



BUCK TALES

Be Prepared!

With the advent of extreme wintry conditions, residents should ensure they are prepared for power outages and all their aftermath. Have adequate food and water stocked up. And, remember that **pets** who normally live outdoors need some extra warmth to make it through.

COMING EVENTS

Tip-Up Town USA in Houghton Lake will be held Jan. 20-21 and 27. Visit tipup-townusa.net for more information.

Free Drive Thru Mobile Food Distribution, Saturday, Feb. 3 at the Clare County Transit Corp., 1473 Transportation Drive, Harrison. Food distribution from 10 a.m. until at least 11:30 a.m. Food will be placed in your trunk/hatchback, so please make room in advance. Please bring empty boxes or baskets in your trunk for volunteers to put the food. Restrooms will not be available. If you do not have access to a vehicle or are feeling ill, please stay home and arrange for someone to pick up your food.

36th Annual Frostbite Festival in Harrison Feb 8-10. Events include pub crawl, outdoor fun and polar slide at Harrison City Park, cornhole tournament, craft show, dinner show and more! Visit the Harrison Area Chamber of Commerce for more information.

49th Annual Clare Irish Festival March 13-17. Visit www.claremichigan.com for more information.

Snowball Dinner Dance will be held March 23 at the Harrison Moose Lodge. All proceeds will serve homeless veterans. Sponsored by Veterans3usa. \$15 includes dinner. Purchase tickets at Moose Lodge, Jackpine Restaurant, Trails End Restaurant or from Maye Tessner Rood.

Leota Community Church offers free lunch every other Wednesday. All are welcome.

Yoder's Quilt Auction and Flea Market will be held from 8-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 17 and 18. 10885 N. Leaton Road in Clare.

For more community events visit www.clarecountycleaver.net.

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- 2 years: \$60
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- 2 years: \$64
- 3 years: \$96

Online Only Subscriptions: \$26 per year

'Out of the mouths of babes'

Early Childhood Program Fills Important Role



By DIANNE ALWARD-BIERY
Cleaver Staff Writer

HARRISON – After Harrison Community Preschoolers kicked off the Jan. 8 Harrison Area Community Schools Board of Education's organizational meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance, it was only natural the regular meeting would feature a building instructional highlight about the Great Start Readiness Program. That presentation was provided by Larson Elementary School Assistant Principal Sandy Hargraves who is in her second year as director of that program.

Hargraves described the preschool's current staff as comprised of four lead teachers, four associate teachers, two paraprofessionals, two RESD staff members and more. She noted the school currently has 64 enrolled students and that this year all four of the school's classrooms are full.

"We've got the new signage out there, because I know a lot of times people would come to the doors here [Hillside administration building] and [say] I'm looking for the preschool," she said. "So, the sign out there has been amazing."

Hargraves also spoke of switching to Brigance Testing, which she said is easier to use in tracking student progress, and she described as "awesome."

"They have a new playground out there," Hargraves said. "And we were also able to get a new classroom grant."

Because we went from three classrooms to four classrooms, we were approved for a \$25,000 grant."

Some of that grant money was used for brand new teachers, with the rest going toward paying for the new playground. Hargraves said there is additional playground equipment that is waiting on maintenance personnel [and weather] for assembly/installation.

"Our most senior staff have been mentoring our new teachers, which has been amazing," Hargraves said. "They're helpful and they share offices so they can kind of work through and help each other."

The students also are taking monthly walking visits to the Harrison District Library.

"The one time they couldn't because of the weather, the library actually came here," she said. "So, they still got their visit."

Hargraves also noted that at least three of the classrooms, because that's how the grant was written for the previous year, had a Lego Grant which helps students be prepared for Lego Robotics and similar things when they get to Larson Elementary.

A telling moment for any school that deals with very young students is how those children answer preferential questions. From the mouths of those babes came earnest answers to the question: What do you love about

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Students from the Harrison Community Preschool participate in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, kicking off the Jan. 8 meeting of the Harrison Community Schools Board of Education. (Cleaver photo by Dianne Alward-Bieri)

Council Counters on DNR Building Offer

City Seeks Applicants to Fill Seat Being Vacated by Ryan Colville

By DIANNE ALWARD-BIERY
Cleaver Staff Writer

HARRISON – Actions taken at the Jan. 8 meeting of Harrison City Council included adoption of meeting minutes of Dec. 18 and the day's Council bills. In his Mayor's Report, Dan Sullivan noted having received a thank you for Tracy Wheeler-Clay, Chris Damvelt and Sharon Hawkins having represented the City at the funeral visitation for the late Bill Bishop. Wheeler-Clay added that flowers had been sent on behalf of City Council and City Hall staff, as well.

"Thank you for going there," Sullivan said. "And our condolences to the Bishops; they were always in attendance here."

Sullivan said he is still seeing a few cars going the wrong way on the one-way street at the post office. He also said he had changed his mind about commenting that the DPW wasn't seeing any snow, as the weather report said it would be coming that night.

Old Business included the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-06 – Repeal Section 35.004 Regarding the Keeping of Vicious Animals. That change was made because the City Ordinance



Harrison City Council members and several city employees attended the Harrison Area Chamber of Commerce dinner hosted by Longer Table after the Jan. 8 Council meeting. The informal dinner and recap of milestones which both businesses and the Chamber reached in 2023 was led by Wendy Heinig, chamber president. (Cleaver photo by Angela Kellogg-Henry)

already disallowed the owning and keeping of vicious animals, thus Section 35.004 listing the rules for owning and keeping them was moot. Justin Cavanaugh, city manager/clerk then read the resolution, stating "The City of Harrison ordains: City Code Section 35.004 is hereby repealed." Council then moved to adopt the amended ordinance.

This led Council member Karen Hulliberger to seek clarification of chicken-keeping regulations within the city. Cavanaugh stated that residents could keep eight chickens, no roosters.

"You have to get the permit," he

said. "And part of the permit requires us to come out and look at how you're disposing [of waste], and all that kind of stuff." He added that the permit fee is \$50.

Under Reports of Committees and Department Heads, treasurer Wheeler-Clay reported the office is getting ready for auditors, and Kathy Maharas was concise, saying "The water department's doing great."

Fire Chief Chris Damvelt reported three runs since the first of the year, one being the Jan. 4 fatal house fire on Ash Road. He said that fire was under investigation, and noted there were "lots of

rumors out there flying." He clarified that there were five people living in that trailer house, four adults and one 6-year-old child, with one of the adults not surviving.

"What caused the fire?" he said. "We don't know yet – we may never know. The trailer sat east to west, and the west end of the trailer was completely burned out."

Damvelt also referred to his report to Council regarding the number of runs in the city, which included a total of 41 incidents and 21 different types of incidents, including one fire in a structure other than a building. He also

reported his department purchased an air compressor for filling air bottles, with delivery expected later this month. He said the chassis for the new truck is also expected soon, adding that once the chassis is done the truck build happens fairly quickly.

New DDA and Recreation Director Christie Balog reported that she is in the process of learning a lot and is glad to be on the team.

Cavanaugh reported having been off since the Dec. 18 meeting and had come in to work at 6 a.m. that day just to try to catch up. Additionally, work on elections is necessitating a plan for how to keep track of the many required elements, which are "very different" – all in addition to his own two-page list of things he must do.

Reporting on behalf of Sam Russell, DPW superintendent, Cavanaugh said the welder in the shop has gone out, that one is being borrowed temporarily, but a new one needs to be purchased. Responding to a request from Russell, Council approved an expenditure not to exceed \$5,000 for the purchase of a shop welder.

That meeting day was the first day for the new Harrison City Hall hours, and it was reported that people have already voiced their appreciation for being able to come in during the lunch hour and after 4:30 p.m.

Under New Business, Council moved to adopt Resolution 2024-01 – Poverty Exemption Eligibility requirements, Income Standards/Asset Test and Application for 2024. This is an action of Council required annually.

See COUNCIL on page 2

COMMUNITY LIFE



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GSRP from page 1

preschool? Silas said he loves recess and likes the excavator. Brynley said that she likes writing her name.

The presentation also featured photos of students participating in various activities, including one from that day showing students finishing up a yoga class and another of a library visit. Also shown were students with their handmade blankets and pillows provided for Christmas during a visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Hargraves concluded by saying, “I’m really proud of the staff I have over here at the preschool.”

Superintendent Judy Walton offered her congratulations to Hargraves for embracing the program wholeheartedly in addition to her position as assistant principal.

“She’s done a really great job supporting teachers, supporting their growth, growing us from three classrooms to four this year,” Walton said, adding that she enjoys being asked to step in to cover when Hargraves needs to step away. “Then I get to help out, too, without stepping on toes. So, I just want to thank you, Sandy, for all you’re doing with that program in addition to everything else that you have on your plate at Larson.”



During the Jan. 8 school board meeting, Sandy Hargraves, Larson assistant principal and Great Start Readiness Program director, describes the GSRP students and their activities. (Cleaver photo by Dianne Alward-Biery)



Above, the new sign which guides visitors to the Great Start Readiness Program at Harrison Community Schools.

Below, Harrison Community Preschool students hug the pillows and blankets they received for Christmas when Santa and Mrs. Claus visited. (Screen capture photos)



COUNCIL from page 1

Also addressed was the sale of the old DNR building at 714 First St. and two purchase agreement offers. One was a \$50,000 cash offer from a retail marijuana business, and the other was a land contract offer of \$65,000 with \$15,000 down for a proposed used car lot.

Cavanaugh said the choice to make any counter offer or the amount thereof was totally up to Council, but urged the property get back onto the tax roll sooner than later. He said that if it could be closed in roughly 30 days, there was a possibility of getting it back on this year’s tax roll.

“Whatever we would get for the property that we didn’t pay anything for – and that would cost us thousands of dollars to renovate,” he said. “And cost annually to maintain, because we have to mow it every couple weeks. That’s what I’m looking at; we’re dumping money into it ... what I focus on is get it back on the tax roll and stop maintaining.”

Discussion included noting a marijuana business would also bring in an additional \$50,000 annually to the city, which Cavanaugh said was not guaranteed into the future. He pointed out that if the business closes, at least there would be a renovated building in town.

Damvelt also questioned the address for the property, saying he recalls it from his time working there for the DNR as being 708 First St. Cavanaugh said he would have the real estate agent look into that.

Angela Kellogg-Henry, mayor pro tem, voiced her opinion on the situation by saying, “As much as I don’t want another dispensary in town – not that the other one is problematic, I just think it’s unnecessary – I would lean toward the \$50,000 for the dispensary.”

Hulliberger agreed with the stipulation the buyer assume closing costs, and Sullivan agreed that the City should net \$50,000. It was decided the counter offer price should go up to include the real estate agency’s commission fee.

Council then moved to make a counter offer of \$55,000 on the cash offer to include closing costs.

When it was suggested the land contract person could look into the property across the street [former Big Joe’s car lot], Cavanaugh said there was activity on that property, with a site plan in the works for a Biggby Coffee.

In Closing Remarks, Council member Ryan Colville informed that the next Council meeting would probably be his last, as he and his wife had purchased a house outside the city [in Midland]. Cavanaugh said the open position would be advertised, and if applicants materialize, interviews could be held prior to the next meeting.

“If we can get a good applicant or two, hopefully we can appoint someone at the next meeting to replace Ryan,” he said.

Council will meet next at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22 at Harrison City Hall, 2105 Sullivan Drive.



Board Hears of Amended Budget, Policy Changes, Hirings Superintendent Rated ‘Effective’ Overall

By DIANNE ALWARD-BIERY
Cleaver Staff Writer

HARRISON – Included in the Jan. 8 meeting of the Harrison Community Schools Board of Education was business manager Chad Hathcock’s presentation of the 2023-2024 Amended Budget: amended from the budget previously approved in July. Some of the items noted as budget assumptions included an enrollment of 1,244; and this year’s state per-student allotment of \$9,608. Hathcock said the state had come up with some new categories: District Transportation which is funded at \$190,000 currently, and Enrollment Stabilization which – after five students are lost – funds districts up to a certain amount per student lost “up to those five students.”

Grant funding remains the same: Title I, Title II, Title IV. He said it is expected that Title V also will come in this year. Hathcock said the IDEA [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act] is through the Clare-Gladwin RESD, plus the Great Start Readiness Program funding which includes classrooms, transportation and \$25,000 for startup. He said it was not likely that HCS would have to use any General Fund dollars to fund the GSRP classes.

Of note was Hathcock’s comment that all the personnel con-



During the Jan. 8 school board meeting, Judy Walton, HCS superintendent, informs of a change to the state’s transportation funding formula which more equitably distributes support to more rural districts such as Harrison. (Cleaver photo by Dianne Alward-Biery)

portion of the ESSER 3 funds are earmarked for HVAC. Hathcock said he anticipates the HVAC work will start in late February/early March. He also noted that tax dollars are coming in from the city and townships, bringing the district’s cash balance back up. Another revenue item cited was the Enrollment Stabilization amount of \$15,000.

Although not included in the budget, Hathcock said he anticipated receiving funds from First Robotics. He said application was made but he had yet to hear on that one. He reported extensively on all the details of incoming funding and where it would be designated. He said total revenues were estimated at \$23,841,000. Expenditures were cited as \$23,200,000 which leaves revenues over expenditures by roughly \$600,000.

“I’m sure there will be some potholes along the way,” he said. “It would be nice to have that much, but I’m not banking on it.”

He further cited the \$3,392,314

See **BOE** on page 5



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Dad
Joke of the week

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another one just like it.”**

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3

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Outdoors With Jeff

As we go into the third week of January, we hope that the lakes will start to cover over with ice and get us out and do some ice fishing. Over the first week of January, many were disappointed that the lakes were still open.

Over the years ice fishermen were accustomed to going fishing for the first time in the winter around the first of the year. Hopefully, the ice will cover the lakes and fishermen will get their fishing equipment and get out on the ice as soon as they can. As the times goes by and the lakes are all frozen, ice fishermen will be gathering out on the ice. Over the past couple days, fishermen could be able to check the ice and see if it became safe and they will be out on the ice.

Ice fishing has changed over several decades of the past. One thing that changed many years ago was how we handled bait. Today we have plastic minnow buckets and long ago we all had galvanized metal buckets. The metal one lets you pull up an inner metal bucket and retrieve a minnow and replace the rest back. The only problem was after some time they rusted a hole through the bucket. Now, when you want to get some bait, at the bait store, for some bugs to go ice fishing. The clerk will get you a small plastic container with a few bugs in it and hand it to you for a cost.

When we were teenagers, the Wizards of the Woods would gather Copenhagen cans and when we got enough, we would go the bait shop and give them to the bait shop owner a large sack of those empty cans. Another thing we would bring to the bait shop were small red cans called Prince Albert tobacco and others. They too were used to hold your fishing bugs. All you had to do was put the Prince Alberts or Copenhagen cans in your shirt pocket to keep the bugs thawed.

Some fishermen are just waiting for the ice to thicken and get out on the ice and fish. So basically, we just wait and see. Some asked what I did on New Year's Eve, and I just told people I stayed in the house and just watched what was going on in New York City. Some other fishermen went down to the shore and just watched the sky it wasn't long, and they returned to a warm house.

I remember when we were just



JEFF GOYT

teenagers; the Wizards of the Woods would walk out on the ice and check to see if it was safe. We would walk out holding these big ice spuds to see if the ice was thick. These spuds they owned weighed about ten to fifteen pounds or more.

For those that are interested in going out hunting for deer it's still possible for bow hunting. They moved the last day for bow hunting from the first of January to the last day of January. Check with the DNR for more information.

Now that we are in a new year, I was told that this year is the year that designated me for teaching Hunters Safety Classes for fifty years. I am so proud. I have been told several times by some children that I taught a child's grandfather. I want to commend all the people that spent a lot of time with our youth teaching hunter's safety class. The next one should be sometime in April. Check with the DNR online and see when the classes are available.

It's a great time for people to get out and walk or go to Mid Michigan College hiking trails. It's a great place to walk in snowshoes on their trail. Another place where it's great to snowshoe is at Hardwick Pines State Park near Grayling. They also teach how to make your own snowshoes. They are online.

I wish everyone a great day outdoors. Make sure you check the ice is solid. Always carry ice spikes around your neck in case you go through the ice. Enjoy your time in the great outdoors. Again, I remind you all, make sure the ice is safe before you go on the ice. Be safe.



always there to show we care

3

Clare County Senior Services

with open arms & friendly faces

January 22 - 26

60+ years old, donation of \$2.25 requested. Under 60 years old, \$5.00 per meal.
Please Note: We are delivering Meals on Wheels Monday - Friday. Congregate Centers are OPEN to the public. All Seniors (60+), can pick up a meal to go.
You must call: Harrison 989-539-6515 OR Lake George/Clare 989-588-9841 ext. 01 to reserve.

Monday, Jan. 22

Sloppy Joe, Redskin Mashed Potatoes, Mixed vegetables, Mango, Chocolate Milk

Tuesday, Jan. 23

Chicken & Rice, Brown Sugar Glazed Carrots, Green Beans O'Malley, Orange, Milk

Wednesday, Jan. 24

Ravioli, Broccoli, Sliced Strawberries, Yogurt, Milk

Thursday, Jan. 25

Southern Style Pork Chop, Peas & Pearl Onions, Sliced Carrots, Peachy Jello, Milk

Friday, Jan. 26

Salsa Chicken, Spanish Rice, Winter Blend Vegetables, Sliced Pears, Bread, Choc. Milk

~ CLARE COUNTY HISTORY ~

‘Ice Works’ and Sometimes It Doesn’t



Men cutting ice on Budd Lake in the 1890s. (Photo courtesy of Cody Beemer)

By ANGELA KELLOGG-HENRY with CODY BEEMER

We may take ice for granted today. It's everywhere from a freezer at every convenience store to the door of our home refrigerators. With the temperatures this week we could make it outside in a short time! That's exactly where ice used to come from, nature—namely lakes and streams. Cut during the winter and stored in ice houses of every size for use in the warmer months.

In 1890 it was unseasonably warm in Ohio and southern Michigan and the ice didn't get thick enough to harvest. The need for ice to be shipped south was so great that every lumberjack and teamster in the surrounding woods were paid to turn their crosscut saws into ice cutting tools. Michigan's lumber industry paid better by far than the California Gold Rush and Budd Lake's ice paid better than white pine in 1890.

Lumberjacks often worked at an ice works using their huge cross cut saws to saw ice into blocks. On Budd Lake, the ice was sent up the mechanical slides and onto the waiting trains or stored in the ice houses. The photos shown here are on Budd Lake, near the area north of the Saxton Park, also called the power dock.

Sawdust was a burdening waste product and a tremendous potential fire hazard but an ice works acting in companion with lumber mills made good business sense. Sawdust, a byproduct of mill operation, was used for its insulating properties to pack ice for storage and shipping. Ice was cut from the lake and stored in ice houses and later sold during the summer for a premium price.

The importance of keeping and storing ice is hard for us to imagine today. It was also a livelihood for many. The Clare Sentinel ran this item in October of 1921. "New Ice

House Being Erected A. Dale, Clare's city milkman, this week has commenced the erection of an ice house near the mill pond that will have a capacity of 1500 tons of ice which he expects to fill and deliver to his patrons next summer and also supply his own wants in connection with his milk business. The ice famine which has nearly overcome several Clare businesses for the past several years on account of the gradual increasing demand will now be completely eliminated as this together with the Clare Ice Co. will amply supply the city's demand at all times."

An amusing item was in the January 23, 1885 Clare County Press. "E.L. Squire is about done packing ice, having put in a supply of about a hundred tons which he thinks will be adequate for all demands next summer. Ed says he has received from 116 individuals, 116 different plans for building an ice house and he is a little in doubt as to whether his ice will keep the way he has packed it. Each one of the 116 plans was guaranteed to be the only way to pack ice so that it wouldn't melt."

Not all ice houses were large commercial operations. Many farms and homes had their own smaller ice houses as well.

The January 1928 issue of the Clare Sentinel reported on several ice items. "The Magnus boys are filling the Boy Scouts ice house also theirs, the ice is a very nice quality." and "Saturday afternoon the Harrison Elevator finished filling their ice house."

In 1932 the Clare Sentinel ran the following items. "Ira Badget has got his ice house filled so the people of Farwell will not have to worry over ice." And "The P.M. Co. are now putting up some more ice from our [Farwell] sparkling creek. We hear they intend filling 50 [rail] cars as well as the large ice house."

Even into the 1940s ice was cut from local lakes and stored for



A train can be seen at top right. This photo is part of a series showing the operation of the Wilson Ice Works.

future use. In March of 1946, the Clare Sentinel printed an item that read, "Albert Whitmer and a crew of men started cutting ice to fill his ice house on Budd Lake Monday morning."

Ice houses, could also be a fire hazard. Large buildings with sawdust and other packing materials often caught fire and were a total loss absent modern fire fighting equipment.

In 1891 the Clare Democrat and Press reported, "The burning of the mammoth ice house belonging to the Cincinnati Ice Company, which was located at the head of Budd lake, near Harrison, will involve a loss of upwards of \$10,000 to that company. The fire occurred at an early hour last Friday morning. Incendiary origin is intimated. The house had a capacity of about 20,000 tons and was about two thirds full when it

burned. The company will not rebuild and are looking elsewhere for their supply."

In 1923 the P.M. R.R. [Pere Marquette Rail Road] built an ice house for the sum of \$65,000. It was 112x196 feet and 30 feet to the eaves. It later burned.

Ice Harvest

The men working for the Harrison Elevator Company finished their ice harvest Friday afternoon; with the ice house filled to capacity.
The ice was taken in the usual field, in front of the ice house. About 18 men were employed, from Tuesday until Friday, on the job, with the Miller brothers, of Brown Corners, doing the cutting.
The job went very smoothly this year, with no one getting any frozen fingers or toes, or even a cool bath.
The Perry Boys, of Frost township, who put up ice for Jim Buchan, of the Budd Lake Inn,, also finished their harvest last week.
They took the ice from the north end of the Lake, storing it in Amy's barn.
Sixty tons of ice were harvested for this concern.

The Clare Sentinel reports on the ice harvest in 1935.

2024 BLACK LAKE STURGEON SEASON BEGINS FEB. 3

The 2024 lake sturgeon fishing season on Black Lake in Cheboygan County, Michigan, will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3. All anglers must register online to participate in the fishing season, and those age 17 or older must have a valid Michigan fishing license.

The harvest limit for the 2024 season on Black Lake is six lake sturgeon. Officials will close the season when one of two scenarios occurs:

- The sixth fish is harvested.
 - Five fish have been harvested at the end of any fishing day.
- Fishing hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day of the season. The season will end either at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, or when one of

the above scenarios is met, at which point anglers will be notified via text message and on the ice by DNR personnel that they must immediately stop fishing for lake sturgeon.

Anyone who wants to participate this year must register online by Feb. 2. Get more registration and season information at Michigan.gov/Sturgeon.

Participating anglers must bring their own bright red flags (1-foot diameter or larger) to hang on their fishing shanties so that DNR personnel can identify those who are sturgeon fishing. Season officials emphasize that anglers are asked to hang one or more flags in highly visible locations on their shanties, because DNR personnel must be aware of which anglers are pursuing sturgeon fishing.



Anyone harvesting a lake sturgeon must immediately contact DNR personnel on the ice. Official

registration of each harvested fish will take place at a DNR trailer located on or near the ice at the end of Zollner Road in the northwest part of Black Lake. Harvest registration may include an examination of the fish's internal organs and removal of a piece of fin tissue for DNA analysis or aging. Lake sturgeon rehabilitation efforts in Black Lake over the last two decades have been a successful collaboration between the DNR, Sturgeon for Tomorrow, tribal

agencies, Michigan State University and Tower-Kleber Limited Partnership. This population has increased in the past 20 years due to lake sturgeon rearing and stocking efforts, research and protection of spawning adults, and this trend is expected to continue.

Anglers should be aware of marginal ice conditions on regional lakes so far this year and use extreme caution when fishing. DNR staff will notify participants by email if instructions and procedures change due to ice conditions on Black Lake. The Black Lake sturgeon season starting date will not change.

Visit Michigan.gov/IceSafety for tips to stay safe on the ice.

EDITORIAL



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WWII Navy Seabee celebrates his 100th birthday

In 1942, Maurice “Bud” Prottengeier, an 18-year-old college student, decided to enlist in the Navy along with his friends before they were drafted into World War II. Although that was 82 years ago, the Flint native has no problem recalling the details.

“At the time, I was in my second year of junior college at Northport College in Chicago,” Prottengeier says. “We all knew that we were probably going to have to go somewhere. We went down and joined the Navy that day.”



At left, Maurice “Bud” Prottengeier (U.S. Navy photo) and at right, Prottengeier walking a mile around his neighborhood, which he does as weather permits to stay fit.

On Jan. 13, 2024, Prottengeier celebrated his 100th birthday – one of only about 5,000 surviving WWII veterans in Michigan.

Prottengeier, a widower and father of three, is living proof that age is just a number. He still swims and does yoga, volunteers at a school in the Flint area and can recite the names of his fellow sailors and tell you how much he made in the Navy more than eight decades ago.

Prottengeier was born in Flint on Jan. 13, 1924, and attended Mt. Morris High School. His father, Ted, served in World War I as an electrician’s mate in the US Navy.

In September of 1940, the United States instituted the Selective Training and Service Act, which required all men ages 18 to 45 to register for the draft. In 1942, Prottengeier says they started draft-

ing 18-year-olds. Knowing his time would likely come soon, he and his friends decided to enlist. Prottengeier would serve in the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion, better known as the Seabees.

Because Prottengeier was in college, he was eligible to join the Navy College Training Program (V-12), where participants were placed on active duty as apprentice seamen. Candidates were not subject to the draft if they retained their enlistment ranking and kept up with their schoolwork.

“They sent me to Northwestern University in Chicago, and I was an apprentice seaman making 21 bucks a month,” Prottengeier says. “They

waived bootcamp for us, but if we flunked out of school that’s where they would’ve sent us.”

After 16 months at Northwestern, Prottengeier had earned enough credits for a degree in civil engineering. He was then called for Midshipmen School in Camp Endicott, Rhode Island for the Civil Engineer Corps.

Though it was more than 80 years ago, Prottengeier still vividly recalls the names of his friends and instructors while at Camp Endicott.

“Yeah, Ensign DeSenzel, Ensign Fell and Ensign Konowski,” he says. “I guess I have a good memory. This guy named Dick Fell became a really good buddy of mine, he went to high school at Detroit Southwestern.”

After he completed training, Prottengeier was selected to be a platoon officer for the next class of midshipmen. In summer of 1945, he received orders to be sent to the Pacific.

“It was about August of 1945, just before we dropped the bomb,” said Prottengeier. “They had prepared my midshipman class of 400 officers to do whatever we were supposed to do. Seabees followed the

invasion force. I lucked out, I never had to face bullets.”

“We first went to Oakland, California, to pick up transportation to Pearl Harbor in Hawaii,” Prottengeier continued. “Then to Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands, to Guam, then to Okinawa, Japan.”

Prottengeier was stationed at Nakagusuku Bay in Okinawa, nicknamed “Buckner Bay” in memory of Lt. Gen. Simon Buckner Jr., commander of the U.S. land forces who was killed in June of 1945.

Prottengeier spent 11 months in Okinawa as an ensign with a construction and maintenance battalion. The unit built and maintained barracks and facilities such as power plants and water treatment plants.

In June 1946, Prottengeier took a ship from Okinawa to San Francisco, before being sent to Chicago to be discharged. He then returned home to Flint to work in construction. Six months later, he met his wife Marian at a holiday party.

“I knew her brother,” he says. “We graduated from the same high school. I was at a party, and I saw this beautiful girl. I asked my buddy who she was, and he said it was Wesley Cowell’s sister.”

The couple was married for 73 years and had three children and two grandchildren before Marian passed in 2020 at 93 years old.

Today, Prottengeier lives in Burton, just east of Flint, and stays active by volunteering at Bendle Schools in Burton, swimming and doing yoga three times a week at U of M Flint and walking a mile around his neighborhood when the weather permits.

Prottengeier’s family is planning a private celebration for his 100th birthday but encourages those who know him to reach out to him via Facebook, give him a call or send him a card to wish him a happy birthday.

Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to begin mapping sessions for state House districts

LANSING — The Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission (MICRC) was scheduled to begin court-ordered mapping sessions for seven Michigan House districts at a virtual meeting Jan. 16. That meeting and all future mapping sessions will be livestreamed on the MICRC YouTube channel.

Individuals can submit written public comment or sign up for live public comment using the form at this link: <https://forms.office.com/g/JymDHUgHd9>. The Commission will continue to accept email, mail and/or paper submissions and comments from the public. All written

public comment submitted to the Commission will be posted on the MICRC website at michigan.gov/MICRC.

MICRC mapping meetings during the week of Jan. 22 will be in person at Cadillac Place in Detroit and at additional Detroit locations to be determined. Meetings the week of Jan. 29 will be virtual. All MICRC mapping session dates, times, and locations are available online at this link: bit.ly/MICRCmapdates.

More information about the MICRC can be found at michigan.gov/MICRC.

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GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP NEWS

The Greenwood Township Board held its regular monthly meeting on Jan. 10. There were six visitors present. Harrison District Library rep Nancy House informed us of ongoing activities. County Commissioner Dale Majewski gave his report.

Under Unfinished Business, the supervisor advised attendees that installation of the new electronic signboard should occur by the next monthly Board meeting. The Harding Avenue blight complaint issues do not fall within the township’s blight ordinance. The clerk noted that the cemetery has accumulated a pile of dirt and branches over the years that needed to be addressed. The supervisor will reach out to our landscaper about removal. There was also discussion on a privacy fence to be



GAIL GARRITY
Greenwood Trustee

placed in front of the dumpster. The hall’s alarm panel is the original from when the building was

built. While the alarm itself has recently been updated, a new panel with remote features that can be accessed through a mobile app is now available. The board voted to move forward using ARPA funds.

Under New Business, the fire contract for 2024 was presented, without any rate increase by the City of Harrison, and was approved unanimously. The Board tabled discussion relating to a Poverty Guidelines Resolution. The three members of the Board of Review are returning and the Board voted to approve updated training; an alternate BOR member is being sought. The Board voted to retain Artsy Landscaping for the next contract period. The 2024-2025 meeting dates were approved. The FOIA policy will

be updated and simplified.

Under Board Member comments, the following items were noted: Lorie Fliegel attended a special Road Commission meeting. Seventy percent of Clare County roads are gravel. Rachel Mackson will send out absentee ballots once they are ready. Jess McClaughry thanked the Board of Review members for their continued service and noted that the Christmas Party attendance was disappointing. The County’s Animal Control Center appreciated the donations from our township.

The next regular township board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14. Greenwood Township residents are especially invited to attend, but all meetings are open to the public.

Grammar Guy

Don’t anger the underground supervolcano

There’s a supervolcano under Yellowstone National Park called the Yellowstone Caldera that last erupted in a big way approximately 640,000 years ago. The next time it erupts, it could potentially result in a large swath of North America getting covered in ash, creating a sustained volcanic winter that kills roughly half the world’s population. Before we get ahead of ourselves, scientists at the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory warn against overreacting to reports that this supervolcano is overdue for another full-scale eruption. In fact, they reassure us that “recurrence intervals of these events are neither regular nor predictable.”

Oh, good. The dormant supervolcano is unpredictable. Let’s not anger it.

Okay, let’s set aside the looming volcano apocalypse to discuss the words “sit” and “set.” These two are easily confused and often get mistakenly interchanged.

Set means to “put something in a specific place.” Set is (almost always) a transitive verb. Transitive verbs are always action verbs and they always require direct objects. Direct objects act on another noun. Take the following sentence:

We should set aside our differences; the big volcano could erupt at any time.

“We” is the subject. “Set” is the transitive verb. “Differences” is the direct object.

Sit means “to be seated.” Sit is an intransitive verb. Intransitive verbs are always action verbs, and they do not require direct objects. Consider this example:

You shouldn’t sit there; the



CURTIS HONEYCUTT

supervolcano is directly beneath your feet!

In the first complete thought before the semicolon, “you” is the subject, and “sit” is the intransitive verb. The sentence has no direct object.

Set requires another thing—you can set secret Oreos on top of the cabinet so your kids don’t know about them. You can set your keys on the table. When you sit, you sit yourself and nothing else. I sit. She sits. Banjo, the trained sloth, sits on the top of the giant cheese sculpture. The supervolcano sits and waits to wreak havoc on planet Earth. You get the idea.

Whether or not the Yellowstone Caldera decides to usher in the end of humanity, it’s a good idea to understand the difference between “sit” and “set.” Although I doubt the world depends on it, our future lava overlords may give us a pop quiz on the difference between the two. Depending on which version of the multiverse we currently inhabit, having a solid handle on “sit” and “set” could save us from total destruction.

Curtis Honeycutt is a syndicated humor columnist. He is the author of “Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life.” Find more at curtishoneycutt.com.

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BOE from page 2

audited fund balance from June 30, 2023.

“So, if all this came to play, our projected fund balance would be just over \$4 million,” Hathcock said. “That would make our percentage just over 17% and the Board wants to be at 15%. Last year we were just over 14%.”

Walton explained that due to the work of a transportation task force, the state has instituted a formula for allotting transportation dollars based on miles driven, age of buses, and other criteria. This is a departure from the former flat per-pupil rate, which did not take into consideration costs for rural districts which transport across hundreds of square miles compared to districts serving condensed walking populations.

“It was for this year only,” she said. “Hopefully, it’s something the Legislature will see fit to continue to help make up that difference between rural and urban districts because transportation does look so different – and more than 50% of the districts in Michigan are rural, so it really was helping a lot of kids and a lot of districts be able to transport.”

Also included was the first reading of the Thrun Board Policy changes, which HCS Superintendent Judy Walton described as resulting from changes to law.

“Most if not all of these have come from the changes in the law,” Walton said. “Some will take effect in February, most take effect July 1, 2024.”

Under the Consent Agenda, the Board moved to:

- Approve regular meeting minutes of Dec. 11, 2023.
- Approve financial reports for Dec. 1-31, 2023.
- Approve the hiring of Amber Carmack as special education paraprofessional at Larson Elementary School.
- Approve Craig Smith as the seventh-grade basketball coach.

The meeting’s Non-Consent Agenda included acceptance of the aforementioned 2023-2024 Amended Budget. Also included was completion of the Superintendent Evaluation which had been tabled in December due to student growth data having not been provided timely by the state. Kendra Durga, BOE president, described the evaluation results as a 3.0 rating for the sum of student growth and district goals, with an overall evaluation of 80% which equates as Effective. The Board then moved to approve unanimously that evaluation result.

Under Informational Items, Walton stated that she had accepted, with regret, the resignation of Phil Rogers, high school paraprofessional, who had moved out of the district. She also noted that January is School Board Appreciation Month and read the following:

“It’s a time for us to express our gratitude for the seven of you who are very dedicated and contribute tirelessly to the improvement of Harrison Community Schools. You play such a crucial role in shaping the future of our students, our schools, and our community. You demonstrate selfless commitment. You invest countless hours in strategic policy planning development and decision-making to ensure the best possible learning environment for all students, staff and families. A lot of times people in the community don’t know that in addition to what you see here at the meetings, school board members serve on administrative committees. They’re a liaison between the community and the district. They foster open communication and collaboration. It’s not uncommon at all if when they’re at a school event or out in the community, people will approach, ask questions, and really see them as their conduit to what’s going on here in the school.

“They all have such unique ability to navigate complex issues, to address diverse concerns, and to really make informed decisions that really showcase their leadership and dedication. So, this is our opportunity to recognize and honor them for their unwavering commitment to the betterment of education and the empowerment of all Hornets, whether they be students, staff, alumni or families in our community. So, we just want to take a moment to say thank you to you.”

She then passed out certificates of appreciation to the Board members, which were accompanied by “to go” bags that had been prepared by Chartwells staff.

Under Public Comment there was initial silence, then one staff member apparently jinxed it all by saying, “I just want to say we haven’t used any snow days yet.”

Then, under Communication, Walton noted the many inter-district text messages which had been flying regarding the impending snowstorm, adding that the goal always is to keep everybody safe. That was Monday, Jan. 8, and as it turned out, school was canceled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, then again for Monday, Jan. 15 – so, in one fell swoop HCS amassed four snow days over the following five school days.

In her Superintendent’s Report, Walton touched on student voices being alive and well in the population, lauding student participation in Patriot’s Pen and Voice of Democracy. She also informed that a new group math work group comprised of a K-5 representative from Larson and all the middle and high school math teachers would be meeting twice monthly to work through determining the district’s current status, its position in terms of resources aligned with the district’s current standards and vision for excellence in mathematics learning. She said that could yield recommendations being brought to the board for possible purchase of materials, and that some ESSER III funds had been set aside for such purchase.

Walton also noted that Keith Foote had been honored by the VFW for his excellence in teaching, and that Jamie Lipovsky was to be likewise honored the next day and would move on to the next level.

Additionally, Walton said she and the building principals were scheduled to attend training Jan. 10 at the RESD for a new threat assessment process. This is updating from the last program done in 2018.

Walton also noted having received positive feedback on the district’s policy changes regarding student cell phone use, noting that at the middle school this has led to increased socialization during lunch, which is a goal. Joe Ashcroft, high school principal, reported very little problem with cell phones and that high school students don’t seem to have any problem socializing.

Therese Haley, board secretary, noted that many schools are going to cell phone bans/restrictions, and emphasized the need for students to be able to carry on a real conversation with another human being. Walton spoke of research showing that if a student checks their phone for 30 seconds, the ability of an adolescent brain to let that go and return to class and focus is very much challenged.

“And that can lead to behavior issues,” she said. “And I think, so far so good.”

She also informed that a Zoom meeting is in the offing where four traffic options will be discussed, and also that a Strategic Planning Update yet to be scheduled will include talking about community outreach.

In discussion of the Amble School’s status, Walton informed the district is still working with the state. Interestingly, she said the state is not going to force the HCS to take the building down, but it doesn’t want the property back if the building is still on it. Walton closed out that discussion by saying Thrun is working on it, and that the state doesn’t always respond right away.

The HCS Board of Education will meet next at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12 in the board room at 224 W. Main St. in Harrison.



School Board Organizes for Year Ahead

By DIANNE ALWARD-BIERY
Cleaver Staff Writer

HARRISON – The Jan. 8 meeting of the Harrison Area Community Schools Board of Education began on a truly special note as several Harrison Community Preschoolers led the assemblage in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Adults were on hand to guide and prompt the youngsters by call-and-response in their first appearance before the BOE. Their effort/accomplishment was followed by a round of congratulatory applause. As they left the room, a tiny voice called out to board member Chelsea Roland, “Bye, Mama, I love you!” Yeah, that also melted a few hearts.

As this was the annual organizational meeting, board secretary Therese Haley opened the meeting and called for officer nominations. After Kendra Durga was nominated and unanimously approved as Board president, she assumed direction of the meeting. Other officers elected were Jim Neff as vice president, Therese Haley as secretary and Chelsea Roland as treasurer, again all by unanimous vote.

Also approved was the Consent Agenda, which included designations of Thrun Law Firm as the school district’s legal counsel; superintendent’s secretary and business manager as recorders; authorization to invest funds falling to the superintendent and business manager; superintendent and superintendent’s secretary as designated signatories; Huntington Bank as designated bank; and Clare County Cleaver as newspaper of record. It also was noted that Board member compensation would not exceed \$20 per meeting with a maximum 52 meetings per year.

The Non-Consent Agenda included committee assignments: Curriculum and Athletics/Student Activities Committee: Betsy Ulicki, Zach Driver and Chelsea Roland; Policy and Planning, Finance and Personnel/Labor Relations/Legal Retirement Committee: Jim Neff, Therese Haley and Kendra Durga; and Building and Grounds Committee: Carrie Whitacker, Therese Haley and Jim Neff.

Zach Driver was assigned to serve as HCS representative to the Area School Board Association; Therese Haley will continue as RESD representative; and Kendra Durga will also continue as the district’s Michigan Association of School Boards legislative representative. The board also moved to retain the current schedule of meetings and times as 5:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month in the HCS Board Room. It also agreed to a request by Neff to include the Jan. 13, 2025, meeting on that schedule.

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Pardon The Interruption

Worth the Wait

By Dave Minor

“Just wait till your *father* comes home...” “Hurry up and wait” (the military expression)... “Just you wait, Henry Higgins, just you wait” (from “My Fair Lady”)... “Waiting is the hardest part” (from Tom Petty’s song “The Waiting”)...

And, “Wait’ll I get my hands on that!” (several connotations)... “Wait your turn” (teachers and aides to most students at recess)... “Heaven Can Wait” (a Warren Beatty film from 1978)... “Time waits for no man” (British author Geoffrey Chaucer)... And, of course, “Good things come to those who wait.” (Take heart, Lions fans and any lonely hearts out there waiting for true love to come their way.)

Tired of waiting for me to get to the point of this essay, are you? Well, I got thinking about the issue of being willing to pause for a while recently after I noticed myself going right to google on my phone any time a celebrity was mentioned on TV or when I was reading the newspaper. I wrote an essay somewhat along these lines a few years ago (“Now Wait Just a Minute,” 2017)... and have been waiting to revisit it till now.

In the early 1970s, my parents bought on payments a set of 1970s encyclopedias that’s still in the family room of the old house in Grand Marais. (One of these days I might smack ChatGPT with the letter P of the set, just to bring it down a notch.) It hasn’t happened much in the decades since leaving home, but once in a while when visiting Mom, I’d open up a random book from that volume and read a bit, remembering my curiosity at the time and how much you could learn just sitting down and reading, but it definitely took some time.

My dad (also an English teacher) back in the ‘70s in Grand Marais) would have us do research papers like almost every school required back then (and HHS did for many years, too, mainly in Senior English). We’d pick a supposedly pro/con topic and he’d approve it (or try to dissuade us, as I remember mine in ninth grade was “CB Radios and Their Need” or something like that, not exactly that controversial).

We’d look in the limited library centered between the two “wings of the second floor of Burt Township School and maybe find four or five books to try to get from the Marquette Library. Dad or sometimes the part-time librarian would order them for us, and we’d wait up to three weeks before being able to finish our essays.

When I was teaching about 20 years ago or so, students would quickly look up on the computer (if we were in a lab or in the library) if a question arose about some issue or other. When mobile phones started



coming out and we still let them bring them into the classroom, there were many times someone would say, “Just a minute, Mr. Minor, I’ll look it up...”

With getting back into community theater the last few years, I’ve of course noticed how there’s a fair amount of muddled-up time where it may look like the production isn’t going to turn out so well, especially with musicals and the singing and dancing that’s necessary. They’ve all turned out fine in the end, after that several-week rehearsal time, though.

If you’re a Lions fan chomping at the bit for a Super Bowl title (they haven’t won an NFL championship since 1957, when it wasn’t called the Super Bowl), you might just have to wait a year or two still, though they’re leading their division at present.

I’ve also noticed that sometimes I’m not even willing to put in the time on the microwave when wanting to heat something up, just hitting the one minute “Express Cook” button instead of punching in 45 seconds or something. You’ve got some great cooks/bakers who put hours into making a nice meal or dessert... and then there’s the rest of us. (I’ll skip writing about our fast-food addictions for this essay.)

People who go deer hunting know there’s going to be some anxious moments just waiting for a buck to wander in, maybe for several days in a row, same with those who enjoy fishing. Farmers have always been better than the rest of us, knowing waiting is just part of the process, with the payoff hopefully at the end (unless weather hinders the growing), Buying a house (or building your own) takes some patience (and willingness to put up with frustration).

For some people, they spend many years in finding that mate to marry and settle down with. Some wait a long time to have kids, too, sometimes due to factors outside their control.

For that gal (or guy) who does eventually find a mate they can build a life and a family together with; when someone finds that job that truly “fits” them; or the youngster who finally gets to open that wrapped-up Christmas present that’s been under the tree for weeks, the waiting likely will make getting it even more worth it. (Take heart, Lions fans.)



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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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. Notice of foreclosure

by advertisement.

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised jurisdiction 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 Clare County, Michigan starting promptly at 11:00 am on February 14, 2024. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by Erica Bringedahl and Jason Bringedahl, a married couple, as Mortgagor to United Bank of Michigan, dated November 20, 2020, and recorded on January 7, 2021, Instrument No. 202100000143, Liber 1469, Page 545, Clare County Records, Clare County, Michigan. The balance owing on the Mortgage is \$79,365.48 at the time of this Notice. The Mortgage contains a power of sale and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part of the Mortgage. The Mortgagee will apply the sale proceeds to the debt secured by the Mortgage as stated above, plus interest on the amount due at the rate of 3.875% per annum; all legal costs and expenses, including attorney's fees allowed by law; and also any amount paid by the Mortgagor to protect its interest in the property. The property to be sold at foreclosure is all of that real estate situated in Lincoln Township, County of Clare, State of Michigan described more fully as: LOT 99, WOODMERE, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, LINCOLN TOWNSHIP, CLARE COUNTY, MICHIGAN Parcel No. 18-010-800-009-00 Commonly known address: 1820 Arbor Dr., Lake, Michigan 48632 The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of sale pursuant to MCLA 600.3240(8), unless deemed abandoned and then pursuant to the time frames provided for in MCL 600.3241a. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, Mortgagor 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. January 4, 2024 UNITED BANK OF MICHIGAN, Mortgagee PLUNKETT COONEY

KELLI L. BAKER (P49960) Attorney for Mortgagee 333 Bridge Street NW, Suite 530 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 (616) 752-4624 (01-11)(02-08) 2-4 *** STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT CLARE COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate CASE NO. and JUDGE 24-19002-DE HON. MARCY A. KLAUS Court address: 225 West Main Street. Harrison, MI. 48625 Court telephone: 989-539-7109 Estate of DYLAN EDWARD DEAN ANDRAS, DECEASED Date of Birth: APRIL 19, 1994 TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, DYLAN EDWARD DEAN ANDRAS, died OCTOBER 25, 2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented CONNIE LOW, personal representative, or to both the probate at 225 WEST MAIN ST., HARRISON, MI. 48625 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. Dated: JANUARY 10, 2024 KNAGGS BRAKE, P.C. DAVID R. BRAKE P38633 7521 WESTSHIRE DRIVE, SUITE 100 LANSING, MI. 48917 517-622-0590 CONNIE LOW 5730 DOVER RD. LAKE, MI 48632 989-339-8147 3 *** STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT CLARE COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate CASE NO. and JUDGE 23-18990-DE HON. MARCY A. KLAUS P59564 Court address: 225 West Main Street. Harrison, MI. 48625 Court telephone: 989-539-7109 Estate of JOHN MICHAEL PRINZ, Decedent Date of Birth: 10-18-1961 TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, John Michael Prinz, died 11-2-2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented Emily R. Louis, personal representative, or to both the probate at 225 West Main St., Harrison, MI. 48625 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. Dated: this notice. Emily R. Louis, Personal Representative 12979 Common Road Warren, MI. 48088 586-206-1826 3

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The application is scheduled for January 2nd through December 31st in Clare County, Osceola County, Gladwin County, Roscommon County, and Missaukee County.

All treatments will be completed according to label requirements and all state and federal requirements. Please keep people and pets off treated areas until sprays have dried. There are no restrictions on your use of the treated area after the material has dried on the plant.

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3

Skyway Towers, LLC proposes to build a 260-foot Guyed Communications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is 3042 N. Rodgers Ave., Harrison, Clare County, MI 48625, Lat: 44-2-6.7, Long: -84-42-20.1. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1250346.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS - Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Rebecca Ebeling, r.ebeling@trileaf.com, 1821 Walden Office Sq., STE 500, Schaumburg, IL 60173, 630-227-0202.

3

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Public Notice

The Clare County Republican Party will be holding its annual county convention, Thursday, February 15, at 7:00 pm, at the: Harrison City Hall 2105 Sullivan Drive, Harrison, MI. 48625

2-5

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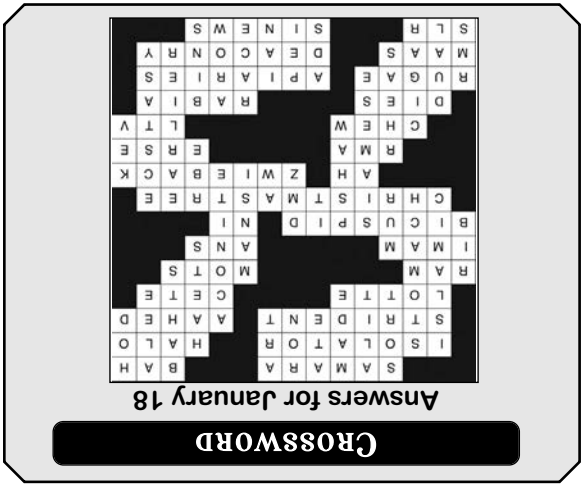
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Due to many recent sales, listings greatly needed & appreciated!

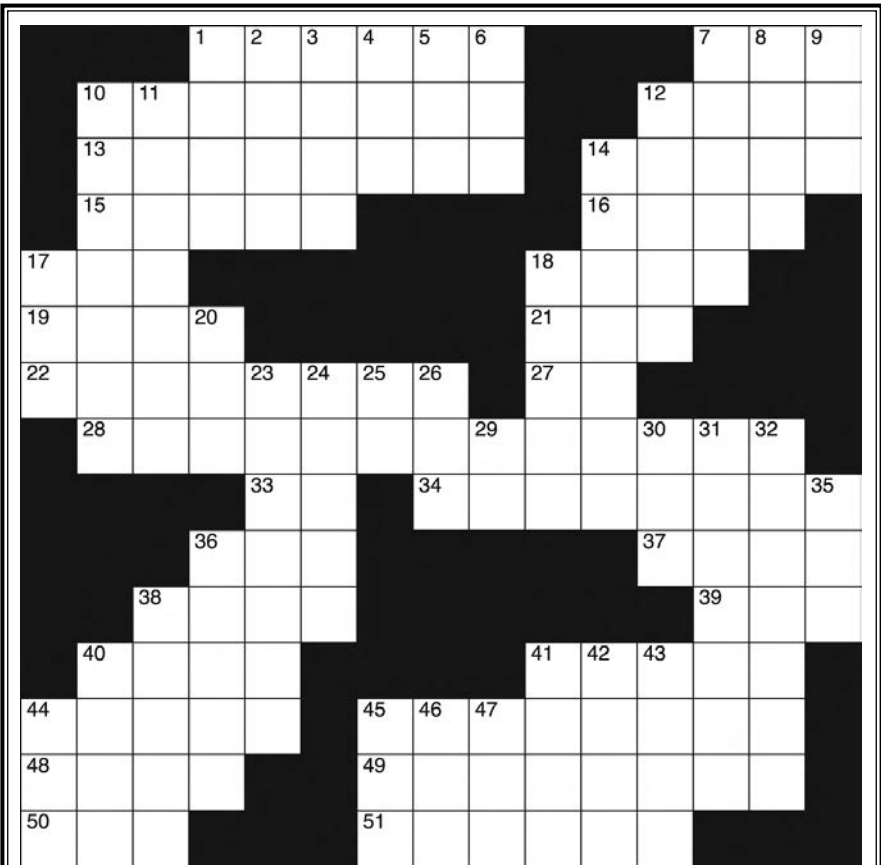


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CLUES ACROSS

1. Winged nut

7. _ Humbug!

10. One who sets apart

12. Circle above a saint's head

13. Unpleasantly loud and harsh

14. Expressed pleasure

15. Feminine given name

16. Company of badgers

17. Popular Dodge pickup truck

18. Witty sayings

19. Leader

21. Autonomic nervous system

22. Premolar

27. Atomic #28

28. Holiday decorative item

33. Exclamation of surprise
34. Rusk or cracker

36. Returned material authorization (abbr.)

37. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language

38. Eat

39. Marxist economics theory (abbr.)

40. Ceases to exist

41. Male Arabic name

44. Series of ridges on an organ wall

45. Places where bees are kept

48. One-time Yankees sensation Kevin

49. Church office

50. Single lens reflex

51. Pieces of fibrous tissue

CLUES DOWN

1. Classify

2. Dismounted

3. Produced

4. Consumed

5. Director Howard

6. The products of human creativity

7. Thai monetary units

8. Away from wind

9. Builder's trough

10. Relating to Islam

11. It can sometimes ache

12. Small quantities (Scot.)

14. Poisonous plant

17. Laugh at

18. Vogul

20. C. European river

23. Type of cat
24. Exclamation of disgust

25. Stephen King novel

26. Without armies

29. Expression of sympathy

30. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)

31. Previously

32. Illegal drug

35. Kiloelectronvolt

36. Large, flightless birds

38. For smoking

40. Binary

41. Competition

42. Mark resembling an arrow

43. Containers

44. Root mean square (abbr.)

45. Commercial

46. I.M._, architect

47. 007's creator

Find Answers On Page 7...

Crossword printed from www.metrocreativeconnection.com - 2024

The Amish Cook - By Gloria Yoder



We are home from church. The three oldest boys are playing volleyball in the kitchen (with a soft ball) and Julia, the bookworm, is reading. Hosanna and Joshua are playing with dolls in the living room and are singing German songs.

Today, we had church services at the Lehman residence. Barbara does all she can to make everyone who enters her home comfortable and supplied. I enjoy the wide range of attractive serving dishes she serves her food in. They set up long tables for the noon meal.

After lunch, a group of ladies chatted about the upcoming kindergarten classes. Five children in our church, including our ‘little boys’, start day one of kindergarten on Monday. (At five years old, they have a series of schoolwork at school, and the rest of prep for first grade is done at home with mom.)

When a friend asked what it was like for me to see Jesse and Elijah go to kindergarten for the first time, it touched a deep spot. I was so eager to have more time to invest in three-year-old Joshua and more time with God; at the same time, I also missed Daniel in this milestone. I knew how these two little boys would be pleased to see their Daddy come to school for morning devotions like other children’s dads do.

It’s now Monday evening, and the first day of school is over. Have you ever sent a young child to school for the first time? You’d think that after having a couple of children in school, you would get used to it, but then each child has their own story, personality, and place to fill the family. As my two little boys dressed to go to school for the first time, I stood in awe. Babies grow up!

When Jesse came to tell me bye, memories of past years of adoption, bonding, and countless battles we conquered together passed before me. Could this be happening today? And yes—he’s excited and ready to go!

Elijah came next for his goodbye. He was born when Jesse was four months old; now the two boys have grown up together. Elijah is like a little image of Daniel as he comes and gives me flowers and doesn’t hesitate to show affection.

Julia is in sixth grade, Austin in third, and Hosanna in second grade. Each grabbed their dinner buckets and report cards. All five were ready to go. Smiles could both be seen and felt.

I stepped back into my emptied kitchen and shut the door. I blinked. Somehow, my tears felt like they were wiped away even before they came. I knew it would be okay. I sat down with Joshua and told him we will have lots of time together on the days the boys are in kindergarten. He was impressed with the idea.

I grabbed the broom, and as I swept, I wondered what the next school year would be like when five of our children go to school five days a week.

Daniels’ dad stopped in on his way home from having devotions at school. How amazing—yes, his name had been on the chart for devotions this morning, which happened to be the morning the boys went to school for the first time, and Daddy wasn’t here!

The day progressed smoothly at home. By 3:00, the beaming boys opened the back door from their short walk home from school. They had glowing school reports and wondered when they could go again. We had a special snack to celebrate the occasion.

That night, Mr. and Mrs. Lehman stopped by to help on a project (which I will tell you about another day). Looking into my eyes, Barbara asked, “Gloria, tell me how your day was with the boys at school.”

I expressed how I had a very relaxing day, and yes, I enjoyed it.

Her face was radiant as she said, “I prayed that the good would outweigh the bad (sadness of missing Daniel), and that God would just take your tears away so you can’t cry!”

In awe, I told her that that very thing happened in a way I had never had it happen before. Together, we marveled. Does God hear? Does he answer?

Barbara brought pizza, and my mom, also here, brought a pot of stew. I set fruit slush on the table for dessert. Oh yes, little Joshua would inform you that we also had apple-sauce- his necessary staple.

Here you go with a taco pizza recipe. If you want a pizza, but need a simple version, this’ll help you out. I made it for Daniel many times over, he never got tired of it.

AAA issues a Michigan statewide arctic air advisory

Tips Help Motorists Prepare

DEARBORN, Mich., (January 16, 2024) — As arctic air continues to blast Michigan and with the weather forecast calling for some of the coldest temperatures of the year thus far, AAA is issuing a Michigan statewide Arctic Air Advisory.

Temperatures are expected to hover in the teens and single digits for the next few days, with wind chills dipping into the negatives. Extremely cold temperatures can wreak havoc on vehicle functionality. AAA offers the following tips to help motorists keep their vehicles road-ready:

- Always travel with a cell phone and car charger.
- AAA recommends that if motorists become stranded, it is best to stay with the vehicle. If the engine can be started, run it only long enough to keep warm. Make sure the exhaust pipe is snow-free.
- Motorists requiring road service can request it:
 - o Online at www.aaa.com
 - o Via the AAA mobile app
 - o Call 800.AAA-MICH

MIDLAND, MICHIGAN: Members First Credit Union ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2024

MIDLAND, MICHIGAN: Members First Credit Union (M1) is accepting applications for its 2024 Scholarship program from January 15th to February 29th, 2024. During this time, qualified applicants are invited to submit their applications for the chance to be awarded one of four \$2,500 scholarships.

M1’s scholarship program is designed to recognize and support individuals pursuing higher education, whether at a college, technical school, or pursuing a new career. The credit union places a strong emphasis on contributing to the educational journey of its members.

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on a comprehensive evaluation of various criteria, including academic record, a short essay response, active participation in community activities, demonstration of leadership, recognition of honors, work experience, and educational and career goals.

Applicants can access the online application form by visiting the Union website at www.mfcu.net/scholarships. The credit union encourages prompt submission of applications before the closing date on February 29, 2024.

About Members First Credit Union: At Members First Credit Union, we remain dedicated to supporting the communities we’ve grown up in for over 86 years. We promise to be trustworthy, caring, and enthusiastic to help you succeed. Our over 62,000 members count on us to serve them and their communities; our 250+ employees share that passion for service. Learn more at mfcu.net.

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- Harrison City Hall
- Jack Pine
- Longer Table
- Momma Cillie's
- Moose Lodge
- Positive Hearth of the Home
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- Trails End Pit Stop - Leota Store
- Up North Coffee

More to be added!

For more information please call 989.539.6011 M-F 10a - 3p



BINGO NIGHT

Players' Guide

BINGO NIGHT

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Harrison Women of the Moose Sunday - 6:00 p.m. 5185 N. Clare Ave., Harrison License # A22334 Proceeds for General Fund	Harrison Moose Lodge Monday - 6:00 p.m. 5185 N. Clare Ave., Harrison License # A21561 Proceeds for General Fund	Harrison Lions Club Tuesday - 6:00 p.m. Harrison Lions Club Bldg. Fairgrounds, Harrison License # A01110 Proceeds for General Fund	Harrison Women of the Moose Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. 5185 N. Clare Ave., Harrison License # A20074 Proceeds for General Fund	Harrison Lions Club Thursday - 6:00 p.m. Harrison Lions Club Bldg. Fairgrounds, Harrison License # A01110 Proceeds for General Fund	VFW Post 1075 Friday - 6:00 p.m. VFW Post 1075 - Harrison License # A00154 Proceeds for General Fund	VFW Post 1075 Saturday - 6:00 p.m. VFW Post 1075 - Harrison License # A21883 Proceeds for General Fund
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OBITUARIES

KEITH SCOTT MAJOR

October 9, 1965 - December 26, 2023

Keith Scott Major, 58, of Harrison, passed away on Tuesday, December 26, 2023. Born on October 9, 1965, in Flint, MI. He was employed as a Plumber/ Pipefitter for Local 370 in Flint, before moving to Harrison.

Keith cherished the outdoors and found joy in hunting and the art of knife making. His love for cars was evident, reflecting his passion for automobiles, especially his classics. He had a particular fondness for unsweetened tea and loved his boxer dogs. Keith enjoyed spending time with his family. His love and respect for his mother, Peggy, was a true testimony to their relationship.

He is survived by his mother, Peggy Major; siblings, Deresa Schmidt (Jim McGuire) and Kim (Barry) Mathis; nephew, Torre (Lindsey) Ruble; great-nieces, Khloe Tracy and Naomi Ruble; and cousin, Vincent VanNorman. Keith is preceded in death by his father, Darwin Major, and his brother, Darwin Major Jr. Funeral services to celebrate Keith's life will take place on Thursday, January 4, 2024, 1:00 P.M. at Hall-Kokotovich Funeral



Home in Gladwin. The family will receive guests from 11:00 A.M. until the time of service. He will be laid to rest at Butman Township Cemetery, Gladwin. Memorial contributions may be made according to the wishes of the family. Arrangements are in the compassionate care of Hall-Kokotovich Funeral Home. For additional information and to leave condolences, please visit www.hallkokotovichfuneral-home.com.

THOMAS KARL KNOLL

March 5, 1940 - January 15, 2024

Thomas Karl Knoll, age 83, of Clare, MI passed away on January 15, 2024. Born March 5, 1940, in Flint, MI., Tom was the first of three children to Fred and Irma Knoll. Tom was raised on a farm in Mt. Morris, MI. In 1970, Tom relocated his family to Harrison MI. Then in 1978, he ventured to Clare, MI where he found the community he was meant to be in. There he lived the second portion of this life among the Amish where we developed many friendships.

Tom learned at a very young age his love for horses and other livestock. He began riding his first pony at age five and continued to ride until he was 70. Tom lived his entire life surrounded by farm animals.

Tom was quite the football athlete at Mt. Morris high school. He truly enjoyed reminiscing of his glory days. He was a 4-H volunteer for over ten years while his children participated. His love for livestock

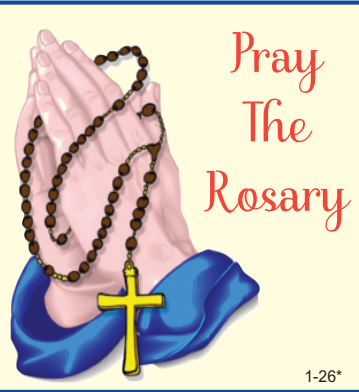
landed his job at Clare Stockyards in 1970. He worked every Monday for the next 50 years; Monday was his favorite day of the week. Tom enjoyed horseback riding in northern Michigan; the elk were one of his many favorite sites to see. He showed cattle, would compete in "team penning" events and enjoyed riding horses on his own farm. Later in life, Tom began hauling livestock for this local community. His truck and trailer became a part of him and is what kept him going each and every day. He felt people could depend on him and it gave him a purpose. His final trucking job was January 1, 2024.

Tom is survived by his three children, Kelly Fanslau, Michelle Coleman (Louis Kurant), Christopher Knoll, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings, Judy Hicks and Michael Knoll.

Dad, you will be missed.



Please join Tom's Celebration of Life on January 27, 2024, from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Yoder's Farm, 10885 N. Leaton Rd, Clare, MI., 48617. We will share stories, friendships, and lunch. Arrangements were handled by the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. On-line condolences may be left at www.stephenson-wyman.com



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LARRY ALLEN WHITTAKER

March 17, 1935 - December 30, 2023

Larry Allen Whittaker, 88, of Beaverton, Michigan, passed away peacefully at Covenant Hospital in Saginaw on December 30, 2023, surrounded by his family. Larry was born on March 17, 1935, to Kermit and June Whitaker in St. Johns, Michigan, the oldest of 5 children; and spent most of his childhood growing up in Ovid, Michigan.

His favorite hobbies were hunting and fishing. He was preceded in death and widower of Marie Whittaker, and Anita June Whittaker; his parents, Kermit and June Whitaker; sisters, Connie Strahota and Sally Houseman; brother, Kerry Whitaker and grandson, Robbie Henry.

He is survived by his children, Martha Henry (Robert), Valerie Bernard, Vicki Cappa, Penny Smith (Steve), Tammy Johnson (Charlie), Anita Jo Towns, Andrew Millutin (Laurie), Larry Whittaker (Gisela), Allen Whittaker, Charles Whittaker (Michelle), Christopher Whittaker (Chris Ann); brother, Jerry Whitaker (Kathy), as well as many grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grand-



child, nieces and nephews and his sidekick Tootsie, his much-loved cat.

Cremation has taken place per Larry's wishes and a Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date. He will be sadly missed and quietly remembered, no longer in our life, but in our hearts. Arrangements are in the care of Hall-Kokotovich Funeral Home. For additional information and to leave condolences, please visit www.hallkokotovichfuneralhome.com.

Cancer Center open house events draw large crowds



MIDLAND, Mich. – Winter weather didn't stop more than 300 guests from touring the new James T. and Elsa U. Pardee Cancer Wellness Center (Pardee Cancer Wellness Center). Opening earlier this week with donor and public open house celebrations, the 115,000-square-foot facility at 4201 Campus Ridge Drive is located on the campus of MyMichigan Medical Center Midland in the location of the former Towsley Building.

The Pardee Cancer Wellness Center combines the latest screening, diagnostic and treatment technology with some of the brightest medical minds to provide world-class cancer care close to home. Patients and caregivers will also benefit from the ease of access to services provided by Cancer Services and The Pardee Cancer Treatment Fund, also housed in the new Center.

"This week's opening of the new Cancer Center is a validation of our purpose in creating healthy communities together," said Melwyn Sequeira, M.D., surgical oncologist and endocrine surgeon, as well as oncology service line chief, MyMichigan Health. "With the support of very generous donors, the Pardee Cancer Wellness Center provides space to grow and bring more specialists and services to our community."

MyMichigan Health's comprehensive cancer care program includes access to a team of 32 providers specializing in cancer care, certified oncology nurses, radiation therapists, the latest in diagnostic and treatment technology, clinical trials and a full range of support services. In addition, MyMichigan offers assistance for patients and their families through social workers, care navigators, genetic counselors, nutritionists,

physical therapists, mental health professionals, financial counseling and connections to support groups or other individuals facing similar circumstances.

"The goal of our program, to put it simply, is to be the region's destination of choice for cancer care and be recognized for our excellent quality of care provided in an environment that places a premium on the patient experience," concluded Dr. Sequeira.

The cancer program at MyMichigan is accredited with commendation by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, is a recipient of the Accreditation for Program Excellence (APEX) from the American Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncology, and its Breast Health Program in Midland is accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a program

administered by the American College of Surgeons.

MyMichigan Health Foundation raised \$26 million from the community to support the project. Founders and Diamond donors include the Elsa U. Pardee Foundation, the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, Dow, The Charles J. Strosacker Foundation, John and Sandy Bartos, Frank and Jean Popoff, MyMichigan Medical Center Midland Gift Shop and Volunteer Organization, Midland Area Community Foundation, Miron Construction, Inc and Three Rivers Corporation. A complete listing of donors may be found at www.mymichigan.org/cancer-center.

Those interested in more information on MyMichigan's comprehensive cancer program may visit www.mymichigan.org/cancer

MARION RUTH BOND

December 30, 1944 - January 13, 2024

Marion Ruth Bond, age 79, longtime resident of Harrison passed away at home Saturday, January 13, 2024. Marion was a FIA Board Member for several years and was active in several other local humanitarian causes. Per Marion's wishes, cremation has taken place and no services are planned at this time.

Marion was born on December 30, 1944, in Pontiac, MI, daughter of Judson and Iva Irene (Collison) Winchester. She married Allen "Big Al" Bond on June 10, 1961, in Harrison.

Marion is survived by her five

children; Shelly (Eric) Schultz of Harrison, Deborah Bowermaster of Harrison, Tim (Joanne) Bond of Harrison, Pamula (Wayne) Henschel of Harrison and Dan (Carol) Bond of Clarkston, Michigan, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; three siblings; and many nieces and nephews; as well as her two dogs Button and Chi-Chi.

Marion was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Allen Bond in 2019; infant son, Gregory; parents; and three siblings.

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Mass Schedule
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310 S. Broad St., Harrison
989-539-6232

First Congregational UCC
Church School 10:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
211 W. Spruce St., Harrison
989-539-7163

The Gathering - A United Methodist Church
Join Us Sunday 11 am
3090 N. Clare Ave., Harrison
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MDHHS seeking proposals for Local Water Utility Affordability program

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is seeking proposals to support efforts by community water systems to ensure the affordability of water.

MDHHS' Local Water Utility Affordability program will award grants to qualified providers that assist eligible residents who have a financial burden; have accumulated a balance on water and/or wastewater utility bills; have had water service shut off; and/or are at risk of having water and/or wastewater service shut off.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) is open to federally recognized tribes, community action agencies and nonprofit, community-based organizations organized under the laws of this state that are exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986, 26 USC 501, with a history of doing utility assistance work.

The six-month award begins April 1, and ends Sept. 30, 2024. A total of \$35 million is available, with maximum awards of \$10 million and minimum awards of \$20,000. Successful applicants may be awarded funding annually through Sept. 30, 2026, based upon availability and acceptable performance.

A pre-application conference will be held to discuss this funding opportunity and provide instruction on using the EGrAMS system on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 1 p.m., and will last approximately 90 minutes. The webinar can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3Rslink>. At the conclusion of the conference, *this link can be used to access the recording of this webinar.*

Grant applications for the Local Water Utility Affordability RFP must be submitted electronically through EGrAMS by 3 p.m.,

Tuesday, Feb 6.

Any questions concerning the content of this RFP must be sent via email to, at MDHHS-BCAEO@michigan.gov on or before Friday, Jan. 19. Questions may be discussed verbally at the pre-application conference. MDHHS will compile all relevant questions and answers and post these as well as any other clarifications or revisions to the initial RFP by Wednesday, Jan. 24, on the EGrAMS website.

For more information or to apply, visit the EGrAMS website and select "About EGrAMS" link in the left panel to access the "Competitive Application Instructions" training manual. The complete RFP can be accessed under the "Current Grants" section under the "Community Action & Economic Opportunity" link and selecting the "LWUA-2024" grant program.

MDARD Encourages Owners to Help Keep Their Animals Warm and Safe as Temperatures Fall

Feeling the chill? Chances are your animals are too

LANSING – As low arctic temperatures settle in around the state and a winter storm warnings continue, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is reminding owners of some of the best ways to keep their animals warm and safe.

"While each individual animal tolerates the cold differently, animals that are young or elderly, short-coated, and/or have chronic health conditions can be more susceptible to frigid temperatures," said State Veterinarian Nora Wineland, DVM, MS, DACVPM. "It is important to work with your veterinarian and know your animal's limits in cold weather to prevent hypothermia, frostbite, and more."

Keep animals safe from the cold by following these five easy tips:

Give them Shelter: Bring animals indoors whenever possible or make sure they have a shelter with dry bedding.

Animals are vulnerable to freezing temperatures. It is recommended to keep pets inside as much as possible and limit their walk and bathroom time. For livestock and other outdoor animals, it is important to ensure they have access to a shelter with dry bedding if they need to get out of the elements.

Let it Flow: Make sure an animal's water source does not freeze.

No matter the temperature outside, animals need access to fresh drinkable water. If their water freezes, they can become dehydrated, and it can't be assumed they will eat snow to get the water they need. Make sure to move water bowls inside, change the water frequently, or use tank heaters or heated buckets/bowls to keep the water flowing.

Happy Paws: Check paws for injury and clean deicers from them.

Walking on cold, snowy surfaces can cause paw pads to crack or bleed. Also, deicers and other products used during wintertime can be toxic to pets. Applying a paw protectant can help to minimize injury and the absorption of chemicals. Wiping down your pet's feet and legs when coming inside and using pet-safe deicers can also help to keep them safe.

Need More Food?: Some animals may need more calories to maintain their body heat.

Keeping animals at a healthy weight throughout the winter is important for their overall health. Some animals may require a few extra calories to maintain their body heat especially if they spend time outdoors. To help determine an animal's specific nutritional needs during cold weather, contact your veterinarian.

Quick Clean Up: Thoroughly clean areas where antifreeze may have spilled.

Antifreeze contains the chemical ethylene glycol, which is extremely hazardous to animals. Be sure to thoroughly clean any area where antifreeze has spilled from a vehicle and keep containers of the fluid out of their reach.

Following these tips can help keep your animals comfortable and safe through any cold snap. If there are any concerns about your animals' health, either now or throughout the winter, please talk to your veterinarian.

AG Nessel Intervenes in Lawsuit to Defend States' Rights to Protect Water Quality in Federal Projects

LANSING – Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has joined a coalition of 18 attorneys general, led by the State of Washington, in filing a motion to intervene in a lawsuit to support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final rule that revised a Trump-era rule that unlawfully curtailed state authority under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

"The Trump administration wrongfully attempted to cut states out of safeguarding our water quality in federal projects, despite a clear responsibility to do so by Congressional directive under the Clean Water Act. Since taking office, President Biden has worked to restore the states' abilities to protect our natural resources," Nessel said. "Protecting Michigan's water is a vital interest and duty of the State, and I proudly support the federal government's efforts to recognize the importance of these crucial states' rights, and will defend them from these legal challenges alongside my colleagues."

The Clean Water Act reflects Congress' policy to "recognize, preserve, and protect the primary responsibilities and rights of states to prevent, reduce, and eliminate

pollution" of waters within their borders in partnership with the federal government. Under Section 401 of the statute, a project requiring federal approval that may result in discharges into waters of the United States must obtain state certification confirming that the project meets state water quality standards and other appropriate state law requirements.

In 2019, Nessel was part of a coalition that opposed the Trump-era rule changes when they were first proposed, and in July of 2020 Nessel and the coalition of states filed a lawsuit challenging the EPA's final rule. Most recently, in August 2021, Nessel and the coalition of states submitted a comment supporting the EPA's reversal of these unlawful rules, restoring state's lawful authority under section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Joining Attorney General Nessel in sending this letter are the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.

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MDHHS launches "MIPrEP. MIChoice." campaign to prevent spread of HIV, share prevention info

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is launching a campaign targeted at sharing information to Michigan residents about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) which can prevent the spread of HIV. This initiative, titled "MIPrEP. MIChoice." shines a spotlight on authentic stories from real people across Michigan who use PrEP to prevent the spread of HIV.

"PrEP is a medication that, when taken as prescribed, helps prevent a person from getting HIV," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarain, chief medical executive. "Taking PrEP can reduce the chance of getting HIV by up to 99% for sexual encounters and 74% for injection drug use. PrEP can be taken as a daily pill or a bimonthly injection."

The campaign highlights nine individuals from diverse backgrounds who share their own reasons for using PrEP. Each personal story represents a step towards ending the stigma around HIV and promoting a healthier future for all.

Although in recent years MDHHS has seen increases in PrEP utilization, Michigan currently ranks 41st in the nation in terms of PrEP coverage based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates providing a significant opportunity to improve coverage. Between 2013 and 2022, the estimated number of PrEP users grew from 136 to 7,290 with most of the growth among white men ages 25 to 44.

Black and Latino communities have been affected significantly by HIV with new diagnosis rates 9 times higher for Black residents than white residents, and Latinos diagnosed at three times the rate of white residents. PrEP utilization in these communities remains far lower than among whites for a number of reasons including stigma, low perception of risk, medical mistrust, lack of awareness about PrEP and insurance status. The "MIPrEP. MIChoice." campaign will work to close these gaps; people from these communities who have chosen to take PrEP are featured in the campaign.

Most insurance plans cover PrEP, and programs are available for those who don't have coverage.

To learn more about PrEP and the "MIPrEP. MIChoice." campaign, visit Michigan.gov/MIPrEP.



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