

Alcona County Review

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Jury renders guilty verdict in toddler murder trial

By Cheryl Peterson
Editor

Despite several adjournments due to illness and winter storms, the jury in the Trout murder trial of a two-year-old toddler, took two hours of deliberation to find Aaron Joseph Trout, 33, guilty of second degree murder and child abuse, first degree.

Trout was originally charged with one count of felony murder and one count of child abuse in the first degree for the alleged murder of Jayde McDonnell who was pronounced dead at MyMichigan Medical Center on July 22, 2022.

The trial began the last week of November 2023, with jury selection and testimony for the prosecution began on November 29, 2023. The last witness testimony was given, along with closing statements by Alcona County Prosecutor Thomas J. Weichel and defense attorney William A. Pfeifer, on Wednesday, Jan. 16.

In his closing argument to the jury, Weichel showed a digital montage of Trout's statements during police custody and during formal interviews to emphasize all of the different "explanations" of what happened to Jayde McDonnell, the two-year-old daughter of his then girlfriend, Adrienne Pavelka. They were the flu (influenza), a reaction to children's Tylenol, a tumble down the steps of the back porch, she was clumsy and bumped into things, he didn't know because he didn't discipline her, Jayde's mother must have done it. He didn't know what happened...

"The cause of death was multiple blunt force trauma to the head - subdural hematoma," Weichel said.

Weichel showed Pavelka's work schedule for the days prior to Jayde's death which depicted that she worked 11 days in a row cleaning at the Tawas Bay Beach Resort. Trout drove Pavelka to and from work each day and was alone with Jayde while she worked.

"Adreinne's story was consistent throughout her interviews with police and hospital staff," Weichel said. "There were some discrepancies, but it was consistent with her injuries according to the medical examiner... It was his

house, his car, his phone - he had every opportunity to protect that child and he didn't.

"Yes, she (Pavelka) testified with a plea agreement. "Sometimes you have to use the devil's girlfriend to get the devil," Weichel said.

In the defense's closing argument, Pfeifer reminded the jury "We have no burden to prove anything to you. Mr. Trout is presumed innocent. (Weichel) has to prove to you beyond a reasonable doubt - if you have doubt, you must find not guilty.

"My position and the position of my client is that Adreinne Pavelka lied from right from the get-go... right from the beginning at the hospital... she is an accomplice. She testified and that got her out of life in prison

without parole. There is no greater incentive to get out of going to prison..." Pfeifer said. "Sometimes the devil is the girlfriend. Sometimes the deal is made with the devil."

During instructions to the jury, Judge Laura A. Frawley explained the jury had several options for a verdict. After polling each jury member to make sure it was a unanimous decision, she set Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 1:30 p.m. for sentencing. He remains lodged in the Iosco County Jail until he is remanded to the Michigan Department of Corrections following sentencing.

In an interview the following day, defense attorney William A. Pfeifer said, "The trial had twists and turns

Continued on page 4



Aaron J. Trout listens to Judge Laura A. Frawley as she assigns his sentencing date. He is flanked by (from left) Steve Davis, court security, Alcona County Sheriff's Sgt. Scott McKenzie and William A. Pfeifer, his defense attorney. Photo by Cheryl Peterson.

Sentencing for toddler's mother in February

By Cheryl Peterson
Editor

The mother of the two-year-old toddler who was murdered on July 22, 2022, will be sentenced to prison on Thursday, Feb. 13 in 23rd Circuit Court by the Honorable Laura A. Frawley.

Adreinne Pavelka, 23, was arrested on July 27, 2023. She was charged with homicide - felony murder and two counts of child abuse, first degree. On July 28, 2022, an order for a competency examination was given by the court.

On September 21, 2022, court documents show that she was found competent to stand trial and her case was continued to the next step - a preliminary examination in 81st District Court on October 12, 2022, after the judge found there was enough evidence to continue with the charges, Pavelka's case was moved to 23rd Circuit Court.

According to court documents, she made a plea agreement with Alcona County Prosecutor Thomas J. Weichel on June 6, 2023. For her plea of guilty to one count of child abuse, first degree she agreed to testify during the trial of her then

boyfriend, Aaron J. Trout, 33, who was charged with felony murder and child abuse, first degree.

Pavelka, who has two other daughters under the age of five, moved in with Trout who resided at Camp 10 Trail in Glennie in May 2022. All three girls lived there until late June or early July 2022, when the couple moved the oldest girl and her seven month old sister in with Pavelka's mother. Only Jayde remained living with Pavelka and Trout leading up to the toddler's death.

The plea agreement dropped felony murder and one count of child abuse, first degree. According to court documents, "the prosecutor agrees to a sentence of: A term of years sentence with a 15 year cap on the max-minimum sentence. Further, this sentencing agreement is contingent upon her truthful testimony at trial, and she shall not be sentenced until the co-defendant, Aaron Trout's prosecution is resolved."

Pavelka has been lodged in the Iosco County Jail and will remain there until her sentencing and then remanded to the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Alcona County 4-H offers variety of youth programs

By Mary Weber
Staff Writer

Allowing young minds to flourish, fostering a spirit of innovation, curiosity and a deep connection to their local community and the world beyond, the benefits of 4-H extend far beyond its agricultural roots.

This year, as in years past, Alcona County 4-H will be offering a variety of programs geared to entice youth to not only gain practical knowledge in areas such as science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) but also develop crucial interpersonal skills, resilience, personal strength and growth and a strong sense of civic responsibility all while having a great time.

Stephanie Domke, Alcona County 4-H program coordinator, along with leader volunteers, has been working to bring interesting programs to Alcona County youth including sledding, animal husbandry, softball, soccer and more.

On Saturday, February 3

from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. youth aged five to 19 may participate in a cardboard sled downhill event at the sledding park in Caledonia Township.

"Youth must register for this event and can do that through 4-H online up to the date of the event. The sleds are to be made of cardboard or other recyclable materials and we will have activities on how far the sled can go and sled creativity. The event is free and includes a hot dog lunch and cocoa," Domke said.

The Caledonia Township sled hill is located on the corner of Spruce Road and Olson Road just east of Spruce.

Registration for another popular 4-H activity baseball, softball and T-ball for youth ages five to 19 will open on January 29 and run until March 15. Cost is \$30 which includes one T-shirt.

"This is very popular in the county. We had 14 teams

Continued on page 4



God Bless America



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Obituary

Louella L. Johnson

Louella L. Johnson, 73, of Alpena, died on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, at MyMichigan Medical Center in Alpena.

She was born April 28, 1950, to Pearl (Colbath) Peacock in Oscoda. She was raised in Oscoda and in Mikado.

On April 20, 1968, she married Roger K. Johnson in Oscoda.

Mrs. Johnson was a long-time bartender at Betty's Mikado Tavern. She later worked as a caregiver in adult foster care.

She loved playing Keno, scratch off tickets, watching her soap operas, and spending time with her family and friends.

Mrs. Johnson is survived by one daughter, Theresa (Scott) Harmon of Alpena; one son, Roger (Carla) Johnson of Harrisville; two granddaughters, Victoria (Rodney) Morissette of Chesterfield and



Shawna (Jaden) Bartz of Oscoda; three great-grandchildren; and many cousins.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger K. Johnson; her mother, Pearl Peacock; two brothers, Fred Peacock and Bobby Peacock; and her longtime partner, Craig "Whitey" Reinhart.

Cremation arrangements were made through Gillies Funeral Home, Lincoln. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Pots and plants in winter

Your outdoor pots and their plants need protection from the cold. Large wooden or concrete planters can be left in place and their plants covered with straw or mulch. Clay, ceramic or glazed pottery may crack when it's cold out, so wrap them with bubble wrap. With smaller containers, you can group them and wrap them all up together, or move them inside. Pots and their plants can also be buried in the ground and covered with soil or mulch. - Brenda Weaver

Source: extension.psu.edu

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Alcona County Review

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are always welcome. All letters MUST be signed. Freedom of speech includes the responsibility for what is said. Authors MUST include an address and telephone number for verification, not publication. Word limit is 300. Deadline is Friday at 4 p.m. All rights reserved to edit letters for style, length and libelous content. Letters express the opinion of the author, not the opinion of the newspaper or its employees.

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Correspondence

To the Editor,
Hello winter! Snow people enjoy sledding, snowboarding, snow shoeing, skiing and that feeling of wonder all around us. Walks with loved ones and pets breathing in the renewal that only a snowfall can bring.

Of course, there's shoveling, plowing mountains of snow, cleaning off the car and walkways to neighbors' and friends' homes.

Somehow this simple act of crystallization, water turning to ice falling from the sky, makes us into different people of kindness.

The increase of human discontent arising from political discord, countries at war, urges to overturn democracy

for plutocracy... when did we become so myopic for hate that we stopped seeing the big picture of our actions? Sure, when I turn on the TV it's to PBS for a fix of Nature, Nova and well, no bobbing heads spewing what the corporate networks make them spread.

I want to think about all sides of an issue, I want to see what any action or word causes. Do you remember, "for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction? By the way, that was Sir Isaac Newton's third law of motion. Yep, elementary school science.

What we do and say everyday affects not only our personal future, but all those we

encounter, and then exponentially impacting our world.

We can be so much better by starting with opening our minds to not only tried and true philosophies but to new ideas, new genres of societies that we would most likely never be able to see if we continue to live in the proverbial box of narrow mindedness.

A world of beauty and knowledge is at our disposal. Check out what other people are accomplishing via "Earth Shot Prize," right now! Come on, get in the future groove, be part of the solution not the problem.

Margaret Kutzera
Harrisville

Calendar of Events

**WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 24**

The Alcona County Library Board of Trustees will meet in the conference room of the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library at 2 p.m. The public is welcome.

Homeschoolers, seasoned or curious, are invited to the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library from 1 to 2 p.m. to offer inspiration and camaraderie for school-aged children. For more information, call (989) 724-6796.

The Lincoln Pop-Up Pantry will be held at 3 p.m. at Cole's Appliance storage building by AAA Credit Union in Lincoln until the food is gone.

**THURSDAY,
JANUARY 25**

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.

Several films from the International Film Festival hosted annually by the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary will be shown at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library from 6 to 9 p.m. The length of films vary - there are usually shorts and longer films that focus on oceans and the Great Lakes. Friends of the Alcona County Library will prepare treats for those in attendance. Cost is \$10. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

There will be a children's craft activity and story time at 10:30 a.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library. See the library's Facebook page for

updates and information about each week's book and craft activity. For information, call (989) 724-6796.

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

Helping Addicts' Loved Ones (HALO) will meet at the Greenbush Community Baptist Church, 2430 S. State Street, Greenbush at 7 p.m. For details contact Pastor Caincross at (989) 569-1298.

**SATURDAY,
JANUARY 27**

Forge new friendships, learn to strategize and be creative in the teen-exclusive Dungeons & Dragons Club, which meets from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

Practice ukulele at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library from 10 to 11:30 a.m. If needed, ukuleles are available for check-out and players of all skill levels are welcome. The ability to read music is not required. For more details, call (989) 724-6796.

Play euchre at the Lincoln Senior Center, lower level, 207 Church Street, Lincoln from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. All seniors are welcome to participate in this free activity.

**WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 31**

The first meeting of the Glennie Book Club will be held at 3 p.m. at the Curtis Township Library in Glennie. Participants should enter through the side door. Call (989) 735-2601 for more information.

**THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 1**

Veterans and spouses and widow(er)s are invited to join other retired military mem-

bers for a drop-in coffee and fellowship between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Harrisville. For more info., call (989) 724-9581.

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 info.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

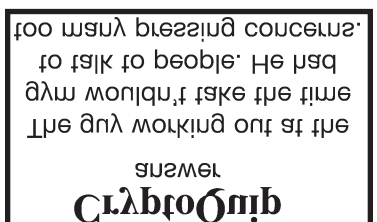
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Play euchre at the Lincoln Senior Center, lower level, 207 Church Street, Lincoln from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. All seniors are welcome to participate in this free activity.

"Golden Grocery Giveaway" (Formally known as CSFP/Commodity Supplemental Food Program) will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Lincoln Senior Center, 205 Church Street, Lincoln.

The Alcona County Baby Pantry is open from 10 a.m. to 1 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

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





Local Notes



Senior Menu

The following meals will be served at 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Lincoln Senior Center, 207 Church Street, Lincoln. Reservations are required by 11 a.m. each day by calling (989) 334-3470.

- Monday, Jan. 29: Hot dog, baked beans, broccoli, apricots.
- Tuesday, Jan. 30: Pork tips, noodles, Brussel sprouts, peaches.
- Wednesday, Jan. 31: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, pineapple.
- Thursday, Feb. 1: Menu unavailable.

All meals include milk, bread and butter according to guidelines. Menu is subject to change due to food availability. A donation of \$6 for folks under 60 and \$3 for those over 60 is welcome. For home delivered meals, call by 8 a.m. Monday through Thursday.

Films Shown in Harrisville

Several films from the International Film Festival hosted annually by the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary will be shown at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25. The length of films vary – there are usually shorts and longer films that focus on oceans and the Great Lakes. Friends of the Alcona County Library will prepare treats for those in attendance. Cost is \$10. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

Save the Date: GospelFest

Inspiration Alcona is sponsoring Alcona GospelFest 2024! on Saturday, April 27 at New Life Lutheran Church, 25 Kirche in the Woods, Spruce (six miles north of M-72, off Hubbard Lake Road). GospelFest is a one-day event where singers from northeast Michigan gather to learn and rehearse gospel-style songs, and then present a concert to the community.

All singers welcome. Rehearsal will start at 10 a.m., with the community concert at 4 p.m. Jean Wilson of One Voice Gospel Choir of Saline, Mich. will direct, with Susan Armstrong of Harrisville as accompanist. For more information, visit Inspiration-Alcona.org, or call Lynn at (989) 657-4773.

Way to Wellness

My Way to Wellness is a free program offered by Michigan State University (MSU) Extension for individuals living in Michigan who are eligible for supplemental food assistance. It is self-paced, so participants can take it any time that works for them, from anywhere. The course reviews healthy food choices, physical activity, food safety, food labels and more. There are 10 interactive video lessons, each about 30 minutes in length, plus goal setting and knowledge checks to aid in learning.

The free online course format is on-demand, and it is available to individuals living

in Michigan who are eligible for supplemental food assistance. For more information: https://www.canr.msu.edu/my_way_to_wellness/ Register at: <https://bit.ly/3u1hV1b>. Questions? Contact Lyndsay at (989) 344-3264 or morri524@msu.ed.

top ten
HIGHEST-GROSSING MOVIES OF 2023

1. Barbie
2. The Super Mario Bros. Movie
3. Oppenheimer
4. Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3
5. Fast X
6. Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse
7. The Little Mermaid
8. Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One
9. Elemental
10. Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania

Source: Comscore

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Police Report



On Thursday, Jan. 11, deputies of the Alcona County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to an address in Haynes Township for explosives located by a resident. According to a press release, the caller stated that he was cleaning out his father's garage when he found two hand grenades in a metal ammo can. One of the hand grenades had been cored out but the second grenade was live and intact. One of the deputies, with prior military experience, identified the grenade as an MKII pineapple frag grenade with an explosive range of approximately 100 meters. The deputies cordoned off the area for a safe distance and notified the Michigan State Police (MSP) bomb squad. No other residents, other than the caller, needed to be evacuated. The MSP bomb squad arrived on scene, confirmed that it was a live grenade, and it was safely removed. *Courtesy photo.*

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NOTICE

The Alcona County Board of Commissioners is looking to fill a vacancy for the Department of Health and Human Services Board. Please mail a letter of interest to: P.O. Box 308, Harrisville, MI 48740 or fax to: (989) 724-9419 Attn: Board of Commissioners. All letters of interest must be submitted by January 31, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

NOTICE

The Village of Lincoln is seeking applications for someone to serve on the Village Council. The applicant must be a registered voter in the Village and be willing to serve the remainder of a four term that expires 12/2024. This position has been created by a vacancy on the current board. Interested persons may submit a letter of application to:

Village of Lincoln
P.O. Box 337
Lincoln, MI 48742
ATTN: Council Position

Applications will be opened at the regular Village Council meeting on February 5th, 2024 at 7 p.m.

1/17 & 1/24

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF ALCONA COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN, PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024** is the last day to register to vote in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk for the February 27, 2024 Presidential Primary Election.

Any qualified elector who is not already registered may register to vote at any Secretary of State branch office, a designated State agency or with their respective County, City or Township Clerk. Registration forms may be obtained at www.mi.gov/vote. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492/497) with their City or Township Clerk at the below address:

- CITY OF HARRISVILLE:** 200 N. Fifth Street, Harrisville, MI 48740 (989) 724-6666
Saturday, February 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- ALCONA TOWNSHIP:** 4892 LaVergne Road, Black River, MI 48721 (989) 471-2948
Saturday, February 24th from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP:** 1017 E. Spruce Road, Spruce, MI 48762 (989) 464-2161
Sunday, February 25th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- CURTIS TOWNSHIP:** 5091 Bamfield Road, Glennie, MI 48737
Saturday, February 24th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 25th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- GREENBUSH TOWNSHIP:** 5070 Woodland Drive, Greenbush, MI 48738
Saturday, February 24th from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 25th from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- GUSTIN TOWNSHIP:** 113 S. 2nd Street, Lincoln, MI 48742 (989) 335-0635
Saturday, February 24th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- HARRISVILLE TOWNSHIP:** 4890 E. M-72, Harrisville, MI 48740 (989) 590-4879
Sunday, February 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- HAWES TOWNSHIP:** 106 5th Street, Harrisville, MI 48740 (989) 724-9475
Saturday, February 24th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- HAYNES TOWNSHIP:** 4321 E. Beaton Road, Harrisville, MI 48740 (989) 736-3650
Saturday, February 24th from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- MIKADO TOWNSHIP:** 2291 S. F-41, Mikado, MI 48745 (989) 736-7721
Saturday, February 24th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- MILLEN TOWNSHIP:** 741 Elmer Wohlfeil Trail, Barton City, MI 48705 (989) 335-5847
Sunday, February 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- MITCHELL TOWNSHIP:** 6849 W. Tower Road, Curran, MI 48728 (989) 464-0506
Saturday, February 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

All Township Clerks are available on election day to register to vote from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The following offices and proposals will appear on the ballot:
President of the United States

School Proposal: (MITCHELL TOWNSHIP ONLY) C.O.O.R. Intermediate School District Area Career and Technical Education Proposal

Full text of ballot proposals may be obtained from the County, City or Township Clerk's office. Sample ballots may be viewed at www.mi.gov/vote

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the appropriate clerk's office. This notice is given as required by law (MCL 168.498(3)).

Stephany Eller, Alcona County Clerk

Jury Continued from page 1

that caused numerous starts and stops, which makes it very difficult to keep going. It's like starting over every adjournment. It was a unique set of circumstances that I've never been involved with before. I felt comfortable with the proofs presented. Nothing occurred from an evidentiary standpoint that was a surprise.

"I respect the verdict. I am thankful for the jury's participation. They were attentive and stuck to it. Obviously, my client is disappointed in the verdict. I think he felt satisfied that he had a strong defense in taking this to trial. But there was a two-year-old child that died in his home, which makes it a tough case to defend," Pfeifer said.

"I have never seen a trial like this in my career," prosecutor Thomas Weichel said of the delays that came up during the trial. "I am really happy with the jury's ver-

dict," Weichel said. "Even with all of those interruptions and the traumatic subject with graphic evidence, I think they did a really good job."

In an interview following the trial, Judge Laura A. Frawley said, "I am deeply grateful and very impressed with the dedication, patience, understanding and resilience of this jury. Being a juror is a difficult job but when the subject matter is so horrific it is even harder.

"This trial was rife with all sorts of odd problems that cropped up necessitating a

number of adjournments. The jury handled all of it with such graciousness. Each of them took in stride this huge interruption of their lives and dedicated themselves to the oath they took to render a true and just verdict. They did just that rendering justice for Jayde McDonnell. This is what democracy, a government of the people, by the people and for the people is all about. I can tell you that democracy is alive and well in Alcona County."

Lady Tigers stumble against Mio, Oscoda

By Ben Murphy
Sports Writer

The Lady Tigers were the latest girls varsity basketball team that tried to slow down Mio freshman standout Mia McGregor on Thursday, Jan. 18 in a North Star League Big Dipper contest.

Unfortunately, McGregor proved to be too tough to handle. She scored 32 points, and the visiting Lady Thunderbolts handed the Lady Tigers a 36-22 setback.

Alcona hung around early on as Sage Gauthier had four first quarter points. Mio led just 7-6 after one. McGregor scored all nine of her team's points in the second quarter. Jena Wambold scored four points for Alcona in that frame, but the Bolts held a 16-12 lead at the half.

Mio held a 24-17 lead after a low scoring third quarter. In the final quarter, J. Wambold hit a three that gave her seven points for the night. Gauthier also had a bucket in the fourth and netted seven points in all. Emma Travis

scored four points. Kaylee Wambold chipped in with three and Claire Somers added one point.

On Tuesday, Jan. 16 the Lady Tigers lost a home NSL Big Dipper game against Oscoda with a score of 51-29.

The Lady Owls held an 11-6 lead after the first quarter and it was 20-12 at the half. Things slipped away in the third quarter as Oscoda poured in 15 points, giving them a 35-17 lead entering the final stanza.

Lady Tiger Travis led things with five points. K. Wambold, Liberty Kimball and Gracyn Tracy had four points apiece. J. Wambold and Olivia Borchardt scored three points each. Somers, Gauthier and Hannah Renchenski contributed with two apiece.

The Owls had 21 points from Luella Whipkey. Ava Gooch had 12 points and Kingsley Backstrom added 10.

Alcona (6-2 overall, 1-2 NSL Big Dipper) hosts the Charlton Heston Academy on Friday, Jan. 26.

Alcona boys get key NSL Big Dipper wins

By Ben Murphy
Sports Writer

The Alcona Tigers took another big step in the race for the North Star League Big Dipper championship on Thursday, Jan. 18.

In a gritty home game against Mio in a key conference game, the Tigers outlasted the Thunderbolts for a key 50-34 victory.

"Great team win against the reigning Big Dipper champs," head coach Alex Cole said. "I'm proud of the guys for executing our defensive game plan and being extremely unselfish on the offensive end."

Garrett Somers got Alcona going in the first quarter by scoring seven points. Collin Walker also added four points in the opening frame putting the Tigers ahead 16-12.

In the second quarter, Evan Borsvold put in four points and four other players added buckets as well, with Alcona leading 28-21 at the half.

The Tigers found some success from three-point land in the third, with David

Sharboneau netting two from behind the arc and Ricky Schott hitting one as well. Jacob Renchenski added six points in the frame. Alcona carried a 45-27 advantage with just the fourth quarter left to play.

Sharboneau and Renchenski led the offense with 10 points apiece. Borsvold and Walker each had eight points. Somers netted seven. Jordan Benac scored four and Schott netted three points.

On Monday, Jan. 15 Alcona picked up a NSL Big Dipper win at Oscoda, 47-36.

"I am proud of the guys for locking in on defense and executing our game plan," Cole said. "We struggled a bit on offense at times but Garrett Somers was able to hit some big shots when we needed a boost. We are always excited for the Big Dipper part of the season and am pleased to have started league play (this way)."

The first quarter started off not scoring much. Cayden Hebert hit a three for Alcona

Continued on page 6

Youth Continued from page 1

last year with almost 150 players on different fields throughout the county," Domke said.

She explained there were also teams for under five years of age in the county, but 4-H can only register youth over the age of five, so another group runs the under-five t-ball games.

Spring soccer registration begins on February 1. Domke explained soccer is for ages eight to 19. "We would like to form a 19 and under team to compete this year for the county. The number and age group of the teams is dependent on how many youths register," Domke said.

An in-person Michigan Youth Livestock Conference for youth ages nine to 19 will be held in Gaylord, Mich., on April 6. Registration opens Monday, Jan. 29 and closes on March 7. Cost is \$25.

"No animals are to be brought to the conference, but there will be education sessions on animal husbandry and livestock showing including beef, swine, sheep, rabbits and poultry," Domke said.

Domke wanted Alcona youth interested in marketing animals at the 2024 Alcona County Fair to know that enrollment in 4-H must be made by January 31. She said there is a sign-up event held at Alcona High School on Wednesday, Jan. 24 to assist with enrollment.

The always popular 4-H Michigan State University (MSU) Exploration Days for youth ages 12 to 19 will run from June 19 to June 21. Registration to join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on the MSU campus for a three-day pre-college program designed to help youth explore careers, build skills and choose from over 100 fun learning sessions begins March 25 to April 19. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/2CmphyZ> or contact Domke.

Domke explained there is a fee for Exploration Days that not all youth can garner, however, the Alcona 4-H Advisory Board does provide scholarships with funds they

earn through fundraisers with their local chuck wagon events and silent auctions.

"We can also provide scholarships for other programs youth may be interested in including the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center three-day event for ages eight through 12 which will run June 24 through 26 this year," Domke said.

Leaders and volunteers for county 4-H groups are always being encouraged to bring new ideas and clubs for youth. Domke said they were very close to adding 4-H bowling, archery and gardening clubs to their youth offerings. "We love hearing about new ideas and want to work with anyone who may have one for an interesting club.

"Volunteers and leaders must apply and complete a background check to ensure 4-H youth are in the best care led by good people," Domke said.

In addition to all the clubs and activities, Domke and MSU extension science and place-based educator, Tracy D'Augustino hold classes for



Alcona County 4-H program coordinator, Stephanie Domke (left) and Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) science and place-based educator, Tracy D'Augustino are looking forward to the variety of activities 4-H will offer this year. Photo by Mary Weber.

third through fifth-grade students at the Maker Space located in the Alcona Elementary School during school hours.

D'Augustino explained this year they have had some assistance with that from a 4-H

teen leader, Juliette Mann. "We work closely with science teacher Jennifer Schroeder to enhance applications learned during school. This week we will be working with fifth graders on chemistry and making bak-

ing soda and vinegar rockets," she said. The Maker Space is available by request for other organizations to use.

Domke and D'Augustino were also active last Monday evening for an Alcona Elementary special family fun STEM night working with families on a variety of projects and experiments and giving out free books to all youth.

The free 4-H book program is ongoing throughout the year with books ranging in a variety of levels from pre-school to high school. Any youth yearning for a new book of their very own can stop by the 4-H MSU extension office located at 320 S. State Street in Harrisville during regular business hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Domke said she expects a shipment of new books soon, offering a variety of genres.

For additional information or links to register for programs visit the Alcona County 4-H Youth Development Facebook page, or call (989) 724-6478.

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 Hubbard Lake Rd.,
 3/4 mile south of White Pine National Golf Course
 Office 736-7816

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)
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 Lincoln, Mich. 48742 ~ 736-1227
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Hope Lutheran Church NALC
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 Rev. Dr. Bryan Salminen
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 Pastor Claire Duncan • haynescommunitychurch.org

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 Rev. Al Kersten, Pastor 989-471-5428

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4. Rhinoceros
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6. Elephant Seal
7. Giraffe
8. Saltwater Crocodile
9. Bison
10. Polar Bear

Source: A-Z-Animals.com

Early voting in Alcona County

Alcona Continued from page 4

though, and the Tigers led 8-6 after one. Somers had a solid second quarter, drilling a three and scoring seven points. Alcona led 19-13 at the half.

In the third, Borsvold had five points, including an and-one play. Schott and Sharboneau each hit threes as they led 34-20 entering the fourth quarter.

Somers had another three in the fourth and scored seven points in that frame, giving

him 18 for the night. Borsvold finished with nine points. Walker netted six. Sharboneau and Schott scored five points. Hebert had three and Jacob Renschski added one.

Blake Mallak led Oscoda with 16 points. Thad Spragg put in seven and Jaeden Ullman chipped in with six points.

Alcona (9-4 overall, 3-0 NSL Big Dipper) hosts the Charlton Heston Academy on Friday, Jan. 26.

By Mary Weber
Staff Writer

As a result of the 2022 approval of Proposal 2, which allows Michigan voters to vote early, the Alcona County Clerk's office has made some necessary changes to accommodate additional voting procedures.

County Clerk Stephany Eller explained the proposal allows the right of every voter to cast a ballot in person for up to nine days, eight consecutive hours per day, before any statewide or federal election.

Eller agreed to take on the duties of holding the early voting at the county level, rather than let each township try and meet those requirements due to the amount of work and cost it would levy on individual townships.

Early voting for the February primary election will be held at the Alcona County Courthouse lower-level commissioner's meeting room on Saturday, Feb. 17 through Sunday, Feb. 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 26, will be a day of rest with no early ballots cast. Regular voting will commence as normal on election day, Tuesday, Feb. 27 with polls open in each township, as it has in the past from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"In-person early voting only will be at the courthouse running nine consecutive days from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. February 17 through the 25th. The same nine consecutive days of early voting with eight consecutive hours per day will also be available at the courthouse for the election in August and November," Eller said.

She explained for the presidential primary election in February all townships will have two partisan section ballot styles; a Republican ballot or a Democrat ballot. The exception is Mitchell Township which also has a Crawford, Otsego, Ogemaw and Roscommon (C.O.O.R) Intermediate School District area career and technical education proposal on it.

"Mitchell Township will have three ballot styles, a Democrat ballot with the proposal, a Republican ballot with the proposal or they can just vote on the proposal," Eller said.



Alcona County Deputy Clerk Trena Somers, (left) and clerk Stephany Eller are preparing to take on nine additional days of early voting for county residents. Photo by Mary Weber.

The amount of additional work taken on by the county clerk's office has been significant according to Eller. She said she could not have been able to conduct the early voting at the county building without the aid of her deputy clerk Trena Somers and agreements from individual townships to take on some additional hours to operate the early election polls.

Eller was confident all would run smoothly even though she just received a new laptop to be used for election purposes only and there were a few dozen pages of detailed instructions spread across her desk with electoral regulations that she and the county information technician would need to address to make sure the laptop is up to standards such as adding firewalls and other necessary applications.

"I knew none of our township clerks would want to take on nine days of early voting all by themselves, so I agreed to coordinate it from the county. The building here is not centrally located by any means, but I can lock everything up safely in the vault.

"It means we will be sitting here through the weekends, two Saturdays and two Sundays for each election in February, August and November," Eller said.

She explained each of Alcona County's 12 townships would be coordinated to have election workers present sometime during the nine early days of voting, but that any registered voter from anywhere in the county could come in early to vote on any of the nine days, whether their township was represented at the courthouse that day or not.

Voting by mail will still be an option for any registered voter by submitting a permanent absentee voter application to their township clerk, enabling them to receive an absentee ballot before all future elections. Absentee ballots can be sent in to be counted 40 days before an election up to 8 p.m. on election day.

Proposal 2 also brought requirements for funding so that absentee ballots and applications will be sent to voters with prepaid postage allowing voters to mail back the ballots without cost.

Absentee ballots will also have an enhanced tracking system allowing electronic notifications about the status of voter applications and ballots. It will inform voters of any deficiency in their ballot or application, such as an address issue. It will also provide funding for at least one secure ballot drop box for every jurisdiction.

Eller said all military and overseas ballots will be considered timely if they are post-marked by election day and received by the clerk's office within six days of the election.

Proposal 2 enshrined Michigan's existing voter identification law into the Constitution. As in the past, every voter appearing in person to cast a ballot is asked to present an approved photo identification. Registered voters who do not have a photo ID with them can sign an affidavit of identity and vote a regular ballot.

Proposal 2 also expanded the types of photo identifications that can be used for voting purposes to include those issued by additional educational institutions and local governments.

For those who have never voted before in Michigan, voters are encouraged to register as early as possible before an election. If there are at least 15 or more days before an election, voters can register online, by mail or in person. Within 14 days of an election and on Election Day, voters may only register by visiting their local clerk's office to register in person with proof of residency documentation.

Voters can check their registration status and look up their local clerk information at Michigan.gov/Vote. To register to vote or change voter registration address, visit m.vic.sos.state.mi.us/registervoter.

Sample ballots are available to view at the clerk's office during normal operating hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed for lunch between noon and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.


The Alcona County Courthouse is located at 106 5th Street in Harrisville. For further information, contact the clerk's office at (989) 724-9410.

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Applications will be opened at the regular Village Council Meeting on February 5th, 2024 at 7 p.m. 1/17 & 1/24



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Jury gets it right, despite unplanned delays

By Cheryl Peterson

As the images of a dumpy, old, mobile home, pink/tan in color where shown from body camera footage of a law enforcement officer, I took a deep breath.

This was where little Jayde McDonnell died at the hands of her mother and her mother's boyfriend. This place, surrounded by the woodland beauty of a northern Michigan forest, was where she was abused – tortured really – until she died. She suffered for three days before the adults who were supposed to take care of and protect her decided to take her for help.

It was too late. Jayde was two years old and weighed 21 pounds. Her tiny, lifeless body was covered with 86 bruises, abrasions and ligature marks (at varying stages of healing).

I've covered quite a few capital offense cases during my 30-plus years as a reporter. They are all horrific to write about. However, this one was different. Maybe it's because I am older and value life much more now. Maybe it's because children have become pawns for adults to use and abuse any time they can, to get whatever it is that they want – money, drugs, alcohol, attention... you name it.

There is much that happens during a trial that goes on behind the scenes that is not part of the proceeding, so it isn't relevant. After a capital offense trial, I have hundreds of pages of notes. Most of those never make it to a printed page either. That's the way it goes.

Many people come through the doors of the courtroom – attorneys, court personnel, law enforcement officers, various witnesses and family members of the victim and the defendant. Some slog it through to the end because it is their job, or because they are waiting for the conclusion of whatever nightmare they are going through. They are looking for closure.

Throughout the course of this trial, I had the opportunity to talk with Jayde's paternal grandmother and aunt, and after his testimony, her father. Her aunt drove round-trip from the Detroit area almost every day when court

was in session (and at least one time when it wasn't) to represent Jayde and to find out what happened to her.

I asked them to tell me about Jayde. When they talked about this feisty "dynamo" who loved people and Mickey Mouse, the weight of their grief and stress was lifted for a few minutes and memories danced in their eyes, briefly pushing the sadness back for a bit.

It was a long trial, mainly because of forced adjournments for illness and weather... but also, as the prosecutor told me afterwards, the amount of information – most of it digital with cameras located on officers, in patrol vehicles and during interviews. There is rarely a moment that someone in police custody isn't being recorded. He had to view all the video recordings in this case and it was mountainous – especially for a small office. He needed to know what was said by everyone – and initially, that also included evidence for Pavelka's prosecution until she decided to plead guilty to a lesser charge for testimony at Trout's trial.

It was hours and hours of digital evidence, 25 police reports from at least three law enforcement agencies, cell phone transmissions – texts and calls, plus a mountain of forensic evidence and lab reports to climb through, including disturbing photos of the autopsy. Which were kept locked up away from prosecution and court staff members. He tried to only use a few photos during the trial because he knew how traumatic it was for anyone to see them.

In an interview a few days after the trial, prosecutor Tom Weichel said this case was filled with trauma for everyone from the beginning, really. He said after the preliminary examination hearings, a counselor was "called in to talk to folks."

It is a lot to handle – even for seasoned law enforcement officers and medical personnel. It's more than anyone should have to handle.

I am amazed at the dedication of jury members. They put their lives on hold. They saw and heard horrific things.

They were given a ton of testimony and evidence over the course of seven weeks – with several long interruptions. Several had Covid, one juror's father passed away, another had to reschedule a holiday vacation... Life went on while they had to focus on this trial.

Before the trial I had a decent understanding of what it takes to prosecute a case, but not to this magnitude. I learned much from Mr. Weichel when we chatted after the trial ended.

I also learned quite a bit in talking with judge Laura Frawley after the trial as well. She explained that staff members had been meeting for "literally months and months" prior. In order to keep the defendant secure in the county building, a holding cell across the hallway from the large courtroom upstairs was built by David Hanson, head of the custodial department, with input from the Alcona County Sheriff's Office.

Jury selection was, according to the judge, a huge effort. "We weren't sure we could seat a jury," she said. Frawley explained 250 people were called for jury duty in this case and they were placed in several locations of the county building (downstairs courtroom, commissioner's room and the large courtroom upstairs) that were set up with audio and visual to the main courtroom so everyone called could hear and see what was happening. It worked well, apparently, as after the two-day processes of jury selection 14 people were seated and the trial began.

Thankfully, the right people were selected for the jury. They were a decisive bunch. In about two hours the jury had a verdict.

The courtroom hush was palpable as the jury walked into the courtroom for the final time. They looked down, not at the defendant, as they filed in and took their seats.

Guilty of second degree murder and guilty of child abuse, first degree was announced clearly and sounds of relief and joy escaped from Jayde's family as the verdict sank in. The defendant put his head down on a book at the defense table.

As he was led out of the courtroom, I turned around



Over the Dune

By Cheryl Peterson

to check on Jayde's family members who were in the row behind me. Her father, grandmother and aunt were holding each other as the "strangers" who worked so diligently for the prosecution and court felt a wave of relief and gratitude wash over them.

Unfortunately, this case is just one example out of thousands of child abuse cases across the country that end in the death of a child. While the national media, activists and politicians rage on about the abortion issue, too many children who were born into

this throw away society are being traumatized and killed by their parents and/or family members. Who fights for them?

The people that live in Alcona County do. Well done everyone. Well done.

(Cheryl Peterson was born and raised in Oscoda and graduated from Northern Michigan University. She has worked in the newspaper industry since the early-1990s, including two daily newspapers, prior to purchasing the Review in 1995.)

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Leo is a 1 year old Shar Pei. He will be neutered and have entropion (eyelid correction) surgery late February. His contract would be foster to adopt until after surgery is complete. He loves to gallop through the snow and be outdoors! He would be a great hiking buddy! Leo loves to give hugs and kisses!

ALCONA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE ESTABLISHMENT OF EARLY VOTING SITE

To All Qualified Electors in Alcona County,

Notice is hereby given by Interlocal Agreements of the Townships/City of Alcona County under authority granted in Public Act 81 of 2023, that the location of the early voting site for the Presidential Primary will be held at the following location.

Alcona County Commissioners Meeting Room located on the lower level of the County Building, 106 5th Street, Harrisville, Michigan

All qualified electors in Alcona County have the right to mark a ballot and deposit the ballot in a tabulator beginning the second Saturday before an election and ending the Sunday before the election. Early voting will be available at the early voting site for the following days and hours:

Saturday, February 17th, 2024 through Sunday, February 25th, 2024

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Stephany Eller

Alcona County Clerk

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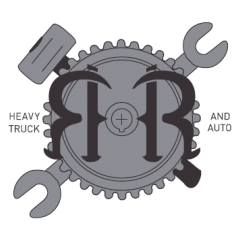


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Overcoming addiction: Journey to self understanding, healing

By Mary Weber
Staff Writer

Breaking free from opioid addiction is a journey that demands courage, resilience, and unwavering determination. It's a path marked by challenges, but also by profound personal growth and triumph.

The journey can be even more challenging in rural areas like Alcona County due to limited access to resources, stigma, and geographical isolation. Fortunately, with the help of the 23rd Circuit and 81st District Recovery Court, many citizens in and around the county have found their way out of addiction.

For Zachary Williams, Recovery Court, formerly known as Drug Court, was a blessing he will never forget.

In 2018, Williams received his last driving under the influence (DUI) violation after smashing his car into a local cemetery, landing him in jail. "I was waiting to get into recovery court through another DUI charge in Washtenaw County. I was looking at three years in prison.

"I guess because I was waiting so long to get into the Washtenaw County program, I got in here. I'm not sure, but thank God I did," he said.

Now Williams is a sober citizen who works every day to give back to the community that helped him. He is a certified prevention specialist and recently became a certified recovery coach professional (RCP) who is now training others to assist those recovering from addiction.

"When I came into the recovery court, I did not think I would make it at all," Williams said.

He explained some of the causes of addiction. "Only 15 to 20 percent of the population ever touch a drink or drug and become addicted, but of that 15 to 20 percent, nearly all of them will have some sort of trauma or abandonment in their life. It could have happened when they were very young, so young they don't even remember it.

"They develop a coping mechanism in their brain. I went to treatment six times and didn't know this. If that person in their formative years is introduced to drugs or alcohol, they find it to be a helpful coping mechanism for the underlying trauma," Williams said.

Williams was grateful he was able to obtain a good counselor through Recovery Court who used eye movement desensitization and reprocessing therapy (EMDR), which is a relatively new form of therapy that worked very well for him. "The funny thing about trauma is what might be traumatic for one person, might not be for someone else. It's very personalized," he said.

Through EMDR Williams pinpointed his trauma, which occurred when he was six years old, brought on through something involving his father. Since his father was deceased, he was not able to talk to him about it but was able to understand and cope with the trauma through

therapy.

"Once I had my breakthrough it made a huge difference. I was on a medication-assist treatment called Sublocade, it's a subcutaneous monthly injection taken for six months.

After six months, the doctor asked if I wanted to stop or continue medication-assisted treatment. Because of my breakthrough, I was able to stop. It took about nine months for that to get through my system. I was in Recovery Court the whole time, which was great because I got to watch my levels drop down to nothing. That's when life got exciting for me," Williams said.

After graduation from Recovery Court, Williams felt he needed more. He saw a flier posted in the men's room of the Alcona County courthouse on becoming a peer recovery coach. "I called the number. I took the classes and now I am one of the people who teaches the classes," Williams said.

Williams is employed with

Catholic Human Services and said he has a few programs he is involved in including Project Assert with Ascension Hospital.

He explained he and another peer recovery coach, Stephanie Orlando, are the team called in when anyone enters the hospital with any history or signs of substance use disorder, high blood alcohol content, drug-seeking behavior or track marks.

"We do a brief negotiated interview with active and reflective listening. We are not there to tell anyone what to do.

"We don't tell people 'what has worked for me will probably work for you.' It just doesn't work like that. We've found that autonomy is the best answer. The people have the answers within themselves. The plan that will help them to the highest degree is the plan they believe in," Williams said.

Williams is also on the Alcona County Opioid Committee and is working to help recovering addicts by open-

Fighting Opioid Addiction

Residents Helping Residents

Third in a 3-Part Series

ing a recovery residence in Oscoda soon.

Alcona County Judge Laura Frawley said Williams was a testament to the truth that giving back and helping others was a crucial part of maintaining sobriety. "Zach is an important member of our Recovery Court team and is a huge asset and resource to the recovery community.

"I couldn't be happier to know him and to work with him and have only the highest praises for him and his impact on this community," she said.

Frawley explained that Recovery Court was the most effective form of restorative justice she had ever seen. Especially in rural communities where everyone needs to be a contributing member so it will prosper and flourish

and not be a drain on it.

"Recovery Court helps those in the grips of substance use disorder step off the merry-go-round that repeatedly lands them in the criminal justice system. They come to understand themselves and how to make better, healthier and productive choices for themselves and their loved ones. It helps the participants have the tools they need to get sober and stay sober and restores families by breaking the cycle of criminal behavior," she said.

According to Frawley, Recovery Courts have far lower recidivism rates than any other courts and have saved "millions upon millions of taxpayer's dollars."



Buggy Rides



Bovine TB positive count includes black bear

January 27, 1999 ~ By Cheryl Peterson

Alcona County has been linked with yet another animal that has tested positive

for bovine TB. This time the animal is an adult male black bear taken from the west side of Hubbard Lake.

According to Michigan De-

partment of Natural Resources Wildlife Biologist Elaine Carlson, about 40 bear were tested during the last bear season.

Michigan State University graduate students asked permission of hunters to take tissue samples from the animals when they were registered by the DNR.

Carlson wasn't surprised that a bear tested positive since bear tend to scavenge for food.

"A bear will eat anything. I can't imagine why they wouldn't have come across a carcass or gut pile that was infected," she said. They will also take down a sick deer. This is really no different from raccoons and coyotes that have tested positive - they are scavengers too."

Results from the 1998 Hunter Harvest Whitetail Deer Survey in the Bovine TB Management Area formerly known as DMU 452 (Alpena, Alcona, Oscoda, Montmorency and Presque Isle counties) show that 7,650 deer have been tested for bovine TB. As of Jan. 21, 45 deer have tested positive.

There are still 32 that have yet to undergo final testing to determine if they are TB positive.

Of the deer that tested positive 23 came from Alcona County; 13 from Alpena County; three from Oscoda County; six from Montmorency County; and none

from Presque Isle County.

The 1998 Non-Hunt Whitetailed Deer Survey shows that 636 deer have been tested.

There were 472 deer submitted after being taken on disease control permits and none were found positive. There were 164 deer tested for other reasons- highway kill, found dead, enclosure - and two deer were found positive for bovine TB.

One was from Presque Isle County and one from Alcona County.

In an effort to eradicate bovine TB in the free-ranging white-tailed deer herd, the DNR extended the bow and rifle hunting season in 1998, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture implemented a feeding ban in the Bovine TB Management area.

According to state officials, the feeding ban is to keep deer from the close nose-to-nose contact that can spread the disease.

The feeding ban and the extended hunting season is also supposed to bring the deer population down.

Several local individuals known as Citizens Against Political Eradication of Deer (CAPED) have filed a lawsuit against the state of Michigan asking for an injunction against the feeding ban. The case will be in 26th Judicial Court, in Harrisville, on Wednesday, Jan. 27.

Herald publisher dies at hospital on January 16

January 24, 1974 ~ Al-

cona County residents were deeply saddened by the death of Merrill A. Weber (Rusty), owner and publisher of the Lincoln Herald, on Wednesday night, January 16. He was stricken at his home and was dead on arrival at Alpena General Hospital.

The son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weber, he was born December 10, 1904, in Nashville, Michigan. He was a graduate of Mt. Clemens High School, where he played varsity football and baseball. He served with the U.S. Armed Forces in World War II. He married Mary Belford December 2, 1941, in Kalamazoo, and in 1944 they moved to Lincoln, where they purchased the Alcona County Herald.

"Rusty" will long be remembered by many through his services as Home Service Chairman of the American Red Cross. He was past president of the Village of Lincoln and the Lincoln Lions Club, secretary of Lost Lake Woods Club for five years, and a

member of the Michigan Outdoor Writers Club. His paper featured many editorials on schools, athletics, taxes, politics and anything else in which he felt that he had the right to exercise his freedom of speech. He was an ardent worker in civic and county affairs, and in his church.

Mr. Weber was a member of St. Andrews by-the-lake Episcopal Church at Harrisville.

Surviving are his wife; two sons, David Weber of Saginaw and Dr. Dan Weber of Mt. Pleasant; three grandsons; a brother, John of Atlanta; and a sister, Patricia of New York City.

The body was at Gillies Funeral, Lincoln, until Saturday, when it was taken to the church for a 1 o'clock funeral service, with the Rev. Russell J. Hughes officiating. Eventual internment in Springport Cemetery, Harrisville. Pallbearers were Sanford Josephson, Richard Gillies, Robert Shea, Peter Caton, Gordon Kivela, and Charles Krahnke.

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Kovels: Antiques and Collecting

By Terry and Kim Kovel

Boyer chests

Famous names add to the value of an antique, even if we know more about the maker's work than about the maker. Few names of antique folk artists and country crafters are known today, and even less is known about the people behind them. John Boyer, who made seed chests in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in the mid- to late 19th century, is one of these crafters.

This seed chest, attributed to Boyer, sold for an impressive \$28,320 at a Conestoga auction. The chest features grain painting, a popular decoration at the time. Grain painting meant painting an inexpensive material, such as pine, to resemble an expensive wood, such as mahogany. Boyer chests have a distinctive style of grain painting with diagonal stripes on the sides and vertical lines on the front drawers, which are visible on the chest pictured. We may not know his life story, but John Boyer clearly left his mark on the antiques world.

Q: Is an old Rival No. 100 wooden wringer worth anything? It says "Rolls 10 x 1 3/4 inches" and "The rolls in this wringer are warranted one year for regular family use." The trademark is a horseshoe shape with the letters "LMC" inside. It's in good condition.

A: Before the invention of



This seed chest was made about 1870 out of inexpensive wood for a practical purpose. Now it can command a higher price than some designer pieces. *Photo Courtesy of Kovels.com*

automatic washing machines, a hand-cranked wringer was attached to the washing machine or tub and used to wring out the laundry. The mark on your wringer indicates it was made by Lovell Manufacturing Co., a company founded in Erie, Pennsylvania, in 1881. Automatic washing machines

were invented in the 1920s and were common in most homes by the 1950s. Wooden wringers from the late 1800s and early 1900s sell for about \$50 to \$100 depending on condition.

TIP: If there are traces of glue on the back of a label, soak the label and carefully scrape the glue off under water. Then dry flat.

CURRENT PRICES

Bank, figural, safe, "Security Safe Deposit," hinged door with center knob, opens to three inner drawers, coin slot on top, cast iron, Kyser & Rex, c. 1885, 8 1/2 x 6 x 5 1/2 inches, \$150.

Pottery bowl, Hopi, tapered base, red, black, cream, diagonal panels, geometrics, striped and zigzag rim, signed, Roberta Youvella Silas, 20th century, 5 x 5 1/2 inches, \$240.

Perfume bottle, cut glass, amethyst cut to clear, cylindrical, silver collar & dome lid, hinged, glass stopper, glass marked ML, lid hallmarked with GP & teapot in diamond, late 19th century, 5 3/4 inches, \$480.

Advertising broadside, "Providence Line Between New York and Boston," "The New Route East," image of steamboat Massachusetts on water, American flag, frame, Phoenix Lith., late 1800s, 14 1/2 x 17 3/4 inches, \$625.

Sailor's valentine, two-sided, center heart, flower and pink rose, alternating panel borders, octagonal hinged wood case, 19th century, each side 9 x 9 inches, \$2,500.

For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit www.Kovels.com

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Couch Theater

By Demi Traveras

"True Detective: Night Country" (TV-MA) -- After several decades, Jodie Foster is making a great return to television by leading the newest season of the anthology crime drama series "True Detective." Foster plays Detective Liz Danvers, making this her first adult TV role and first starring role in a TV series since 1975! Opposite of Foster is Kali Reis as steely Detective Evangeline Navarro, who partners up with Liz to close out one last case before they go their separate ways. The case centers around the disappearance of eight men who operated a research station in the cold and rough Alaskan night country. The first two episodes are out now, with subsequent episodes releasing every Sunday until Feb. 25. (Max)

"Griselda" (TV-MA) -- Crime dramas abound this week! Hailing from Eric Newman, the showrunner of the series "Narcos," comes a new crime-drama miniseries led by none other than Sofia Vergara ("Modern Family"). Vergara sheds her usually cheery persona to portray Colombian drug lord Griselda Blanco, nicknamed "the Black Widow" and "the Godmother of Cocaine." After being introduced to the drug industry by her second husband, Blanco based her drug trade business in Miami during the 1980s and kept it bustling with profits of \$80 million a month. Alberto Guerra and Vanessa Ferlito co-star in main roles, while Colombian singer Karol G stars in her first on-screen role ever! All six episodes release on Jan. 25. (Netflix)

"Masters of the Air" (TV-MA) -- Based on the 2007 book by Donald L. Miller, this war-drama miniseries features Academy-Award nominee Austin Butler ("Elvis") and Callum Turner ("Fantastic Beasts") as Air Force Majors Buck Cleven and John Egan, respectively. The two majors were the first pilots assigned to the 100th Bomb Group during World War II, which was given the name "Bloody Hundredth" due to the incredibly difficult missions and heavy losses incurred. But no matter the ruthless conditions, Buck and John are determined to lead their men through these missions. The cast is hefty, with over 50 actors noted in the main cast, but make sure to watch out for a few familiar faces like Barry Keoghan ("Saltburn") and Anthony Boyle ("Harry Potter and the Cursed Child"). (Apple TV+)



Austin Butler, left, and Callum Turner star in "Masters of the Air." *Photo Courtesy Apple TV+*

In Case You Missed It

"Bottoms" (R) -- Produced by Elizabeth Banks ("Cocaine Bear"), this film stars comedian/writer Rachel Sennott ("The Idol") and Golden Globe winner Ayo Edebiri ("The Bear") as two unpopular lesbian high school students. This hormonal pair of best friends are desperate and mortified that they're seniors who haven't had sex yet, so they hatch a plan to create a feminist self-defense club to help them cozy up to the girls they have crushes on. Rooted in hysterical juvenile chaos, this club escalates into somewhat of a girl gang, even exacting revenge on the conceited quarterback of the football team. Kaia Gerber ("Babylon") and Nicholas Galitzine ("Red, White & Royal Blue") co-star. Out now! (MGM+)

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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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: X equals C

GYN ZJT IFEMHDZ FJG RG GYN

ZTU IFJCQD'G GRMN GYN GHUN

GF GRCM GF LNFLCN. YN YRQ

GFF URDT LENKKHDZ XFDXNEDK.

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MAGIC MAZE

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: **Jewelry Worn Around the Wrist**

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Anklet | Hamlet | Letterbox | Poulet |
| Booklet | Letdown | Lettuce | Quintuplet |
| Gauntlet | Lethargic | Owlet | Ultraviolet |
| Goblet | Leticia | Pamphlet | |

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Veterans Post

By Freddy Groves

Whom to trust?

Wouldn't you get a sick feeling in the pit of your stomach if you wondered whether your treatment nurse had obtained a fake diploma?

Three owners of nursing schools in two states were found guilty, as well as several of their pals (for a total of 27 scammers), for a scheme that involved selling fake nursing diplomas they apparently got from two formerly genuine schools. Students who wanted to take the national nursing board exam could purchase from the

scammers diplomas that would allow them to take the tests. The genuine schools were eventually closed because of their test failure rate. However, some applicants managed to pass the exam and used the fake documents to get jobs everywhere in the country. Over 7,000 fake diplomas were handed out.

What happens now, one wonders? Assuming there were records, will anyone go after any of the faux nurses and at least let their new employers (such as the De-

partment of Veterans Affairs) know about the fake diplomas?

In another case, a man was sent to prison (not for long enough) for distributing over \$16 million in adulterated HIV drugs, as well as other medications, all around the country. The scammer and his pals actually set up businesses in multiple states from which they sold the corrupted drugs to wholesale drug suppliers, which then sold them to pharmacies, ensuring that the drugs were spread far and wide. The criminals had on hand enough drugs to net them at least \$25 million when sold.

In one gut-wrenching case, two nurses lied to investigators after a patient died at a VA hospital. They claimed they hadn't "paused" the patient's medication. They actually had. The patient died.

Curiously, one nurse was given only three months in the federal slammer, and the other one got six months. Even more curious, the judge gave them both until January to turn themselves in at the prison, noting the "circumstances of the offense." What on earth does that mean?

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Here's A Tip
By JoAnn Derson

* File this one under safety AND energy smarts: Clean the dryer vent after every load. Clean the dryer vent screen monthly with a gentle soap and water bath. Rinse well and dry thoroughly before inserting back into your dryer.

* "I used to struggle with plastic wrap every time I tried to use it. But now, it's a breeze since I learned to do these two things: One, keep plastic wrap in the freezer. It unrolls evenly, not one side or the other. Two, use a serrated knife to cut it instead of relying on the metal strip down the side of the box. You lay it out on the counter, and just run the knife down the edge you want to cut. Works like magic, and it's no longer frustrating." -- G.S. in Georgia

* "Make a cream lipstick last longer and stay cleaner by using a makeup brush to apply. Your skin picks up more of the lipstick than necessary, one reason why we blot our lips afterward. But the brush uses only what you need. And there's less bacteria transfer." -- Y.R. in Massachusetts

Alcona County Review Classifieds

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LEGAL NOTICES

**State of Michigan
 Probate Court
 Alcona County
 Notice to Creditors
 Decedent's Estate
 Case No. 2022-6297-DE**

Judge Laura A. Frawley
 Court address
 106 N. 5th Street,
 P.O. Box 385
 Harrisville, Mich. 48740
 Court telephone No.
 (989) 724-9490
 Estate of Myrtle May Kilbourn
 Date of birth: July 26, 1959
 To all creditors:
 Notice to creditors: The decedent, Myrtle May Kilbourn, died May 24, 2021.
 Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Linda Bunker, 36220 Winterset Dr. Clinton Township, Mich. 48035, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 106 N. 5th Street, P.O. Box 385, Harrisville, Mich. 48740 and the personal representative within four months after the date of publication of this notice.
 Date: January 24, 2024
 Darren M. Finding, P51350
 Attorney
 414 W. Fifth Street
 Royal Oak, Mich. 48067
 (248) 399-3300.
 Linda Bunker
 Personal representative
 36220 Winterset Dr.
 Clinton Township, Mich. 48035
 (586) 360-5874

**State of Michigan
 Probate Court
 Alcona County
 Notice to Creditors
 Decedent's Estate/Trust
 File No. Not Assigned**

Estate of James J. King Sr., deceased
 Date of birth: September 15, 1950
 And the James J. King Sr. Revocable Living Trust dated August 27, 2004, as amended.
 To all creditors:
 Notice to creditors: The decedent, James J. King Sr., who lived at 618 E. Proconier Road, Harrisville, Mich. 48740, died December 25, 2023. No probate file was opened with respect to the estate of the decedent as there were no assets requiring administration.
 Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate and/or the James J. King Sr. Revocable Living Trust will be forever barred unless presented to James J. King Jr. as Successor Trustee of the James J. King Sr. revocable Living Trust, or to both the probate court at Attn: Probate Division, Alcona County Trial Court, 106 N. 5th Street, P.O. Box 385, Harrisville, Mich. 48740 and the trustee within four months after the date of publication of this notice.
 Date: January 24, 2024
 Robert K. Myles P.C.
 Robert K. Myles, P36055
 Attorney
 109 S. State Street
 Oscoda, Mich. 48750
 (989) 739-2871
 James J. King Jr.
 Successor Trustee
 1260 Kunzie Road
 East Tawas, Mich. 48730
 (989) 254-5240

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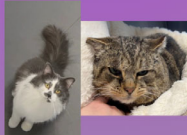
Cherry&Blueberry



Belle&B.B.



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**Ordinance Enforcement Officer/
 Zoning Administrator Wanted**

Mikado Township is requesting applications for the position of Ordinance Enforcement Officer to enforce Mikado Township Ordinances. Zoning Administrator would issue Land Use Permits and answer questions pertaining to our Zoning Ordinance. Send resume/letter of interest by February 13, 2024, to Mikado Township Clerk, PO Box 60, Mikado, MI 48745. For questions, please call the township clerk at (989) 736-7721.

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.

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