NO FOG!

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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Kovels: Antiques and Collecting By Terry and Kim Kovel

Advertising premiums

Toys have been used as advertising premiums for more than 100 years, from the cloth dolls that first appeared in the 19th century and baseball cards initially issued by tobacco companies to Cracker Jack prizes and more recent toys in cereal boxes or kids' fast-food meals.

This "Log Cabin Express" toy, which sold for \$150 at an online auction on AntiqueAdvertising.com, is an unusual case: the tin can of Log Cabin syrup didn't come with a toy, it became the toy! The rolling platform was the premium. It attaches to the empty tin to turn it into a pull toy. The tin was already eye-catching with its cabin shape and colorful lithographs. One side is marked as "Table Size," suggesting consumers "Serve From The Can." Long before today's environmental concerns and zero-waste movements, this company encouraged reusing its packaging. After all, why make a brightly colored figural tin if it's only going to be thrown away?

Q: I have too many antiques and vintage objects from the early 1900s and middle 1800s that have been left to me from family. My children (all married with children) have no desire for any of my antiques or vintage collection, which includes dishes, silverware, toys, books, blanket boxes (1800s) and multiple objects that are collectors' dreams. How do I find buyers who will want them?

A: Many people face this dilemma. My biggest piece of advice is, first and foremost, don't just donate everything or have a big garage sale! You could be letting valuable items (and money) slip through your fingers. Going through your collection will take time and effort, as well as help from some experts in furniture, toys and other collectibles. Your first step is looking over the Kovels guide to downsizing, located in the "How to Buy or Sell" section of Kovels.com. Good luck!

TIP: Silver jewelry should be kept in an anti-tarnish bag, often the bag it came in, when you are not wearing it.

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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

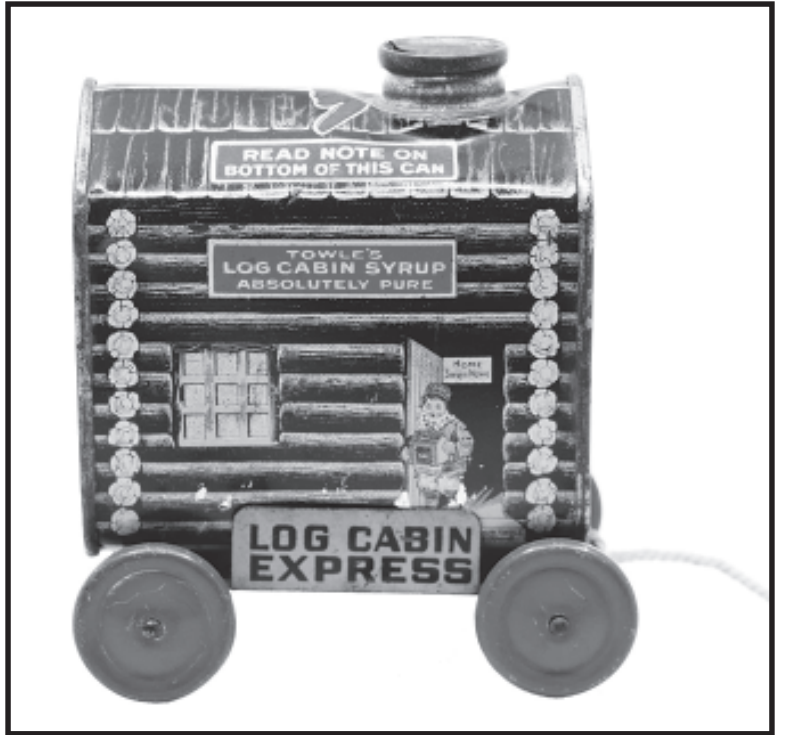
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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There's finding a toy in your food packaging, and then there's making a toy from the packaging. Towle's Log Cabin brand provided a rolling platform to turn their iconic syrup tin into a pull toy. Photo Courtesy of Kovels.com

Pair of Christmas ornaments, kugels, cluster of grapes, one gold glass, one blue glass, Germany, late 1800s, 4 1/4 inches, \$285.

Toy, tractor, John Deere No. 4520, gunmetal gray metal, 1/16 scale, Columbus Ohio Collector Edition, original box, \$345.

Christmas tree, aluminum, Pom Pom, "The Sparkler," 124

branch, Star Band Co., Virginia, original box, 84 inches, \$935.

Enamel, plaque, modernist abstract bird form, multicolor, yellow, turquoise, white, black, gold foil accents, on steel, signed Edward Winter, midcentury oak frame, 35 x 17 inches, \$1,080.

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Trivia Test

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. **TELEVISION:** What is the name of the captain in "The Love Boat"?
2. **MOVIES:** What is E.T.'s favorite candy in "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial"?
3. **FOOD & DRINK:** What is Hungary's national spice?
4. **ADVERTISING:** Which company's mascot is Elsie the Cow?
5. **PSYCHOLOGY:** What fear is represented in the condition called plutophobia?
6. **GAMES:** How many pawns are on a chessboard?
7. **SCIENCE:** What is the name of the giant land mass that is believed to have existed on Earth 200 million years ago?
8. **GEOGRAPHY:** Which of the Great Lakes is southernmost?
9. **LANGUAGE:** What is an octothorpe?
10. **LITERATURE:** Where are the novels "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" set?

Answers: 1. Capt. Merrill Stubing.; 2. Reese's Pieces.; 3. Paprika.; 4. Borden Dairy Company.; 5. Fear of wealth; 6. 16, eight pawns for each player.; 7. Pangea.; 8. Lake Erie.; 9. A hashtag or pound sign.; 10. Missouri. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Super Crossword

A TO Z REPEATEDLY

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| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Dubya or JFK</p> <p>5 Horse riders</p> <p>12 Bandleader</p> <p>Lawrence</p> <p>16 NBA's Erving, familiarly</p> <p>19 Totally alter</p> <p>20 Visibly sulky</p> <p>21 Pack of yaks</p> <p>22 Coastal inlet</p> <p>23 Monumental</p> <p>24 Of very hilly regions</p> <p>25 Liveliness</p> <p>27 Betray by snitching</p> <p>29 Possible answer to "Who is?"</p> <p>30 Scottish refusals</p> <p>32 Lupe of "Mexican Spitfire"</p> <p>33 With 73- and 117-Across, notable fact about this puzzle's solution</p> <p>37 Antigen-attacking lymphocyte</p> <p>39 Abbr. ending a math proof</p> <p>40 Suffix with form</p> <p>41 Deer relative</p> <p>42 Surgical tool</p> <p>44 Put a levy on</p> <p>47 Smidge</p> | <p>49 Des Moines native</p> <p>51 Cry to a lifesaver</p> <p>53 Move in spasms</p> <p>56 "American Pie" actor — William Scott</p> <p>58 Visibly awed</p> <p>60 Tailless cat</p> <p>61 Pop's Grande</p> <p>63 The Beatles' "Eleanor —"</p> <p>65 Gibson liquor</p> <p>66 1847 Herman Melville novel</p> <p>67 Big name in utility knives</p> <p>68 Atty.'s title</p> <p>69 18-wheeler</p> <p>71 Div. of a hoops game</p> <p>73 See 33-Across</p> <p>80 Mine, in Italy</p> <p>81 ROY G. —</p> <p>82 Albuquerque-to-Denver dir.</p> <p>83 Chef's hat</p> <p>85 Travel by foot</p> <p>89 Cable inits. for old films</p> <p>91 Reverend Jackson</p> <p>93 Tweak</p> <p>94 Ending for buck</p> <p>95 "EI —" (nickname of a drug lord)</p> <p>97 Drink heartily</p> | <p>99 Acorn trees</p> <p>100 "Incredible!"</p> <p>102 D-Max pickup maker</p> <p>104 Tips, as a hat</p> <p>106 Wd. often ending in "-ly"</p> <p>107 Rho-tau link</p> <p>109 Western treaty inits.</p> <p>111 U.S. spy gp.</p> <p>112 Former Pan Am rival</p> <p>115 Decide you will</p> <p>117 See 33-Across</p> <p>121 Part of a ship's hull</p> <p>123 Cartoon hits</p> <p>125 Cool, man</p> <p>126 Some Native Americans</p> <p>127 Getting a laugh of out</p> <p>129 Cool guy on "Happy Days"</p> <p>133 Years, in Italy</p> <p>134 Traffic snarl</p> <p>135 Lawn digger</p> <p>136 Popular place for a piercing</p> <p>137 Give a test to</p> <p>138 Log splitter</p> <p>139 "— Out of My League"</p> <p>140 Basic nature</p> <p>141 "That's clear"</p> | <p>2 Put new concrete on</p> <p>3 Revised copy</p> <p>4 Cholesterol-lowering drug</p> <p>5 Funny Carrey</p> <p>6 Artist Yoko</p> <p>7 "Be quiet!"</p> <p>8 Univ. about 50 miles west of Topeka</p> <p>9 Coating with glossy varnish</p> <p>10 Yang partner</p> <p>11 Office scribe</p> <p>12 Interlaced</p> <p>13 Is</p> <p>14 Third bk. of the Bible</p> <p>15 Roguish behavior</p> <p>16 Group of precision marchers</p> <p>17 Ceremony</p> <p>18 "Run This Town" rapper</p> <p>26 Toon frame</p> <p>28 Laugh syllable from a Stooge</p> <p>31 Plant — (claim some territory, maybe)</p> <p>34 Writer Mario Vargas —</p> <p>35 Mitigate</p> <p>36 "King Kong" studio</p> | <p>38 Solidifies</p> <p>43 "Seminar," for "Marines," e.g.: Abbr.</p> <p>45 River in Italy</p> <p>46 "Kisses and hugs" symbol</p> <p>47 Glide in a rink</p> <p>48 Glaring</p> <p>50 "That's the — goes"</p> <p>52 Med. insurer</p> <p>53 NFL's Jaguars, on scoreboards</p> <p>54 The "E" of 39-Across</p> <p>55 Well-off</p> <p>57 Muslim face veil</p> <p>59 Arouse</p> <p>62 Linguist Chomsky</p> <p>64 Mark over a short vowel</p> <p>68 Pliocene, e.g.</p> <p>70 Big name in infomercial knives</p> <p>72 Eligible for Soc. Sec.</p> <p>74 Class for an Eng. major</p> <p>75 Little jewel</p> <p>76 Sam of golf</p> <p>77 Judo halls</p> <p>78 Blue hue</p> <p>79 Walrus tooth</p> <p>84 Aliens, briefly</p> <p>85 Tot's glassful</p> <p>86 Yank who wore #13</p> | <p>87 Small amount, as of sales</p> <p>88 Jazz saxophonist Dave</p> <p>90 Injure greatly</p> <p>92 People crushing things</p> <p>93 Stick on</p> <p>96 Biblical song</p> <p>98 Points of convergence</p> <p>101 Prizes highly</p> <p>103 Animals: Suffix</p> <p>105 Kismet</p> <p>108 Wolf down</p> <p>110 Suppress</p> <p>112 Pre-liftoff expression</p> <p>113 Hot dog</p> <p>114 Judicial inquest</p> <p>116 Book divs.</p> <p>118 Lauder of cosmetics</p> <p>119 Cereal utensil</p> <p>120 Basra citizen</p> <p>121 Mexico's — California</p> <p>122 Huge-screen film format</p> <p>124 In-favor votes</p> <p>128 "Stupid me!"</p> <p>130 Partakes of</p> <p>131 "Grimm" airer</p> <p>132 Wye follower</p> |
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Moments In Time

By The History Channel

- On Dec. 11, 2008, Bernie Madoff, the founder and chairman of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC, was arrested and subsequently convicted of fraud for the multi-billion-dollar Ponzi scheme that fleeced investors around the world for decades.
 - On Dec. 12, 1968, American actress Tallulah Bankhead died at the age of 66 from double pneumonia. A flamboyant personality with a huskily seductive voice and a flair for exhibitionism, her greatest success was as a stage actress (she was the inspiration for Blanche Dubois in "A Streetcar Named Desire"), though she also appeared in several prominent films and on TV and radio.
 - On Dec. 13, 1642, Abel Tasman, a Dutch explorer and merchant, reached the coast of South Island in New Zealand and named it Staten Landt. The first European in recorded history to land on the Australian island state of Tasmania, he claimed it for the Dutch crown, and it was named for him as well.
 - On Dec. 14, 1974, disaster film "The Towering Inferno," starring professional rivals Steve McQueen and Paul Newman, was released. The film was shot in sequence so all the actors looked authentically haggard and dirty as it progressed.
 - On Dec. 15, 1840, Napoleon Bonaparte received a French state funeral in Paris more than two decades after his death on the island of St. Helena, when his remains were exhumed and transferred to the Hotel des Invalides on the initiative of the French prime minister and King Louis-Philippe.
 - On Dec. 16, 1907, in order to demonstrate America's new presence as a world power, President Theodore Roosevelt embarked on a round-the-world cruise in a group of U.S. Navy battleships, making friendly courtesy visits to a number of international ports.
 - On Dec. 17, 1986, Special Agent Polifrone went undercover to lure out American mafia hitman Richard Kuklinski. Polifrone gave Kuklinski some fake cyanide to use for a murder. Kuklinski found out later that it was fake and decided not to go through with the hit but was arrested at a roadblock on his way home.
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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

- When the D-Day forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944, Adolf Hitler was asleep. None of his generals dared to send reinforcements without his permission, and no one even dared to wake him, since he'd issued strict orders not to be disturbed.
 - On its one-year anniversary, NASA's Curiosity Rover sang the "Happy Birthday" song to itself on Mars.
 - Atomic bomb tests were a major tourist attraction in Las Vegas during the 1950s.
 - Microplastics aren't an issue only in the world's oceans and ice caps. Researchers have discovered the tiny particles in clouds over Japan's Mount Fuji and Mount Oyama.
 - A study found that students who chewed gum earned better math test scores than those who didn't.
 - Ever wonder why our friends across the pond wish each other a "Happy Christmas" as opposed to Americans' "Merry Christmas"? In the 19th century, the word "merry" also meant intoxicated, so they wanted to separate it from public insobriety.
 - When staying at hotels, guests are more likely to interact with female robots, especially if they have human-like features, than male robots.
 - Next time you're feeling stressed, try reaching for a hunk of chocolate: The sweet's smell increases theta brain waves, which triggers relaxation.
 - Right-handed people tend to chew food on their right side, while left-handed folks are prone to chewing on their left.
- ***

Thought for the Day: "Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards." -- Vernon Sanders Law

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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: K equals L

M DHFKUW'O OBMWV HS OBA
 WGZA HS G SGZMKMGI NGQMD
 DBAZMDGK QFNQOGWDA. M BGU
 GW AKAZAWOGK NKHDV.

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Alcona County Review Classifieds

All Classified Ads **MUST** be Paid in Advance

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 \$5 per column inch. Ads and payment must be received by 4 p.m. Monday.

Call 989-724-6384

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature 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 December 6, 2023. 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): Victoria Abbott, married woman. Original mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns. Foreclosing assignee (if any): Penny MacLoan Services, LLC. Date of mortgage: July 22, 2022. Date of mortgage recording: July 26, 2022. Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$254,890.40.

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Mikado, Alcona County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at the east 1/4 corner of Section 5, T25N, R8E; thence north 89 degrees 59 minutes 00 seconds west along east-west 1/4 line of said section and centerline of county road F-30 1965.37 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing north 89 degrees 59 minutes 00 seconds west along said line 645.37 feet to center of said section; thence due west along said east-west 1/4 line and centerline 658.69 feet; thence north 00 degrees 21 minutes 40 seconds east along west line of east-1/2 of southeast-1/4 of the north-west-1/4 of said section 1321.43 feet; thence south 89 degrees 57 minutes 41 seconds east along north line of said east-1/2 657.26 feet; thence south 89 degrees 56 minutes 55 seconds east along north line of southwest-1/4 of the northeast-1/4 of said section 647.08 feet; thence south 00 degrees 22 minutes 26 seconds west 1320.60 feet to the point of beginning. Description taken from survey recorded in Liber 454, pages 435-36, Alcona County records. Common street address (if any): 741 E. F-30, Mikado, Mich. 48745-9713 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 Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. 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: November 8, 2023 Trott Law, P.C. 31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, Mich. 48334 (248) 642-2515 1513750 11-8, 11-15, 11-22, 11-29

State of Michigan County of Alcona Publication Notice to Creditors

Decedent's Trust Estate
Diane L. Carroll, deceased
Date of Birth: February 1, 1942
Name of Trust: The Diane L. Carroll Living Trust dated June 22, 2021
Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Diane L. Carroll a/k/a Diane L. LePlae, died July 20, 2023. There is no probate estate. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Trust estate will be forever barred unless presented to James T. Carroll, trustee, within four months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: November 29, 2023
Alisa Kwang, P53253
Attorney
39111 Six Mile Road Livonia, Mich. 48152 (248) 469-8225
James T. Carroll
Trustee
789 Lakeland Grosse Pointe, Mich. 482320 (248) 342-0244

HELP WANTED

Now hiring all shifts, S&S Wood Products in Barton city is hiring lumber handlers, Sawyers, general labor. Weekly pay, Get paid an EXTRA one dollar per hour to show up on time. call Ryan 989-724-5577 or Joe 989-464-6059.

BINGO

Mikado Goodfellows Bingo every Monday 6:30 p.m. at Mikado Civic Center.. Hot ball, Bingo ball, milk money and winner take all game. All proceeds to charity.

BUYING TIMBER

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

FOR SALE

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

WORK WANTED

Experienced, responsible care giver for elderly is looking for clients. Flexible hours. 989-657-4879.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Jamieson Nursing Home

Now Hiring R.N, LP.N., CNA and a cook. Call 989-724-6889

Sharboneau & Sons

Excavating, Demolition, septic systems, topsoil, sand and gravel. All excavating needs. Licensed & Insured (989) 736-8148

ANGEL AT HEART Non-Medical

Homecare Respite Care • Light Housekeeping Medication Reminders Grooming/Personal Care Shopping & Errands 989-390-2703

CITY OF HARRISVILLE MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Harrisville City Council was held on November 13 at the city office. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Gehring and the "Pledge of Allegiance" was said. Present: Mayor Gehring; treasurer Luenberger; clerk Pierce; and council members, Bauermeister, Kaiser, Schwanz, Mason, Bean, and Vanderheuel. Motion to approve the agenda with addition of planning commission ordinances, by Bean, support by Schwanz. Motion carried: 6-0. Motion by Vanderheuel, support by Kaiser to approve the minutes of October 9. Motion carried 6-0. Motion by Mason, support by Vanderheuel, to pay the bills in the amount of \$62,096.80. Motion carried 6-0. Mayor Gehring addressed correspondence from the Foster Family in support of Pam McCann's proposal to place a "tiny home" on her property adjacent to theirs as a temporary residence while she decides on a permanent house. Discussion. Mayor Gehring addressed the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee meeting agenda of October 10. Discussion. Mayor Gehring asked to set the 2024 water/sewer budget meeting for November 28 at 5:30 p.m. and the special budget meeting for 6 p.m. November 28. Motion by Schwanz, support by Bean to set the water/sewer budget meeting for 5:30 p.m. on November 28 and the special budget meeting for November 28 at 6 p.m. Motion carried: 6-0. Harrisville Harbor bylaws review. Discussion. Motion by Bauermeister, support by Mason to approve the Harrisville Harbor bylaws as approved by the Harbor Commission on August 7 and reviewed by the city attorney on October 2. Motion carried: 6-0. Alderman Schwanz presented her research regarding the availability of using Zoom for streaming city council meetings. Discussion. Motion by Vanderheuel, support by Bauermeister to table vote until the December 11 city council meeting.

Motion carried: 6-0. Mayor Gehring updated council as to proposal from Huron Engineering for construction of wooden stairs and viewing platform at the harbor. Discussion. As decreed by mayor Gehring, holiday office closures shall be: Thanksgiving - November 23 and 24. Christmas - December 25, and 26. New Year - January 1 and 2, 2024. The city office will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2024. The Tree Advisory Council asked for city council approval of the Tree Advisory Council Mission Statement. The Tree Advisory Council will establish practices which govern the planting and care of trees for the public good, and to enhance biodiversity. Motion by Bean, support by Schwanz to approve the Tree Advisory Council's mission statement. The city council herein delegates the authority and responsibility for managing the public trees in Harrisville to the Tree Advisory Council. Motion carried: 6-0. Mayor Gehring presented to council Lane Schwanz's proposal for a Disc Golf Course and funding from the city of \$3,963 for costs of the equipment and materials and signs for the proposed course. Discussion. Council agreed to take no action on the proposal and recommended the proposal be sent back to the planning commission and be included as part of the recreation plan. Mayor Gehring presented Alcona County's Intergovernmental Agreement pertaining to consolidation of election activities for nine (9) consecutive days, eight hours each day, for all state and federal elections prior to actual election dates. Discussion. Motion by Bauermeister, support by Vanderheuel to approve Alcona County's Intergovernmental Agreement. Motion carried: 5-0. One abstention. The harbor bathroom invoice of \$1,156.00 for the extra hours to keep the harbor restrooms open for the Tuesday night Open Mic Nite for two months prior to the regular summer season, and one month after the boating season, was brought to council by mayor Gehring. Discussion.

Planning Commissioner Schwanz presented the amended zoning ordinances approved by the planning commission at its public hearing on November 8. Motion by Schwanz, support by Vanderheuel to approve the amended ordinances. Ayes: Kaiser, Bauermeister, Mason, Bean, Schwanz, Vanderheuel. Nays: 0. Council voted on Resolution No. 2023-07 Local Governing Resolution for Charitable Gaming Licenses to amend request from the Alcona County Library to Friends of Alcona County Library of Harrisville, County of Alcona. Motion by Bauermeister, support by Schwanz to amend request to "Friends of Alcona County Library." Ayes: Kaiser, Bauermeister, Mason, Bean, Schwanz, Vanderheuel. Nays: 0. Mayor Gehring updated council about the kickoff meeting with OHM Engineering for the beginning phase of the lagoon project. The project will begin in 2025. Clerk Pierce reported the special election of November 7 went very well. A total of 110 votes were cast with 41 ballots being absent voter ballots. The total votes cast were: Yes-51, No-59. Treasurer Luenberger reported that Winter 2023 Taxes will be sent out December 1. The city has received the playground grant reimbursement money from the state. Harbor is open for fuel supplies only. The harbor is preparing for the winter season and is beginning the placement of bubblers around the docks. Liaison Schwanz will post a vacancy to be filled on the planning commission. There will be a January 3, 2024, public hearing for review of the Recreation Plan. The notice will be posted in the newspaper. Tree Advisory Council will hold a meeting November 20 at 5:30 p.m. Comment Cards: Tim Slezacek reported on the cleaning of the raceway at the Mill Pond which was very successful. A volunteer pledged to pay for the dredging of the Mill Pond if necessary. The DEQ will inspect the pond at a later date.

Brenda Bray had some questions concerning the zoning for "tiny houses," the status of the stairs at the harbor, and the use of Zoom for council meetings. Monica Spears reported on the number of street lights on Main Street which need replacement, the fact that the city website is not up to date, and full trash cans on some of the poles on Main Street. Teri O'Callaghan shared that the arts council is planning to have a tree lighting at the end of Main Street on Saturday, December 9 at 5:30 p.m. Caroling, cocoa, and cookies will be part of the festivities. Alderman Schwanz has used and greatly appreciates the availability of "All Paid" for use of paying city taxes and city water/sewer bills. The QR codes for these are on the city website: harrisvillemi.org. Motion to adjourn by Schwanz, support by Bean. Adjourned at 8:49 p.m. Next regularly scheduled Harrisville City Council meeting is Monday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Published prior to council approval.

Classified Ad Deadline is Monday at 4 p.m.

Service Manager -Service Writer Alcona Motors Chevrolet Full Time Position Available.

Computer knowledge a must. Benefits, 401k, paid vacation and holidays. Come join our family. Stop in or send a resume to: Alcona Motors att: Jon Kruttlin P.O. Box 130, Lincoln MI, 48742 or jonkruttlin@alconamotors.com 1-989-736-8191

AUTOMOTIVE TECH POSITION AVAILABLE

Alcona Motor's Chevrolet dealership is looking for a service technician. Full Time position now available. Wage based on experience, 401 k, paid vacation and holidays. Mechanical knowledge a must. Join our Team today. Stop in or send resume to: Alcona Motors att. Jon Kruttlin P.O. Box 130 Lincoln MI, 48742 or jonkruttlin@alconamotors.com 1-989-736-8191

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PETS OF THE WEEK

At the Alcona Humane Society

457 W. Traverse Bay Rd., Lincoln • 989-736-7387



Juno is 4 years old, spayed, microchipped, has her Distemper and Parvo vaccine, and has been dewormed. She is a 50 pound husky mix. Juno has lots of spunk and loves to go for long walks! Juno is one of our longest residents and deserves a warm and comfy place to call her own!

Eclipse is 2 years old, soon to be spayed, microchipped, feline leukemia negative, has her distemper vaccine, and has been dewormed! She is very friendly with other cats and very affectionate! She is also medium length haired.

Pigeon Continued from page 9

appointed to the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council in 2008, representing Trout Unlimited, and served as the council's chair from 2010 to 2018. Walters recalled that he and fellow advisory council members addressed many issues, ranging from gas and oil to forestry, wildlife, fisheries and acceptable uses of "The Big Wild."

"However, one event stands out above all other issues," he said. "On June 23, 2008, an event occurred that changed my life and perhaps others on the council, as well."

On that date, the Song of the Morning Dam malfunctioned, draining the impoundment and sending tons of sediment downstream on the Pigeon River, killing over half a million trout. The DNR filed a lawsuit against Golden Lotus, owner of Song of the Morning Ranch. Trout Un-

limited and the Pigeon River Country Association joined together to also file a lawsuit against Golden Lotus. The advisory council fully supported the lawsuit, with four council members, including Walters, party to the case. The main objective of this team was to get the Song of the Morning Dam fully removed.

While initially expected to be a two-year process, with litigation and negotiation, the lawsuit took six years to resolve. "The team routinely updated the entire council with the progress of the case. Never did the council waiver, full steam ahead. This process tested the team's negotiation skills, and patience, but they were steadfast to seek full dam removal," Walters said. "The team also recognized that if/when they prevailed, they would have to work with

removal, free-flowing Pigeon River, fish and macroinvertebrate passage and cold water flowing past Song of the Morning Ranch," Walters said. "It was very important to the team that the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council fully supported these efforts and did not waiver throughout the lengthy process."

Today, the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council is comprised of 18 citizen members, three ex-officio members from the DNR and one ex-officio member from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

"Over the 16 years that I worked with the council I am proud of how effective the council was. They made a difference helping the DNR deal with many controversial issues, most noted were oil

PUBLIC NOTICE DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW FOR MIKADO TOWNSHIP MIKADO CIVIC CENTER 2291 S. F-41 MIKADO, MI. 48745

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 Beginning at 5:30 p.m.

If no appointments have been received by 5:00 p.m. Friday December 8th the meeting will be cancelled. For an appointment, please contact the assessor at (989) 736-7689

The purpose of this meeting is for correcting clerical errors, mutual mistakes of fact and qualified errors. The December Board of Review also has the authority to grant disabled veterans' exemptions and poverty exemptions. Completed applications, affidavits and supporting documentation for these exemptions must be filed with the assessor by December 8th. For questions or assistance in obtaining the required forms please contact the Assessor (989) 736-7689.

Nancy Schwickert
Mikado Township Assessor

11/29 & 12/6



The Pigeon River flows through Pine Grove State Forest Campground in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. Photos courtesy of Michigan DNR.

Harrisville Holiday Traditions

The Harrisville Goodfellows rebuilt and displayed the manager for Christmas last year. Many people noticed the absence of the camel that was damaged. Our friends from the body shop at Alcona Motors in Lincoln have worked on the repairs and repainting of the camel. We are hoping for the re-appearance of the camel in this year's presentation. The traditional nativity scene will be going on display Sunday, November 19, along with the lighting of a giant Christmas tree on the corner of US-23 and M-72.

The goal of the Harrisville Goodfellows is to make sure no one is forgotten about at Christmas time. Both Seniors and children.

Fruit baskets will be delivered to senior citizens in the community on Sunday, Dec 17 to wish them a Merry Christmas and a joyous Holiday Season.

Santa Claus also will be making an appearance at the homes of children ages 1 - 12 on Christmas Eve between 6 and 8 p.m. to say HO HO HO and Merry Christmas. We need the help of parents and grandparents to let us know if there will be children in the area on Christmas Eve so they can make it onto Santa's list. Leave the porch light on.

The geographic area the Harrisville Goodfellows covers is the City of Harrisville, Harrisville Township, and the southern portion of Haynes Township.

Residents in our area can contact us with the address of children needing a visit from Santa at one of these phone numbers. 989-724-5077 or 989-657-1004.

We have placed donation envelopes around the community so donations can be mailed to the Harrisville Goodfellow to help in keeping up the Traditions.

Thank you for your help and support and enjoy a very Merry Christmas from the Harrisville Goodfellows.

**Please send donations to
Harrisville Goodfellows, Box 1, Harrisville, MI 48740**

Song of the Morning on a dam removal project and sediment management plan."

In April 2015, when the judge ruled in favor of Trout Unlimited and the Pigeon River Country Association, Walters said each side met in the aisle, shook hands and said, "Now the real work begins."

In May 2015, the dam drawdown began. Read more about the Pigeon River dam removal project. "We can all be proud of a successful dam

and gas development and the elk management plan," Caveney said.

"At 50 years we can celebrate the contribution of a lot of dedicated people that served many years. We can also ask how successful have we been in meeting those seven objectives as we look forward to the next 50 years."

Find more details about the council, including member and meeting information, on the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council webpage.



Debate over oil and gas development in the Pigeon River Country State Forest led to creation of the advisory council. Today, royalties from oil and gas development on state-managed lands go into the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, used to acquire recreational lands and develop public recreation facilities.