

See Spring
Sports Preview on
pages 8 & 9

Clare County Cleaver

Volume 145 Issue 15

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Thursday, April 9, 2026 • 989-539-7496

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COMING EVENTS

Free Drive Thru Mobile Food Distribution, Clare County Transit, 1473 Transportation Drive, Harrison: Food distribution from 10 a.m. until at least 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 11.

Food will be placed in your trunk/hatchback, so please make room in advance. Bring empty boxes or baskets in your trunk for volunteers to put the food. If you do not have access to a vehicle or are feeling ill, stay home and arrange for someone to pick up your food. No pets allowed at the distribution.

The 23rd Annual Northern Tradition will be held from 5-8 p.m. Sunday, April 12 at event sponsor Jay's Sporting Goods in Clare. The \$50 ticket includes a Jay's \$35 gift certificate, a commemorative outdoor-themed print by featured artist Julie Tyslickly, and entry into a drawing for a \$1,000 Jay's gift certificate. Benefits scholarships at Mid Michigan College.

Compassion Counts Food Pantry officially reopened March 30 and open from Noon to 3 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 2795 N. Dodge Lake Road, next to Kern's Grocery.

Spring Fling Fundraiser for Big R & Smokin' Joe's Comfort Care House Saturday, April 25 at the Harrison Moose Lodge. Dinner 5-6:30 p.m. Live Auction at 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$20 per person, limit 300 guests. Tickets available at the Cleaver office.

The 2026 Clare County Fair will be held Aug. 3-8. Visit www.clarecountyfair.org / for more information.

20th Annual Harrison Street Fair Aug. 21 and 22 in downtown Harrison.

Euchre at Harrison Eagles first Saturday of every month: Euchre Tournament at 1 p.m. Public welcome. 5002 E. Townline Lake Road, Harrison.

Lake George Boosters Euchre every Tuesdays at 89 S. Bringold, Lake George. Doors open at 6. Play begins at 7 p.m.. Public welcome!

11th Annual Hornet Swarm Party and Class of 1976 50th Year Reunion noon to 6 p.m. July 25, reunion begins at 1 p.m. Pizza buffet begins at 2 p.m., \$8 per person or full menu available at Snowbird Lanes, Harrison. Facebook group "Harrison Hornet Swarm Party & Reunions" for additional information.

List Cross-Checking Could Reveal Jury Duty Avoiders

County Clerk Reports on Postal Delays, Elections, Property Fraud

By DIANNE ALWARD-BIERY
Cleaver Senior Staff Writer

HARRISON – The Clare County Clerk-Register Lori Mott's March report to the Board of Commissioners began with an update on what was currently going on with elections and the other aspects of her office.

Mott said she is working with a Michigan Register of Deeds work group to combat ransomware and malware for public records. She also is working with a nationwide work group to eliminate the risk of property fraud.

"Those are really big things happening in our country," Mott said. "I just want you to know I am involved in combatting that."

Moving on to elections, Mott smiled as she said, "There are no May elections this year." She then informed that the county uses Dominion voting equipment, and that company has changed that name to Liberty Vote.

Mott said that having spoken to the Bureau of Elections, there is still no commitment from the state for paying for new equipment. She said voting equipment is evaluated every 10 years, but that currently there is no requirement to replace election equipment, and there is no willingness to pay for new election equipment. Mott said townships have to pay for their own equipment, and that the cost to replace Clare County's equipment would be about \$100,000.

"We were told the Secretary of State put it in the budget to pay for replacement of election equipment," she said. "But there's no guarantee it will remain in the budget once they dissect it for next year. I'm including it in my budget for next year to replace the equipment; we'll see if we have to. If not, that'd be great, we'll keep using what we



Clerk-Register Lori Mott stresses the importance of registering for Property Fraud Alert through her office during her report to the Clare County Board of Commissioners. (Cleaver photo by Dianne Alward-Biery)

have. But if we do have to replace it and have to pay for it, we'll at least have it budgeted."

Mott also mentioned legislation the Michigan Association of County Clerks supports which would change the Primary Election from August to May. That would reduce the possibility of four elections down to three: February, May and November.

"It looks like there's a lot of support for that," she said. "It won't happen this year, it may happen in 2027 though, and we'll have an August election this year." Mott noted there is substantial battle with school unions who want to keep the May election as a Special Election, not a Primary Election. "If we move the Primary to May, then they want

another date so they can have their Special Election on another date."

Mott said her office is in full swing working on this year's August election.

"Typically, in a gubernatorial election year like this, there are not local offices on the August ballot," she said. "However, when someone resigns a position, they have to fill that position with a partial-term election. So, there are several in our county that have partial-term availability."

Those include Franklin Township Clerk, Freeman Township Supervisor, Frost Township Trustee, all seats in Redding Township [supervisor, clerk, treasurer and both trustees], and Winterfield Township Supervisor and Clerk. All will be on the

August ballot, and all will be partial terms expiring in 2028.

Mott also noted some full-term offices that may or may not appear on the August ballot, depending on the number of people who file for them. However, there will be one full-term Clare County Road Commission seat on the August ballot. Again, depending on how many people file, the City of Clare has two commissioners up for reelection, and the City of Harrison has a mayor position and three Council members up for reelection. Mott informed that there will be multiple millage renewals on the August ballot, as well.

Then the report moved to the post office and the recent changes enacted there. Mott related an incident where a ballot from the May 2025 election had been received in February 2026 marked "Return to sender, unable to forward."

Mott said the Bureau of Elections recently informed that the postal service has set up a new process to report mail issues.

"So, I contacted the clerk and said, 'Hey there's a new process and why don't you report that?'" – and she did," Mott said. "And was basically told that she and the voter needed to do better. Her by educating her voters and reporting issues with the mail – which she did. And the voter by updating their addresses – although the clerk said there was no indication that the address was incorrect for the May 2025 election. The voter has since moved, and that's why it's being returned to the clerk, but back then there was no indication that she didn't live there."

That led to another new thing the post office is doing: not postmarking mail the

See **CLERK** on page 2

County Commissioners Hear Medical Examiner's Office Report

Mid Michigan Medical Examiner Group
Contract Renewal Approved

By DIANNE ALWARD-BIERY
Cleaver Senior Staff Writer

HARRISON – Visiting the March meeting of the Clare County Board of Commissioners was Lisa Kaspriak who operates the Medical Examiner's Office for Clare County. Kaspriak provided an annual report and office update, which included a few of what she referred to as "exciting changes going on."

Kaspriak had provided both monthly and annual printed reports for the Board, and she encouraged commissioners to ask any questions they might have about the monthly report. She then delved into the annual report.

Noting the cases from the previous year through 2025 had an increase, going from 106 to 137, she broke them down: Accidental deaths increased 31% over that time, increasing from 19 to 26. Suicides had actually doubled over that time, and Kaspriak explained that statistical information is provided not only to the BOC, but to MDHHS as well.

She also noted how robust her office's staff is, adding that MEIs [medical examiner investigators] are there in the face of the families/loved ones who have just

experienced the worst day of their lives.

"They see, smell, touch things that most people will, hopefully, never have to experience," Kaspriak said. "But, in this job, it's all about the unexpected and what happens when the unexpected passes in that person that's a loved one. We're very thankful for this team here. Just to simply mull over their names is not quite enough, I feel, because they are a great service for this community."

She then listed the deaths reported to the Medical Examiner's office are things that are unexpected, rather than passings which result from an in-patient hospital death while under a physician's care nor the average hospice case.

Manners of Death include natural, accident, suicide, homicide, indeterminate and pending. Last year, Clare County had zero homicides, which Kaspriak described as "fantastic," adding that natural deaths are what is the desired statistic, and that Clare County is in line with the rest of the state and the nation in having natural deaths as the number one cause of death.

Those deaths broke down to: Heart Disease 54% followed by Accidental Injuries as the second most investigated deaths, followed by Respiratory [no percentages cited].

"What we don't want to see in one community versus another is suicides as your number one, or accidents as your number one," she said. "Suicides have doubled from the range of 27 years to 69 years of age."

Kaspriak said the causes of accidental injuries were: Blunt



Lisa Kaspriak of the Medical Examiner's Office presents an annual report and update during the March meeting of the Clare County Board of Commissioners. (Cleaver photo by Dianne Alward-Biery)

Force Trauma [10], followed by Drugs and Falls.

"We vary the numbers of autopsies and toxicologies that we do, based on each individual case, from one year to the next," she said. "We were up for 2023, down a little for 2024. Toxicologies increase just because we're sweeping for illicit drugs ... and deaths can occur from prescription drug use. All of those categories fall into what we can do on-scene to make sure we're obtaining the samples we need to send, because that is the number one thing we are getting requests for reports from multiple different agencies is toxicology findings."

Reported toxicology results showed a high prevalence of alcohol as contributing to cause of death. She noted tests showed a little bit of cocaine, a little bit of fentanyl, but no heroin, not a lot of THC, but also other opioids.

Kaspriak added that her office refers patients to Gift of Life, so

that in the case of an unexpected death, each individual's wishes are upheld.

"And even though they may have died outside a facility, we want to make sure their wishes are upheld," she said. "So, in Clare County we referred 26 cases to Gift of Life. And every single donor can touch over 75 others: there are so many things people are on a waiting list for: skin, corneas, organs – a lot of different things. These families are very happy to uphold the wishes of their loved one, so we go ahead and refer if that was a viable donor."

Describing her office's jurisdiction, Kaspriak explained that should a mass fatality event occur in Clare County, there are resources the local Clare Medical Examiner's office can pull from. She said there are 63 investigators who work the included counties, multiple transport agencies, funeral homes and storage capability that might be needed.

Kaspriak also reported that, to

date, Clare County has had one person use the office's new CT scanner which she had secured a grant toward its purchase. "The State of Michigan then helped fulfill that need for a CT scanner, and we have installed it in Grayling. Crawford County houses it right now."

She explained that the CT scanner falls somewhere between the diagnosing of toxicology, CT scan and an autopsy. "So, it's yet one more tool that we're using to determine that cause of death. It's instrumental, it was very neat to see the first Clare County case go through. We started using it in December, so it's brand new for us, and we're very thankful."

That 7-minute CT scan can detect up to 85% of what an autopsy can in a process that is neat and clean as nothing leaves the body bag. It also provides a permanent record, even after cremation. When questioned about that 85%, Kaspriak explained that sometimes that percentage can be higher, such as when there are injuries/wounds to bones which would require an invasive autopsy that is avoided by using the CT scan. She advised that autopsy could be compared to standard medicine, which calls for different tools for different circumstances. The CT scan for autopsy is one more tool in the Medical Examiner's arsenal.

She also noted that the MEIs who operate in Clare County are not allowed to release a body without calling the lead, which is Dr. Wagner, M.E., who has the final decision authority.

Kaspriak's report was offered prior to the Board's consideration of renewal of the contract with the Mid Michigan Medical Examiner Group, LLC, which was indeed renewed through Sept. 30, 2029.

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BOC Hears of Taxes Received, Distributed, Delinquent

County Treasurer Notes More Postal Delay Issues

By DIANNE ALWARD-BIERY
Cleaver Senior Staff Writer

HARRISON – Reporting to the Clare County Board of Commissioners on March 18, Treasurer Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger started out by saying that the post office postmark is definitely an issue.

“Just some examples, a township had sent a distribution to us on March 4,” she said. “It wasn’t even postmarked until March 10 so that was six days after she dropped it at the post office. Then we received it pretty quickly, we received it on March 12. But we had three townships send disbursements to us back in February and we still haven’t received them – so they’re stopping payments on those.”

Beemer-Fritzinger also noted that, statutorily, there are deadlines, so it’s affecting taxpayers as well. Thus, taxpayers were urged to pay as early as they could or find a different form of payment, and make sure their check’s cleared once they sent it.

“There are definitely things lost in the mail that we receive from long ago,” she said. “So, it’s definitely an issue.”

The treasurer distributed a report to commissioners that

included the cash on hand, investments, and fund balance as of the previous day. She noted the Animal Shelter and her office had done the rabies clinic One Stop Shop, which had been very successful. It was so busy, she and her staff had stayed an additional hour, and sold 118 dog licenses.

She said her office was buzzing, and was preparing to send out 1,086 forfeiture certificates for the 2024 tax year for the Register of Deeds Office for recording. Also just completed was the tax year 2025 settlement in the amount of \$60 million with all the local unit treasurers. The delinquent tax amount needed to make all the millage entities whole this year was \$5.7 million, an increase of \$222,000 more than last year.

Beemer-Fritzinger said the taxes were still 90% collected, but that between the taxable value increase and the \$600,000 in additional drain and lake level assessments this year, the delinquent amount need had increased. Thus, she was pulling in investments and hoping to still disburse settlement dollars toward the end of April.

“That’s normally the goal, to disburse to all the schools, the county, and seniors – I try to get



Jenny Beemer-Fritzinger, Clare County treasurer, reads out some of the disbursal numbers from her office during the Clare County Board of Commissioners' March meeting. (Cleaver photo by Dianne Alward-Biery)

them all made whole by the end of April,” she said. Also noted was that her office had already collected \$400,000 in 2025 taxes that were just turned over 11 days prior. “So, our office is super, super busy, but we’re moving through that.”

She also noted working with people on the 2023 tax deadline of

March 31 which was for three years of nonpayment of taxes, and her office had been working with people to avoid tax foreclosure. She said properties were still being redeemed every day at that time, and her office was working with taxpayers and the community partners who also were trying to help the taxpayers.

Legislation Pending for Short-Term Rentals, Energy Reform Walk-Back, November-Only Millage Ballot

Administrator Reports on State Funding, County Budget

By DIANNE ALWARD-BIERY
Cleaver Senior Staff Writer

HARRISON – In her Administrator’s Report at the March County Board of Commissioners meeting, Lori Phelps began with the State Funding and County Budget outlook.

“Budget negotiations are advancing for the 2026-27 budget,” Phelps said. “Proposals are suggesting no increase for county revenue sharing, which continues to lag behind inflation. There is discussion about expanding funds for rural law enforcement, and jail operations support – we’ll take it.”

Phelps noted the state is once again considering limiting local control over short-term rental ordinances, and assured commissioners she would stay on top of that issue and keep them posted.

“House Bill 5711 was introduced by Rep. Pat Outman, which would repeal the 100% clean energy standards by 2040 that was put into effect in 2023,” Phelps said. “And it would walk back the energy reform.”

She reminded that last May the wind and solar bill passed the House but stalled and was still sitting in the Senate.

“We are seeing a significant increase in federal and state compliance and reporting requirements,” Phelps said. “Which is not a bad thing, but it’s very time consuming for us.” She noted counting up all the portals, pass-

words, dual authentications for the requirements, and tallied 32 that have to be accessed for all the different requirements. “It’s pretty extensive.”

Phelps also informed that a bill



County Administrator Lori Phelps (Cleaver file photo)

regarding property tax millage had passed recently out of the House and over to the Senate.

“When there’s a suggestion of a millage or a renewal that goes on the ballot, there are times when schools put it on a May ballot or August,” she said. “There’s a bill that passed the House that says all millages can only go on the November ballot for taxes.”

After inquiring if commissioners found her notes helpful, and being assured they are, Phelps closed out her report.

CLERK from page 1

day it is dropped off, but rather on the day the piece of mail is processed by the post office.

“This will pose a problem for military and overseas voters that we rely on the postmark date for processing ballots that come in after election day,” Mott said, and explained that those ballots from a military or overseas voter are counted if postmarked on or before election day and received up to six days after the election.

“So, if they drop it off on election day and it doesn’t get processed until the next day, it won’t be postmarked until the next day and, therefore, we will not count it,” she said.

Mott said she is watching 53 different election bills in the Michigan House and Senate, 29 different clerk-related bills, and 20 different register of deeds bills.

“It looks like a lot, but really it’s not,” she said. “For this year, it’s not a lot, but it’s still a lot to keep up on.”

Then the topic moved to jury questionnaires, which another county clerk had been comparing to the Qualified Voter File – which Mott said was a great idea.

“When someone sends in their

jury questionnaire and they mark their questionnaire that they’re not a United States citizen, they don’t have to serve on the jury board,” she said. That other clerk had begun comparing the two files to see if those potential jurors were registered to vote, and found multiple people who had denied their citizenship but were listed as qualified voters.

“That requires some investigation on our part,” Mott said. “You can’t just go in and mark them not a citizen and delete their right to vote. We will be doing that here in Clare County; we’re sending out 4,500 jury questionnaires in the next couple weeks, and when we get those back we will be comparing them to the Qualified Voter File and taking steps to verify those people’s citizenship.”

Then Commissioner Jack Kleinhardt posed the question of how does property fraud happen? Mott explained that the most common type is via relatives, i.e. children who want their elderly parent’s property transferred to them. She also explained that the Register of Deeds Office has specific document recording requirements to follow: black ink, print or type, font size, names and addresses. The process does not

include checking signatures, notary validity, checking notary signature with the state to see if it matches.

“That’s how this can happen,” Mott said. “There’s no safety in place, and I don’t know what that safety would be to stop someone from recording a fraudulent deed.”

She said the number one fraud crime in the country is property fraud, and went on to explain that someone can sell a property, then leave town with the cash, and the real owner would be none-the-wiser until the mortgage company

notifies of its intent to foreclose. Mott said that is why signing up to the Property Fraud Alert available for free through her office is so important. It doesn’t stop the fraud but is an alert. The process is simple: go to the website, call the office, or stop in. Then if anything is processed for that address, the Register of Deeds office will call, text of email a notification. Then the property owner can follow up on what may have occurred and avoid the compounded damage that would result from delayed awareness of the crime.

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Event Calendar

HARRISON MI

APR 11 EGG-STRAVAGANZA AT AIRPORT IN HARRISON

AGES 0-4, 2:15 P.M., AGES 5-8 2:30 P.M., AGES 9-12 2:45, PRE-REGISTER AFTER 1 P.M.

MAY 13 SPRING BEAUTIFICATION DAY

MAY 30 YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR SHOWCASE

11 AM- 4 PM, VENUE ON MAIN

MAY 29 JUNE 5 JULY 10 AUG 7 FRIDAY NIGHT DELIGHTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MUSIC IN THE TOWN SQUARE

JUNE 13 SUMMER GIZZLER

HARRISON CITY PARK

JULY 18 PET-A-PALOOZA

10 AM-3PM, TOWN SQUARE

Contact Anita Yager, City Programs Coordinator

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ayager@cityofharrison-mi.gov

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CLARE COUNTY CLEAVER

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Outdoors With Jeff

Fishermen are patiently waiting the last Saturday in April that will come in a little over two weeks. Some dedicated fishermen often refer to the last Saturday of April as a holy day. The last Saturday is the beginning of trout season.

The opening of trout season to fisherman is as much importance as the opening of deer season to hunters. Some of the trout fisherman will go to one of many of Michigan's blue ribbon trout streams, while others will go to some small, isolated creek and some will go to a lake that has trout in it.

Fisherman will seek trout in various ways, some will use small fishing rods and worms on small creeks, and while others on larger streams will use spinners or flies.

Over the last few decades, it seems that some fisherman that would wait at some small river or creek just before midnight and wait until the clock turn to midnight and they located their favorite spot and began to fish.

When I worked the road for the Sheriff's Department, I would see large groups of fishermen sitting at some bridge over our Cedar River located out in Hamilton Township waiting for the stroke of midnight. Over the years however those numbers began to dwindle and eventually there were no fisherman ever seen again by me while working road patrol.

Many of the fishermen at the time started to fish less and less and told they finally gave up saying, that there were too few fish, and some thought those small rivers didn't have any trout left in them.

As a youth it was those small creeks that excited those wizards of the woods. Small rivers like Doc and Tom Creek, Hemlock creek and their favorite was the Tobacco River down in Surrey Township. Especially, the part of the river that was on Hatchery Road. As the name of the road was



JEFF GOYT

where there was an abandoned DNR fish hatchery. That old fish hatchery was a memorable place to fish for me. After all, that was where I caught my first trout when I was about three years old. Another location that we often used to fish in was Doc and Tom Creek. This creek was one of the most difficult to fish and it was grown over by trees and bushes. After much trial and tribulation, we found the best pole to use was an ice fishing rod. Any larger type of pole was impossible to use with the thick underbrush. We would actually crawl up to the creek's edge and drop the line and let it drift down to a hole that may be hiding a trout. The creek never got any wider than 24 inches and the fish were easily spooked.

When I returned from the military, the Wizards of the Woods told me they were no longer fishing that old creek, they thought that the fish just disappeared. When I got older, I hunted grouse along that old creek; there were still those holes that used to hold a fish, however there were no indications that fish were still present.

When I returned from the military my companions told the same horror story about the Tobacco River. Later in college while studying Ecology, the instructor told me that they tested the river to see if the septic tanks were leaching into the river. They had cabins flush special indicators in their tanks. He told me that soon they were finding those indicators in the river.

Today most of those Wizards are gone, I find myself now fishing alone on the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers in Crawford and Kalkaska Counties. Now I only fish with flies and I catch and release all the fish that I catch. Some would ask why I fish and don't keep them? Eating the fish doesn't seem to be as important as keeping the river with fish for fisherman, who will fish for years to come. It's important that we leave our legacy for the generations that will follow us. In my life I have seen rivers get destroyed by generations before us, that is something I don't want our generation to be responsible for. For me success is something for my state of mind. If I can leave a river happy, that's all that counts.



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April 13 - April 17

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Monday, April 13

Chili, Irish boiled potatoes, spinach, corn muffin

Tuesday, April 14

Chicken breast patty with basil tomato relish, duchess potatoes, california vegetable blend, apple

Wednesday, April 15

Turkey twist pasta salad, cottage cheese & pears, carrot sticks, string cheese, fruited jello

Thursday, April 16

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Friday, April 17

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Clare County History



This token was found in Budd Lake in 1977 by Lisa Sharp. She recently donated the item to the Harrison District Library. The token is labeled “Budd Lake Inn” which indicates it is probably from the 1930s or 40s before the business location and name changed to the Budd Lake Bar. The Budd Lake Inn was located at the corner of Main and Second Street and the recently closed Budd Lake Bar is located on the corner of Main and First Street.

Michigan mulls changes in elk hunt regulations

By ADDIE TUSSING
Capital News Service

LANSING – Every year, thousands of hopeful hunters apply for one of only 260 licenses to hunt elk in Michigan. The Department of Natural Resources received a record-breaking 47,493 applications in 2025.

“It’s a chance for folks in Michigan who are used to some similar hunting experiences, but with the added uniqueness and challenges of pursuing a different animal,” said Brent Rudolph, the deer, moose and elk specialist with the DNR.

Michigan’s original native elk disappeared in 1875 due to over-hunting and habitat loss. They were reintroduced in 1918, and populations have since stabilized, according to Rudolph.

“We are working on viewing the uniqueness that they bring to the communities where they’re around, and then balance the efforts to manage their population to minimize potential conflicts,” he said.

In 2025, Michigan hunters shot 153 elk. The DNR estimates the state’s elk population at around 1,100 animals.

Every year, the National Resources Commission works alongside the DNR to create quotas to control the number of elk that can be taken.

“Our five-year average has been around a 72% success rate in fulfilling those quotas,” said Rudolph, while “the 2025 success rate was 64%.”

Licenses are awarded to applicants through a random drawing. Once selected, they receive specific information on the hunting period and type of license they have received.

“Some receive licenses that are ‘any elk,’ which mean they can pursue bulls, which is often the preferred target because they are antlered animals,” said Rudolph.

Some, however, receive licenses for antlerless-only elk to control the number of females in the population.

There are two hunting periods: The first consists of three inde-

pendent sessions throughout August and September, and the second from Dec. 13-21. The second period poses challenges to some hunters because of unpredictable weather conditions and proximity to the holiday season.

When selected, “you will have an opportunity to hunt in one of two core elk range units” said Rudolph.

Hunters are restricted to the land of the Pigeon River Country State Forest and what is referred to as the “Elk management Unit X” land, both in the Northern Lower Peninsula near Gaylord.

As the 2025 hunt came to a close, the DNR drafted an alternative to its current Elk Conservation and Management Plan.

The proposal aims to lengthen both the first and second hunt periods, and most notably, consolidate the first hunt into one continuous period.

“We are aiming to make it more convenient for hunters having a more contiguous period so they could choose when they’re able to participate,” says Rudolph, who said that the change will give hunters who aren’t local more leeway, increasing the success rate of the first hunt.

According to the DNR, the proposed first period would be 30 days from September to the beginning of October, and the second period would run from Dec. 1 to Dec. 15.

They intend to shift the first hunt to begin at later dates to avoid hot weather which is both uncomfortable to hunt in and leads to more elk meat spoiling.

The new dates for the second hunt would be more accessible to hunters who celebrate holidays towards the end of December.

Michigan residents were given the opportunity for public comment on the proposed regulations. Seventy-three residents emailed their thoughts to the DNR before the Jan. 23 cutoff. Rudolph said 63% supported the change and about 27, or 37%, were opposed to some aspect.

While a majority supported the proposed regulations, many were



Brent Henige of New Lothrop shot this 559-pound bull on Dec.13, 2025.

concerned that the new timeline would overlap with the days to hunt bears.

“Some hunters can pursue bear[s] with dogs, and hounds moving through could make hunters anxious or could just lead to some conflicts,” said Rudolph.

Chad Sides, who chairs the Michigan Elk Country Association, a conservation organization based in Gaylord, is weighing the benefits of the proposition.

“It could be beneficial if implemented properly,” Sides said. “It may provide a better experience for the hunters and have a better hunt.”

On the other hand, Sides said he is apprehensive about the elk population going forward. “I hope that the state realizes that our herd is significantly down from years

past.” A more successful hunt could decrease the population at a more rapid rate, Sides said.

The regulations will be finalized during the Natural Resources Commission’s April meeting.

Before then, Rudolph and the DNR will try to reduce conflict with the bear hunting season. “We will be making some adjustments to the proposed dates and lengths to still reach the original objectives.”

Rudolph said elk hunting is a vital and unique resource in Michigan.

“We’re happy to be able to take input on how we can try and best accommodate some of the diverse opinions people have,” he said.

Addie Tussing writes for Great Lakes Echo.

EGG-STRAVAGANZA AT THE AIRPORT

A fun spring event for kids 12 & under

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

EGG HUNT TIMES

10:15 AM - Ages 0-4 Must be registered by 10:00 AM

10:30 AM - Ages 5-8 Must be registered by 10:15 AM

10:45 AM - Ages 9-12 Must be registered by 10:30 AM

EVENT DETAILS

WHO: Children ages 12 and under

WHERE: Clare County Airport
4527 N Clare Ave, Harrison, MI 48625

PARKING: South entrance off Transportation Drive, Harrison

REGISTRATION
9:00 - 10:00 AM

Please allow enough time for parking and check-in. Participants should be ready 15 minutes prior to their scheduled egg hunt.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

To accommodate all age groups, three egg drops will be held according to age. Please arrive early and attend the correct drop time



• ClareCountyCleaver.net
• EMAIL: editor@clarecountycleaver.net
• 989-539-7496

Tight lines and good luck! 2026 fishing season opens Wednesday

LANSING – Spring fishing is finally here. Wednesday, April 1, is the official kickoff to the new fishing license year in Michigan. Grab your gear and invite someone new to join you and share the fishing experience!

Before you hit the water, make sure to thoroughly review the 2026 Michigan Fishing Regulations to learn any new regulations that apply to your favorite fishing spots. Major regulation changes approved by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission for the 2026 season, in effect until March 31, 2027, are highlighted below.

Lake Superior lake trout and splake possession limit change

Stannard Rock and Big Reef are now under new daily possession limits of one lake trout or splake (combined) in the areas defined on pages 9 and 20-21 of the Michigan Fishing Regulations.

Upper Peninsula walleye protected slot limit lakes

Lake Independence and Teal Lake (Marquette County) are under new walleye regulations: the minimum size limit is 15 inches, and all walleye 18-23 inches, now protected from harvest, must be released. The daily possession limit is five walleye, with no more than one greater than 23 inches allowed per day. More information can be found on page 13 of the Michigan Fishing Regulations.

New burbot daily possession limit

A possession limit of five per day has been placed on burbot. Find more information on page 12 of the Michigan Fishing Regulations.



New sportfishing regulations for the 2026 fishing season are in effect April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027. (DNR photo)

Bead fishing for trout and salmon

Use of a bead fished on the hook or pegged or attached to the line no further than 4 inches above the eye of a single-pointed hook has been defined as an artificial lure for clarification purposes. For more information, see page 8 of the Michigan Fishing Regulations.

Underwater spearfishing waters expansion

Additional Great Lakes waters are now open to this activity, with some exclusions. Monthly reporting is no longer required; however, anglers must still obtain a free license. See pages 16-17 of the Michigan Fishing Regulations for

more specific information. (Please note that the print version of the 2026 Michigan Fishing Regulations incorrectly listed the Lake Michigan southern boundary text as “waters north of the MI/WI border” (page 16); this should be “waters north of the MI/IN border” and has been corrected in the digital version of the regulations).

Menominee River lake sturgeon fishing season

A new catch-and-immediate-release fishing opportunity for lake sturgeon has been added to the Menominee River (from Grand Rapids Dam to the Sturgeon Falls Dam) from the

first Saturday in June through the first Sunday in March. For more information, check pages 15 and 25 of the Michigan Fishing Regulations.

Several other waters have undergone minor regulation changes, so be sure to review the 2026 Michigan Fishing Regulations for waters and species relevant to you.

Don’t have your 2026 fishing license yet? Buy your fishing license online or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app, where you can purchase licenses, report harvests, access regulations and get the latest hunting and fishing updates.

Consumers Energy Announces Another New Rate Hike Case 7 Days After Last Rate Hike Approved

LANSING – On Tuesday, April 6, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel reaffirmed her commitment to protecting ratepayers, pledging once again to intervene in all major rate cases before the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). The announcement from the Attorney General comes as Consumers Energy entered a “Filing Announcement” on Friday, formally and publicly announcing its intent to seek yet another electric rate hike “on or after June 2, 2026.” Under the current law, this is the first day Consumers Energy is eligible to file its next rate hike request.

Consumers Energy’s announcement, submitted to the MPSC on April 3, was issued a mere seven days after the MPSC approved a \$276.6 million electric rate hike, which will become effective on May 1, 2026. Since 2020, the MPSC has approved nearly \$800 million in annual revenue increases for Consumers Energy. The last approved rate hike also authorizes Consumers Energy to earn a 9.9% return on equity for all new capital expenditure projects, including those related to new data center construction.

While it remains unknown how many additional millions of dollars Consumers Energy will seek to bill its customers in this upcoming rate hike request, in its previous case, the utility sought a rate hike of \$436 million and an additional surcharge of \$24.3 million, which would have increased household rates by 13%. A summary of the new rate hike request is expected to be filed before the formal application, which the utility indicates will be filed in June.

“The rate hike just approved by the MPSC hasn’t even taken

effect yet, and Consumers Energy is already gearing up to reach back into the pockets of Michigan families,” said Attorney General Nessel. “Ratepayers don’t have a choice in who they buy their energy from, yet our utility companies still choose to make these relentless and unsustainable rate hike demands year after year. Announcing plans to file what we expect to be a new multi-hundred-million-dollar request just seven days after securing a nearly \$280 million hike proves how truly broken this system has become. Ratepayers are trapped in a loop where the demands for more from these massive utilities never end, even as energy prices become unaffordable for working families. My office will continue to scrutinize every penny of this upcoming filing, but intervention alone is no longer enough. It is past time for legislators on both sides of the aisle to come together and fix this broken system for Michiganders.”

Recent rate hike requests from DTE and Consumers Energy have included such inappropriate costs as private jet travel for executive staff, millions in executive incentive compensation tied to maximizing shareholding returns, and other unsupported expenditures that could not be demonstrated to be reasonable or prudent. Rate hike cases currently open before the MPSC include Consumers Energy’s natural gas rate hike request (U-21981), DTE’s natural gas rate hike request (U-21973), SEMCO Energy Gas Company’s gas rate hike request (U-22002), and Upper Peninsula Power Company’s electric rate hike request (U-22032). DTE has also

submitted a filing announcement, announcing its intent to file another electric rate hike in April — five days after their last request was approved.

Consumers Energy sells electricity to approximately 1.9 million customers throughout Michigan and natural gas to 1.8 million customers across the state.

MDOT advancing Michigan’s EV charging network through remaining \$51M NEVI investment

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has announced a significant milestone in Michigan’s journey toward a cleaner transportation future. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has officially approved Michigan’s Fiscal Year 2026 Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment (EVID) Plan, as well as the state’s “fully built out” (FBO) certification request under the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program, which allocates \$106 million to Michigan for the deployment of EV charging infrastructure.

MDOT is now authorized to begin investing the remaining \$51 million in discretionary NEVI formula funds to accelerate the deployment of EV charging infrastructure. This funding will help strategically expand fast charging infrastructure, close critical gaps in Michigan’s EV charging network, support economic development and ensure that Michigan remains a leader in mobility innovation.

MDOT is preparing for a third round of applications with the intention of providing every Michigan community the opportunity to access NEVI funds to support the program’s goals of closing geographic gaps, supporting medium-duty vehicles and fleets, improving charger reliability and user experience, promoting equitable access and aligning charging investments with economic development, tourism and long-term grid considerations.

Following the first two rounds of procurement, MDOT is actively working to deploy 83 NEVI charging stations across Michigan, as shown on the MDOT NEVI Charging Stations Map.

MDOT is coordinating closely with FHWA and engaging with local governments, tribal nations, utilities, industry partners and other stakeholders to align program implementation with statewide priorities. MDOT will continue to provide program updates and funding information through its NEVI website and ongoing stakeholder outreach. Public input and partner collaboration remain central to the success of Michigan’s EV infrastructure efforts.

Sign up for MDOT’s GovDelivery service to stay informed about Michigan’s NEVI Program, including future announcements and program updates.

DIFS Encourages Financial Check-Ins and Setting Savings Goals During America Saves Week

LANSING – America Saves Week is April 6–10, and the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) is participating by encouraging Michiganders to take this opportunity to conduct a financial check-in. Throughout the month of April, DIFS is also celebrating ‘Michigan Open Account Coalition (MOAC) Month’ in conjunction with National Financial Literacy Month and America Saves Week.

“DIFS is committed to supporting Michiganders as they improve their financial wellness, and America Saves Week is a great time to perform a financial check-up by reviewing accounts, personal and family budgets, and looking for opportunities to save,” said DIFS Director Anita Fox. “Setting clear and achievable savings goals is one of the best ways to build positive saving habits, create financial security, and better prepare for major purchases or unexpected emergencies.”

America Saves Week is an annual campaign supported by thousands of organizations nationwide as a call to action for consumers to commit to saving successfully and improving their financial wellness. A financial check-in can help individuals gain a clear view of their finances, set savings goals, and create a plan to achieve them.

Michiganders can improve their financial wellness by opening an account with a bank or credit union if they do not already have one. Through the Michigan Open Account Coalition (MOAC), a partnership between DIFS and about 40 participating banks and credit unions in 67 Michigan counties, consumers can access certified low- or no-cost accounts and critical financial services to help them build stronger financial futures without worrying about hidden fees or costs. For more information on opening an account and a list of participating institutions, visit Michigan.gov/DIFSOpenAccount.

MOAC was formed in 2022 by DIFS, the Michigan Bankers Association, Michigan Credit Union League, and community organizations. Its mission is to encourage relationships between financial institutions and historically underserved communities, to educate consumers about the importance of having a relationship with a financial institution, and to promote the availability of, and access to, consumer financial accounts with low and transparent fees. During America Saves Week, DIFS is sharing content on X, Facebook, and LinkedIn to highlight the importance of saving and to offer motivation for individuals and families to start or continue their savings goals. There is also a wealth of personal finance resources on the DIFS website or the State of Michigan Financial Literacy page.

Consumers who have questions or disputes that cannot be directly resolved with their financial institutions can contact DIFS Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 877-999-6442 or file a complaint online at Michigan.gov/DIFSComplaints.

The mission of the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services is to ensure access to safe and secure insurance and financial services fundamental for the opportunity, security, and success of Michigan residents, while fostering economic growth and sustainability in both industries. In addition, the Department provides consumer protection, outreach, and financial literacy and education services to Michigan residents. For more information, visit Michigan.gov/DIFS or follow the Department on Facebook, X, or LinkedIn.

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12

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL VIRGIL DOUGLAS

October 15, 1958- March 28, 2026



It is with profound respect and heartfelt gratitude that we remember Michael Douglas, a devoted son, brother, parent, friend, a proud veteran, and a true hero, who dedicated his life to serving our country. Michael's commitment to both country and family shaped a legacy of courage, resilience, and love that will forever inspire us. His sacrifices will never be forgotten.

Michael Virgil Douglas was born in Bay City, Michigan on October 15, 1958, the first of five children of Michael Francis and Judith Ann (Pelletier) Douglas. He was raised in Harrison, Michigan, where he played football and the trumpet in his high school marching band. Graduating in 1976, Michael married high school sweetheart Tamara Evans and went on to play football in college, have a daughter, Melissa, and earn his associate's degree from Michigan State University. Michael and Tamara were expecting their second child, Michelle, when he left college to continue the family military legacy, joining the United States Marine Corps, with a duty station in North Carolina.

Michael married Sally Browder in North Carolina in 1982, gaining eleven-year-old daughter Marian, and continued his military career, where he faithfully served for twenty-one

years. He attained the rank of Gunnery Sergeant and was lovingly nicknamed Gunny. He earned multiple decorations, completed four combat tours, and qualified as an expert marksman in both rifle and pistol. He was proud of being the only expert marksman in Marine Corps history to qualify as such during a hurricane.

Michael had an affinity for learning new languages, which helped him on multiple deployments to Guam, the Philippines, Columbia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Italy, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and Japan. He specialized in Aviation and Aircraft Ordinance Systems and served on the USS John F. Kennedy. Stateside, Michael's service years took him to Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point, NC, Beaufort, SC, Newport News & Norfolk, VA, where he grew many lifelong friendships with fellow service members. For years, he sacrificed personal comfort and safety to uphold the ideals of freedom and justice, embodying honor, selflessness, and integrity in every mission.

Outside his military interests, Michael enjoyed working on cars, riding motorcycles, making plants grow, playing cards, skiing, collecting firearms, and doomsday prepping. When not deployed, he spent his summers driving cross country to see his daughters on his few weeks off. He ensured they visited every military museum, battlefield, zoo, and theme park on the way. After an honorable discharge and moving to south Florida, Michael continued using his expertise in explosives in his career beyond his military retirement. Michael and Sally raised grandchildren, Joseph, April, and Ryan in Weeki Wachee Springs, Florida. He loved Sally with everything he had and she kept him grounded and focused. Michael was widowed in September 2014, after 32 years of marriage.

Michael met Debra Wisdom in

2015 and regained his light-hearted smile. They were married on June 1st, 2018, in Dallas, Texas, and made their home in Lakeland, Florida. Married just over a year, Michael was again widowed in late 2019.

Michael was greeted in Heaven on March 28, 2026, at the age of 67 by his father Michael, brother Dewey, sister Cathy, the love of his life Sally, niece Candace, wife Debra, the mother of his children and long-time friend, Tamara, and step-daughter Marian, along with many members of his military veteran family.

He is lovingly remembered by his mother, Judith, and his sisters, Connie (Bill) Rottler and Cindy (Terry) Outinen, all of Michigan; his daughters, Melissa (Greg) Knabe and Michelle (Lowell) Sorter, both of Clinton, OK; his God Mother Barbara Thompson, MI; grandchildren Moira, Michael (Sera), Cannon (Katelyn), Joseph, April (Scott), and Ryan; great grandchildren Knoxville, Revan, Kaizen, Noah, Emma, Braelin, Ayana, Riley, and Alexander, and many nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends.

A celebration of life with military honors will be held in early June in Harrison, Michigan, where his ashes will be spread over the Douglas family plot.



CHARLES EDWARD CHAPMAN

December 9, 1934-March 30, 2026



Charles Edward Chapman passed away peacefully at Northwood Nursing home on March 30, 2026. He was born in Berkley, Michigan to Harold and Mildred Chapman on December 9, 1934.

He married Martha Goeman on June 4, 1955, and they were married for 51 years at the time of Martha's passing in 2006. He worked in the auto industry prior to moving to Harrison in 1971 buying Harrison Transmission which later became Maxi Muffler.

Chuck cared deeply about the community and contributed his time and talents to many organizations. He was a member of Kiwanis, past president of HAEDCO and past president of the Harrison Chamber of Commerce, a volunteer firefighter for Harrison Community Fire Department, worked for the Hayes Township Police and United Rescue, and was a member of the Harrison Leota

Snowmobile Club. He volunteered as Santa for many Christmas functions in Clare County.

He retired from Maxi Muffler in 2001.

He is survived by his wife of sixteen years, Ellen and his children; Steve (Rinda), Doug (Sheila), Diana (Fred), Jeff (Lynn); his siblings; Ron (Linda), Butch (Trudy) and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife and mother of his children, Martha and his brothers Glenn, Art and Paul and his sisters Jean and Barb.

A celebration of life will be held in June.

News From Lily Budd Garden Club

The Lily Budd Garden Club was organized in 2024. Our club was named after Lily Lake and Budd Lake. We are part of the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. organization. The mission of the Michigan Garden Clubs is: "To provide lead-

pieces using fresh pine. We researched Michigan Public Gardens. We took field trips to Miller's Greenhouse and DOW Gardens. In July we enjoyed an afternoon lunch and toured member's gardens on Lily Lake. Our

we get closer to July. Other club activities planned are a tour of the Uncommon Lavender Ranch, a float trip on the Ausable River, a field trip to Warmbier Farms, and Oakbrook West Farms.

We extend an invitation to Clare



Lily Budd Garden Club members helping with fall cleanup at the Veteran's Park.

ership and education, resources, and network opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, civic and environmental responsibility." Our club is one of 18 garden clubs in District 6. This district includes 14 counties in east Central Michigan including bordering counties of Isabella, Gladwin, and Midland.

We currently have 10 members in the club. In 2025 our club enjoyed making Christmas center-

fundraiser in November had members busy gathering pine and supplies to make 50 gorgeous porch pots that were sold throughout the community. We thank all those that supported this endeavor.

We are busy planning this year's programs and have lots of fun things planned. Our first Public Garden Tour will take place on July 23. Five gardens are currently on the schedule to be open to the public. More information will be posted on our Facebook page as

County garden enthusiasts to become a member of the Lily Budd Garden Club. We meet monthly on the third Wednesday at 2:00. Many of our meetings are held at the Harrison District Library. Membership is limited to 20 members due to space limitations. Annual dues are \$30. If you are interested, please contact club president, Jenny Clark. Phone: 937-467-9953 or email: jennyclark1973@gmail.com.

Year's first Adopt-A-Highway pickup starts Saturday, April 11

- Fast facts:**
- The first Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Adopt-A-Highway pickup of the year is April 11-19 for the southern part of the Lower Peninsula.
 - The first pickup for the northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula will be from May 9 to 17.
 - Sections of highway are still available to adopt. Go to the Adopt-A-Highway website more information and a map of available segments.



LANSING – Volunteers will fan out across the southern part of the state beginning Saturday to give the state highway roadsides their annual spring cleaning as Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) groups pick up litter from April 11 to 19.

The year's first AAH pickup for the Upper Peninsula and the northern Lower Peninsula (Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon and Wexford counties) will be later in the spring (May 9-17) when warmer and drier conditions have set in.

"Our Adopt-A-Highway volunteers show their dedication to their communities each year by keeping

the roadsides clean," said State Transportation Director Bradley C. Wiefelich. "These groups make a huge difference every year. Please help them stay safe while they're out there. Please be alert for the volunteers and drive cautiously during the pickup periods."

Volunteers pick up litter three times each year. Statewide, there will be a summer pickup from July 11 to 19 and a fall pickup from Sept. 19 to 27.

As of last year, about 2,600 groups have adopted more than 6,000 miles of state highway through the program. An estimated 19,000 participants collected almost 40,000 bags of trash from the roadsides during the three annual pickup periods in 2025.

Sections of highway around the state are still available for adoption. A new interactive map on the AAH website shows what stretches of road are available. Groups are asked to adopt a section for at least

two years. AAH signs bearing a group's name are posted along the stretch of adopted highway. There is no fee to participate.

AAH groups wear high-visibility, yellow-green safety vests required by federal regulations when working within a highway right of way. MDOT provides free vests and trash bags and arranges to haul away the trash. Volunteers include members of various civic groups, businesses and families. Crew members must be at least 12 years old, and each group must number at least three people.



Places of Worship				Post Your Church Services Here For Only \$6/week			
St. Athanasius Church Mass Schedule Sunday 11 am 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				St. Luke Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Service Sunday 10:30 am 616 S. 4th St., Harrison 989-539-6312	
				Community Baptist Church Sunday School 9:45 am Morning Service 11 am Evening Service 6 pm Wed. Serv. & King's Kids 6:30 pm		The Spiritual Center of Clare Sunday Service at 11am 215 W. 6th St., Clare 586-873-7680	
				Clare Seventh-Day Adventist Church Church Worship 9:20 am Church Study 11 am 9875 Thomas Dr., Clare, MI		Harrison United Brethren Church Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am 989-539-9131	
				Sponsor: Harrison Lumber Do-It Center Building Supply Center 989-539-7136		Sponsor: Hiltz Plumbing & Heating Box 250 • Harrison 989-539-5551	



\$6.00 for 24 words
.05¢ for Each Additional Word
Deadline is Monday at 5:00 PM

Online posting of classifieds is included FREE with your print ad at ClareCountyCleverer.net

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Legal Notices

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE**

Notice of foreclosure by ad-
vertisement. Notice is given
under section 3212 of the re-
vised judicature act of 1961,
1961 PA 236, MCL
600.3212, that the following
Mortgage will be foreclosed
by a sale of the mortgaged
premises, or some part of
them, at a public auction sale
to the highest bidder for cash
or cashier's check at the
place of holding the circuit
court in Clare County, start-
ing promptly at 11:00 AM,
on May 13, 2026. The
amount due on the Mortgage
may be greater on the day of
the sale. Placing the highest
bid at the sale does not auto-
matically entitle the pur-
chaser to free and clear
ownership of the property. A
potential purchaser is en-
couraged to contact the
county register of deeds of-
fice or a title insurance com-
pany, either of which may
charge a fee for this infor-
mation. Default has been
made in the conditions of a
Mortgage made by BLAKE
R. KETNER to BROKER
SOLUTIONS, INC., DBA
NEW AMERICAN FUND-
ING dated April 8, 2022 and
recorded April 19, 2022 in
Liber 1520 at Page 282,
Clare County, Michigan.
Said Mortgage is now held
by New American Funding,
LLC by assignment and/or
merger. There is claimed to
be due at the date hereof the
sum of \$217,897.52. Said
premises are located in Clare

County, Michigan and are
described as: Part of the
West 1/2 of the Northwest
1/4 of Section 36, T20N,
R4W, Frost Township, Clare
County, Michigan described
as beginning South 01° 07'
30" West along the West
Section line of said Section
36, 1020.54 feet from the
Northwest corner of said
Section 36; thence continu-
ing South 01° 07' 30" West,
along said West Section line,
340.18 feet; thence North
88° 56' 18" East, 647.56 feet;
thence North 01° 10' 04"
East, 340.19 feet; thence
South 88° 56' 18" West
647.79 feet back to the place
of beginning, being a part of
the West 1/2 of the North-
west 1/4 of Section 36 (a/k/a
Parcel D). Said property is
commonly known as 6740 N
Eberhart Ave, Harrison, MI
48625. The redemption
period shall be 6 months
from the date of such sale,
unless determined aban-
doned in accordance with
MCLA 600.3241a, in which
case the redemption period
shall be 30 days from the
date of such sale. If the prop-
erty is sold at foreclosure
sale, pursuant to MCL
600.3278, the borrower will
be held responsible to the
person who buys the prop-
erty at the mortgage foreclo-
sure sale or to the mortgage
holder for damage to the
property during the redemp-
tion period. TO ALL PUR-
CHASERS: The foreclosing
mortgagee can rescind the
sale. In that event, your dam-
ages, if any, are limited
solely to the return of the bid
amount tendered at sale, plus
interest. Please be advised
that any third party pur-
chaser is responsible for pre-
paring and recording the
Sheriff's Deed. If this is a
residential Mortgage, the fol-
lowing shall apply: ATTEN-
TION 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 Mort-
gage at the telephone
number stated in this notice.
THIS COMMUNICATION IS
FROM A DEBT COL-
LECTOR. THIS IS AN AT-
TEMPT TO COLLECT A
DEBT, AND ANY INFOR-

MATION OBTAINED
WILL BE USED FOR
THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU:
ARE A DEBTOR IN AN
ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY
CASE; ARE UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF A
BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR,
HAVE RECEIVED A DIS-
CHARGE IN BANK-
RUPTCY AND YOU HAVE
NOT REAFFIRMED THE
DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS
FOR INFORMATIONAL
PURPOSES ONLY AND
SHOULD NOT BE CON-
STRUCTED AS AN AT-
TEMPT TO COLLECT A
DEBT FROM YOU PER-
SONALLY. Dated: March
20, 2026 Attorney for the
party foreclosing the Mort-
gage: Thomas E. McDonald
(P39312) Brock & Scott,
PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403
PHONE: (844) 856-6646
File No. 25-06229
(03-26)(04-16)

13.-3

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE**

Notice of foreclosure by ad-
vertisement. Notice is given
under section 3212 of the re-
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1961 PA 236, MCL
600.3212, that the following
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place of holding the circuit
court in Clare County, start-
ing promptly at 11:00 AM,
on May 13, 2026. The
amount due on the Mortgage
may be greater on the day of
the sale. Placing the highest
bid at the sale does not auto-
matically entitle the pur-
chaser to free and clear
ownership of the property. A
potential purchaser is en-
couraged to contact the
county register of deeds of-
fice or a title insurance com-
pany, either of which may
charge a fee for this infor-
mation. Default has been
made in the conditions of a
Mortgage made by Robert
W. Cobleigh to Royal United
Mortgage LLC dated No-
vember 4, 2024 and recorded
December 5, 2024 in Liber
1602 at Page 51, Clare
County, Michigan. Said
Mortgage is now held by
Freedom Mortgage Corpora-
tion by assignment and/or
merger. There is claimed to
be due at the date hereof the
sum of \$63,155.17. Said
premises are located in Clare
County, Michigan and are
described as: ALL INTER-
EST IN THE FOLLOWING
DESCRIBED REAL ES-
TATE SITUATED IN THE
COUNTY OF CLARE,
STATE OF MICHIGAN,
TO-WIT: LOT 26, OF THE
PLAT OF STEVLAND

ACRES NO. 2, BEING A
PART OF THE W 1/2 OF
THE SW 1/2 OF SECTION
18, T19N, R3W, HAMIL-
TON TOWNSHIP, CLARE
COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
PARCEL ID: 008-200-026-
00 Said property is com-
monly known as 3060 Hazel
Rd, Harrison, MI 48625. The
redemption period shall be 6
months from the date of such
sale, unless determined
abandoned in accordance
with MCLA 600.3241a, in
which case the redemption
period shall be 30 days from
the date of such sale. If the
property is sold at foreclo-
sure sale, pursuant to MCL
600.3278, the borrower will
be held responsible to the
person who buys the prop-
erty at the mortgage foreclo-
sure sale or to the mortgage
holder for damage to the
property during the redemp-
tion period. TO ALL PUR-
CHASERS: The foreclosing
mortgagee can rescind the
sale. In that event, your dam-
ages, if any, are limited
solely to the return of the bid
amount tendered at sale, plus
interest. Please be advised
that any third party pur-
chaser is responsible for pre-
paring and recording the
Sheriff's Deed. If this is a
residential Mortgage, the fol-
lowing shall apply: ATTEN-
TION 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 Mort-
gage at the telephone
number stated in this notice.
THIS COMMUNICATION IS
FROM A DEBT COL-
LECTOR. THIS IS AN AT-
TEMPT TO COLLECT A
DEBT, AND ANY INFOR-

14-3

**STORAGE UNIT
REPOSSESSION
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Bringold Properties, LLC
at 2477 N. Bringold Ave-
nue, Harrison, MI 48625
has considered storage
unit #218 located in Lin-
coln Township rented by
Douglas Gouine aban-
doned. Last known ad-
dress for Douglas Gouine
is 23147 Donald Ave.,
Eastpointe, MI 48021.
Bringold Properties, LLC
will dispose of the posses-
sions abandoned if not re-
deemed by April 20,
2026.

14-1

**STATE OF
MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
CLARE COUNTY
NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO
26-19454-DE**

Court Address:
225 W. Main Street
Harrison, MI 48625
Court telephone:
989-539-7109
Estate of WENDY SUE
CHAPMAN
Date of birth: 04/10/1961 TO
ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE
TO CREDITORS: The deced-
ent, WENDY SUE CHAP-
MAN, died 1/14/2026. Creditors
of the decedent are notified that
all claims against the estate will
be forever barred unless pre-
sented to ANGELA JENKINS,
personal representative, or to
both the probate court at 225 W.
MAIN ST, HARRISON, MI
48625 and the personal repre-
sentative within 4 months after
the date of publication of this
notice.

Dated: 03/31/2025
DAVID T. McANDREW
P58250
651 RICHARD DRIVE
HARRISON, MI 48625 9
89-539-2105
ANGELA JENKINS
3900 CEDAR
HARRISON, MI 48625
989-544-0405
15

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT CLARE
COUNTY NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO
26-19455-DE**

Court Address:
225 W. Main Street
Harrison, MI 48625
Court telephone:
989-539-7109
Estate of WILLIAM
PAUL MATHEWS
Date of birth: 04-22-67
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CRED-
ITORS: The decedent,
WILLIAM PAUL MA-
THEWS, died

14-3



**Hamilton
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Crest Cemetary**

Please take notice!
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to
May 1.

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cooperation.
Andrea Wallace
Hamilton Township
Clerk

15-1

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package to one using services like UPS
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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
CITY OF HARRISON
PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Harrison Planning Commission will hold a
public hearing on a proposed Short-Term
Rental License Ordinance on April 14, 2026,
during its regularly scheduled meeting.

The meeting will begin at 6:00 PM and will be
held at:

Harrison City Hall
2105 Sullivan Drive
Harrison, MI 48625

The proposed ordinance would establish licen-
sing, inspection, and operational requirements
for short-term rentals within the City of Harri-
son.

Interested persons are encouraged to attend
and provide comment.
The proposed ordinance draft will be available
for public review on the City of Harrison web-
site prior to the hearing.

For additional information, please contact :
Harrison City Hall
989-539-7145 or email
manager@cityofharrison-mi.gov

12-3

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9492 enter P 99963

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Rd.IsForSale.com

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well, almost 4 acres, shed,
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rage, patio, 30 amp elec.,
9x18 slab, a picture pump
well, path to outhouse, near
Lk. access. \$54,900. Text 888-
866-9492 enter P101740

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5775 Bringold 14-acres with 500ft on Halfmoon Lake, a pond, and estab-
lished food plots , 384 sf cottage with power & water. \$129,900

8710 Townline Lake Step into easy living with this move-in-ready 2-bed-
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1061 Pocahontas Build or camp? 24x24 garage with electric. 5 inch well,
750-gallon septic 300 sf drain bed,28x24 concrete slab \$36,000

TBD Mannsiding Great location to develop into your future business situ-
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435* Pine 1-acre lot with gently rolling terrain, access to the private, no-
wake Little Sunrise Lake. \$20,000

Lot 36 Lakeview Freshly cleared lot with shade trees on a paved road.
Electric and NG available not installed \$11,000

THE AMISH COOK - By Gloria Yoder



March 24. It’s another anniversary. Five years ago, I raised my right hand before the judge and declared that I would take these two children as my own, that I would love and care for them.

Excitement reigned, while deep within, Daniel and I knew it was a big step, one we knew we could never follow through with apart from the richness of the ultimate Father. I still see Daniel standing there, saying yes to what awaited him as a father. In the months prior, when we had waded through stacks of paperwork and signed documents, we did so in simple obedience to what we sensed the heavenly Father leading us to. It did not look like the easy route, but it was the route we wanted, as His route is always best.

Daniel and I took our seats with immediate family and several close friends who had come to support us that day. As the judge pronounced the petition to be granted, everyone clapped. It was true and it was sealed – forever.

In the days to come, life resumed much like it had up to that point, yet there were added joys. When traveling with the children, there was no additional paperwork, there were no extra doctor visits, and when we were asked if these were all our children, we knew in our hearts they would be ours to keep. If someone would ask Daniel which were adopted, he would answer with something like, “They are all ours,” or “We are all adopted” – by God.

As time rolled on, we met with questions that left us searching for answers. One comment Daniel would make from time to time was, “Why not learn from those who have already walked this way with success?!” As a

family, we all made that never-to-be-forgotten, all-night, 11-hour trip to visit the Razvi family, who mentors adoptive families. Together we listened and eagerly learned from those with more experience.

The tears roll, even as I write. The goodness of God kept hidden what was around the corner.

Fast-forwarding a year and eleven days, I see myself in a big city outside a huge hospital. There was only one thing I had in mind as I sprinted for those big glass doors — get me to Daniel’s side!

Hours later I was admitted into his room. It was Daniel, but oh! “I’m here, Daniel, it’s me.” I held his hand and watched intently for the slightest sign that he knew I was there. I was thrilled when I could tell he heard. An hour later I was ushered out of his room, where I crumbled in the waiting room – another surgery to find where the bleeding was coming from, little hope of survival. Food was hardly an option; my body screamed for water, so I kept guzzling it. After a bit we shuffled downstairs, where I met our dear children. When they showered me with questions about Daddy, all I could say was that I did not know what would happen, but God did, and He would do what was best. At one point a strong urge came that we needed to move on. The distressed children were sent home with cousins Judith and Owen. I had just entered that little waiting room when the doctor and a nurse came in and simply said, “We did all we could. He’s not going to make it.”

There was only one thing on my mind – I had to go see him, now! “You may have another three minutes,” the doctor stated.

Dad stabilized me on the short walk to his room while Mom stayed with Baby Joshua in the waiting room.

By his side I poured out all the love I had ever known; it was my last chance, and I took it. I thanked him for all he had ever done for the children and me. I told him I forgave him for anything he had ever failed at and apologized for any of my own failures. “Daniel, it is okay, you may go now. The children and I will be okay. It is okay for you to go be with Jesus.” Sheer exhaustion permeated my being. I glanced up to see more family members join, for which I was thankful. The three minutes were long gone — by now it had been over 30 minutes. Thank you, Lord, you knew what we needed!

Today, four years later, I see a hand of divine love standing with us. When the going has gotten tough, I would sometimes again whisper, “Daniel, it’s okay, you may go.” The same strength that flowed through Daniel those years as he braved his responsibilities as a husband and father is available to us today. Yes, surely God is still a Father, and in our home. He continues to provide strength and answers none could have found on their own.

As we reminisce on that day five years ago when the adoption was finalized, I keep thinking of the celebration party we had that night. It was probably one of the best times of my life. Family and friends gathered in our shop where we had a feast together, sang songs, and had activities for the children. The theme we chose was balloons and puzzle pieces, based on how God’s goodness places the pieces of our lives together.

er. On the large three-tier cake were the words, “Our missing pieces have come together.” That evening Daniel shared bits of our journey and how things got pushed back various times throughout the waiting period for the actual adoption to go through. Things looked quite bleak at times; nonetheless, in God’s perfect time, it all came together! The wait, the anguish, the unknown – it made things so much richer in the end and perhaps got us ready for the days to come.

This week I’ll share a simple children’s recipe on behalf of the children who were adopted. One of our family friends came that night with a tray of rice crispy treats, which we placed in the children’s food line. Wish you could have seen the setup we had, with mini tables for the children, and hear them all sing together. Children have their own sense of innocent preciousness, don’t they?!

Today, wherever you find yourself, the Ultimate Father still reigns. Take His hand – He cares.

Rice Krispie Bars
1/4 cup butter
4 cups marshmallows
6 cups Rice Krispies

Melt butter in a large saucepan over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Remove from heat, add Rice Krispies. Stir til well coated. Spread evenly into buttered 9 by 13-inch pan.

Optional: Sprinkle with sprinkles and cut into various shapes with cookie cutters.



New legislation would change regulations for compost, fertilizers and soil conditioners

By GEORGIA HILL
Capital News Service

LANSING — Legislation in the House would update fee requirements and simplify regulations for composts, fertilizers and soil conditioners.

Currently, all commercial fertilizers and soil conditioners require registration, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development inspects the materials and records and imposes taxes called tonnage fees based on the weight of the fertilizer.

The legislation would exempt “mixed soil products” that include materials such as compost, wood chips and

some manure from registration and fees.

Historically, compost has not been included in the definition of soil conditioners because the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy already regulates them, according to Kerrin O’Brien, the executive director of the Michigan Recycling Coalition.

However, in recent years, Agriculture and Rural Development began regulating composted products as a component of fertilizers and conditioners.

O’Brien said that felt like “double regulation,” which is a major concern for the compost industry due to higher costs.

“Compost is different from soil conditioners and fertilizers. This legislation would specifically define compost as a separate category and allow producers some choice about how they market their product,” O’Brien said.

O’Brien said that more compost operations have been showing up in Michigan, and current regulations require them to bear a larger cost burden.

The package includes bills sponsored by Reps. Tom Kunse, R-Clare, Angela Witwer, D-Delta Township, Jennifer Wortz, R-Quincy, and Tim Benson, R-Bay City.

The legislation is backed by the Michigan

Recycling Coalition, the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association and the Composting Council of Michigan.

While the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development does not have an official position on the bills, Lynsey Mukomel, its executive director of communications, said the department will continue to “educate about the differences between manure, soil conditioners, fertilizers and compost to help producers ensure the quality and safety of Michigan’s commodities.”

The package is currently in the House Committee on Agriculture.

Gas prices, driver shortages challenge public transit agencies

By CRISTIAN
VAZQUEZ

Capital News Service

LANSING — Mass transit systems in rural areas in Michigan are facing major challenges today, the state’s top public transit executive says.

Jean Ruestman, the administrator of the Office of Passenger Transportation in the Michigan Department of Transportation, said the first problem is the lack of adequate funding.

Her office administers funds that go to public transit agencies across the state like the Capital Area Transit Authority in Lansing (CATATA) and the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) in Southeast Michigan.

Ruestman said the first challenge is that transit services have become increasingly expensive to provide, even more so with the price of fuel skyrocketing.

“You can imagine in the rural areas where they’re driving long distances to pick up people and to deliver them to the needed services,” Ruestman said.

Jean Ruestman, administrator of the Office of Passenger Transportation in the Michigan Department of Transportation.

In addition, state funding available for supporting local transit has not grown at the same rate as inflation, she said.

Furthermore, public transit funding from the Department of Transportation is at around 29% for urban systems and 30% for rural systems, she said.

Meanwhile, she said operating costs continue to rise faster than revenues coming in.

For most agencies, federal aid doesn’t account for more than 18% of local support, she said.

While most transit

agencies in Michigan are pretty successful at getting local support, they are all getting tapped out, she said.

A second challenge is that hiring and retaining qualified drivers is tough, she said. Bus driving is an arduous job.

Finding mechanics is also a challenge as private industry pays more than most public agencies can afford to pay, she said.

Finally, if there is no additional money coming in, that sometimes means mass transit systems have to make cuts, whether that’s reducing their staff, reducing services, cutting raises and even cutting supplies, she said.

Carrie Thompson, the vice president of the Cadillac/Wexford Transit Authority, said there are challenges involving rising costs at the pump right now.

“That would definitely be a challenge with our

budget,” said Thompson.

Thompson said her agency also has difficulty finding bus drivers.

Candidates for public transit driving jobs get background checks, looking at their driving record and other backgrounds.

The authority also wants drivers who like “working with people,” said Thompson.

“We can’t just hire anybody because we sometimes transport vulnerable populations like school kids, as well as seniors and people with disabilities. So, we’re pretty stringent about who we hire,” said Thompson.

Inflation is an ongoing struggle that most transit agencies are feeling, said Thompson.

“We are not getting enough reimbursement from the state as we would like to really make,” said Thompson. “We are working as efficiently as possible to stretch the dollar.”

During spring thaw, natural fish kills may be common

After a winter with variable temperatures and lots of snow, you may see dead fish or other aquatic animals in Michigan lakes and streams as water warms up and ice and snow cover melt. The Department of Natural Resources reminds everyone that, while such sights can be startling, it is normal for winter conditions to cause the death of some fish and other creatures such as turtles, frogs, toads and crayfish.

“Winterkill is the most common type of fish mortality event,” said Aaron Switzer, DNR fish production program manager. “It can be particularly common in shallow

lakes, ponds, streams and canals during seasonal changes. It’s a natural phenomenon, and these events are localized. They typically do not affect the overall health of fish populations or fishing quality.”

Shallow lakes with a large amount of aquatic vegetation and soft bottoms are more prone to winterkill, particularly when thick ice and deep snowpack reduce sunlight for the plants. Canals in urban areas also are quite susceptible, due to the large amounts of nutrient runoff and pollution from roads, lawns and septic systems that flow into these areas, especially after large

storm events.

Fish also may be affected by rapid changes in water temperature due to unseasonably warm or rapidly warming temperatures, leading to stress and, sometimes, mortality. Fish can become easily stressed in winter due to low energy reserves because feeding is at a minimum in winter. They are then less able to handle low oxygen and temperature swings. That could be the case this year, with record or near-record cold temperatures and the large snowfalls Michigan experienced and the potential for rapid warming in the coming months.

Dissolved oxygen is

required by fish and all other forms of aquatic



It is normal for winter conditions to cause some mortality of fish and other creatures such as turtles, frogs, toads and crayfish.

life. When daylight is greatly reduced by ice

and snow cover, aquatic plants stop producing

pose organic materials on the bottom of the lake use

oxygen, and many die. The bacteria that decom-

the remaining oxygen in the water. With oxygen

reduced, other aquatic animals die and start decomposing, and the rate that oxygen is used for decomposition is additionally increased — leading dissolved oxygen levels in the water to decrease even further, creating a cycle of increasing winterkills.

Fish and other aquatic life that die in late winter may not be noticed until well after the ice leaves lakes, as the animals may be temporarily preserved by cold water.

“If you see dead fish as a result of winterkill, the fish may appear fuzzy. This is because of secondary infection by fungus, but the fungus was not the cause of death,”

said Switzer. “The fish actually suffocated from a lack of dissolved oxygen from decaying plants and dead aquatic animals under the ice.”

Visit the DNR website for more information on fish kills in Michigan.

You can report fish kills at Michigan.gov/EyesInTheField; these reports are valuable to the DNR’s management of aquatic resources in Michigan. If you suspect a fish kill is due to non-natural causes, call the nearest DNR office or Michigan’s Pollution Emergency Alert System at 800-292-4706.



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Farwell baseball off to good start under new head coach

By BEN MURPHY
Cleaver Sports Writer

Getting games in during March is never a guarantee when it comes to spring sports in the area. The Farwell baseball team was able to get some game action in though, when they swept Merrill back on March 25. That gave first year head coach Alan Esterline a head start on what he hopes is another good year for the Eagles.

“I am glad we got in a couple of games before spring break,” he said. “I have an idea of what we need to work on the next couple of weeks.”

The Eagles finished 11-20 last year, which was one of their best seasons in many years. They return a good core from that squad, including seniors Evan Lease (outfield), Gavin Brown (outfield), Dylan Mitchell (pitcher, infield), Asher Yarhouse (pitcher, infield), juniors Cooper Stover (third base, catcher), Chrystian Schuldt (pitcher, outfield), Blake Sholes (catcher), Hunter Edlin (pitcher, shortstop, third base) and sophomore Mason Esterline (pitcher, outfield).

New to the team will be seniors Zane Hanna (infield, outfield, pitcher) and Jacob Schovan (outfield).

“I like this team, they are a great group of young men that are working hard and all get along well,” Esterline said. “I have a great group of seniors that I will need to carry the load for this team. My juniors, I am excited for them to have a breakout season, and I have high hopes for my lone sophomore to make some more strides in his baseball career. Our team goal is to compete at a high level each and every time we step on the field. I have one individual goal for each player. I want to see each player improve on something each and every day.”

Farwell returns to action on Friday at Breckenridge, they travel to Bullock Creek on Tuesday, and they’ll host St. Louis on Thursday, April 16.

“I think Beaverton and Pinconning are the two at the top of the small side in our league, we will need to work hard each and every day,” Esterline said. “I am excited to work with such a great group of young men, and I can’t wait to see what they can accomplish.”

Clare golf team ready to hit course

By BEN MURPHY
Cleaver Sports Writer

A season ago, the Clare golf team finished third in the Jack Pine Conference and narrowly missed out on going to the state finals, finishing third in regionals. The Pioneers lost two members from that team, so they do return a good amount of experience coming back to the squad this spring. They hope that their newcomers can make an impact as well once things get going.

“We hope to be competitive in the Jack Pine and improve in each event,” head coach Chris Fedewa said.

On the team this year will be Noah Heatley-Slusher, Spencer Nichols, Bryce Wieferich, Dominic Kamyszek, Kolton Pung, Michael Castle, Calvin Clark, Cameron Blain and Tucker Rowell.

“Bryce Wieferich and Kolten Pung have a lot of experience, and we will be counting on them to lead us,” Fedewa said. “We will need to develop

depth. Our three-through-six golfers have had very little experience. The league graduated a lot of seniors so it’s hard to say who is going to be strong.”



Jack Pine Conference

The Jack Pine Conference is the athletic conference in Central Michigan composed of the following schools, divided into two divisions by enrollment.

Division 1: Bullock Creek, **Clare**, Gladwin, Ogemaw Heights, Shepherd, Standish-Sterling Central.

Division 2: Beaverton, **Farwell**, **Harrison**, Meridian, Pinconning, St. Louis.

For more information visit www.jackpineconference.net

Spring Sports Preview

Alan Esterline takes over Farwell baseball program

By BEN MURPHY
Cleaver Sports Writer

Part of it was a difficult decision. Part of it is really exciting. Alan Esterline, after making the tough choice to resign as the Farwell softball coach in the off-season, was hired shortly after as its varsity baseball coach.

“I am excited for this new opportunity,” Esterline said. “My assistant coach, Jason Robinson and I have a great group of gentlemen, and they have been working hard. I have hopes of a successful season.”

Esterline is obviously no stranger to coaching in Farwell. He spent five years in the softball program, most recently as its head coach and also has many years of coaching football at the junior varsity and varsity level.

“I was hired in early February shortly after making the difficult decision to resign from the varsity softball coaching position,” Esterline said. “Things have been going well this far, and I look forward to the potential of our season



Coach Alan Esterline

at hand. Given my history with the softball program and the legacy of the late Steve Klinge, switching roles was a difficult decision. However, when the opportunity arose to coach my son (Mason Esterline), I knew it was something that I really wanted to do.”

On top of being exciting, the coach believes that going from one sport to the other can help make the transition easier as well.

“Baseball and softball, while similar in many aspects, are totally different beasts,” Esterline said. “Knowing that, I think it will be easier having had experience with coaching high school softball, as compared to no experience at all.”

The health of the program seems to be pretty good overall, too. Numbers are up compared to recent years. That’s something that the coach obviously likes as well.

“Overall, I want to see our program continue to grow,” Esterline said. “This season is the first in nearly six seasons that we will have both a JV and varsity program. I am hoping this will only continue and set a new standard. I believe in the guys, and I believe in the future of Farwell baseball.”

Esterline got to jump right into things with game action too, as they swept a doubleheader over Merrill a few days before spring break.

“I am proud of how we started the season,” he said. “As always, there are improvements to be made, but it was a good start on the rest of our 36 games this season.”

Clare track teams appear to be loaded again

By BEN MURPHY
Cleaver Sports Writer

The Clare track and field teams are loaded up for another big-time season this spring. The Pioneers are seemingly annual contenders to win the Jack Pine Conference and make the state meet.

The Clare boys finished second place in the league last year and return a whole host of athletes looking to get them over the hump and win the title this year.

“This is the makings of a very good team,” veteran head coach Adam Burhans said. “We have already made an early statement about how strong we will be in the sprints and field events. We will naturally find balance in other parts of the program. We have a strong senior class and their leadership is expected.”

As for the league race, Burhans knows that their depth and experience should help them compete once again.

“We see everyone as a threat, if we maintain our balance and strength, we will be tough to beat,” he said. “(We’re looking for) reps for all and a chance to compete. We’ve done a nice job of it so far.”

The girls’ team will once again be led by head coach Kyle McKown. They finished second in the Jack Pine last year as well and took seventh at the Division II Team state meet.

Returning to the team will be Abby Boyd (sprints, jumps), Aleigha Finkbeiner (throws), Ata Dembele (hurdles), Ava Robinson (mid-dis-



New to the team will be Alayla Smith (throws), Alison Villa-Bilton (distance, mid-distance), Ava Rose (throws), Bella Pascaretti (sprints), Brooke McWethy (sprints), Brooklyn Parson (sprints), Brooklyn Wieferich (sprints, long jump), Ellie Blystone (sprints, pole vault), Elyse Harmon (sprints, jumps, hurdles), Emma Gibbs (sprints), Halie Buning (sprints), Isabelle Rodgers (sprints, mid-distance), Ivy Russell (sprints, jumps), Jasmine Ketchum (sprints), Jordyn Maki (sprints, jumps), Kamara Cooper (sprints, jumps), Kelsie Haley (sprints), Kennedy Boxx (sprints, pole vault), Lydia Kripa (sprints, pole vault), Lyra Fouts (throws), Madison Root (pole vault), Makensley Gotts (sprints), Melanie Schocknesse (sprints, jumps), Reagan Somers (mid-distance, long jump), Serena Michalski (sprints) and Tayden Dunkle (hurdles, sprints).

“We have a strong returning class on upperclassmen and a large class of incoming freshmen that are adding depth to our team,” McKown said. “Though weather has been a challenge, we’ve been working on putting in consistent hard work and working on skill development. (We want to) compete for Jack Pine Conference Championship, qualify and finish as high as possible at Division II Team State Championship.”

Clare was at Standish-Sterling on Wednesday, they host the Pioneer Invitational on Friday and they’ll host Pinconning and Gladwin on Wednesday, April 15.

Clare girls’ soccer has bunch of new faces

By BEN MURPHY
Cleaver Sports Writer

The Clare girls’ soccer team looks vastly different from a year ago. The Lady Pioneers weren’t 7-9-1 last season, but they hope the group of new faces doesn’t keep them from being competitive in their upcoming schedule.

“Between a big senior class last year, exchange students, one of our players being an exchange student this year, and a few players deciding not to play, we lost 17 players off last year’s team,” long-time head coach Jim Bond said. “Obviously, this makes us a very different team this year. This year we are just focusing on getting better as a team. We have a bunch of new players, many of which have not played soccer before, so our practices are mostly centered on learning the basics.”

Despite the departure of 17 players, they do have nine girls back from last spring; those being Kaitlin Zeilinger, Morgan Kryzanowski, Ivy Russell, Isabel Winkler, Isabelle Langley, Autumn Ellis, Jane Krell, Ryann Hales and Alora Joseph.

They’ll welcome in nine new players, including two exchange students (Salame Trenz and Camille Lipfeld), five freshmen (Reagan Sommers, Chloe Grigonis, Brooklyn Parsons, Alex Looker, and Kelsey Riehl), a sophomore (Makensley Gotts), and a junior (Kendal McNeerney). “Our hopes are that our veteran players can help carry us early and as a team we get better and more competitive as the season progresses,” Bond said. “As far as the conference goes, it looks like Standish-Sterling (defending Jack Pine Conference champion) is going to be tough again this year and Ogemaw Heights is always a tough team to beat. Although half of the team is new, the team chemistry seems to be really good this year. They are going to be a fun bunch to coach.”

Clare is 0-1-1 on the season so far and they also hosted Pinconning on Tuesday, they were at home against Ogemaw Heights on Wednesday, they’ll play at home against Reed City on Monday while on Tuesday they hit the road for Shepherd.

Farwell golf has three returnees, four newcomers

By BEN MURPHY
Cleaver Sports Writer

Weather conditions have been hit and miss so far this spring, that obviously has an impact on spring sports, the Farwell golf team included. They’ll look to shrug the frigid conditions off though, as they practice hard to get ready for the upcoming season.

“Once again, this season the weather is a factor in getting a grip on what we are going to be able to accomplish this year,” head coach Jim Lard said. “My hopes for the first few meets will be to get our team figured out. With the young team we have and losing a couple of our seasoned golfers to the baseball team we will need to get our scoring team figured out.”

Returning to the team will be senior Brayden Travis and sophomores Parker Tatar and Jamison Santure.

The rest of the team are newcomers senior Spencer Brown, junior Hunter Miller and freshmen Cal Mogg and Cooper Blodgett.

“Our one and only senior Brayden Travis will be our team leader this season,” Lard said. “He is a very good golfer and has worked very hard to improve his game. Early on this season he has looked like he will be a good number one golfer for us. Team goals will always be to do the best we can each and every time out, along with having fun. Golf is a difficult sport to master, and most people never master it completely, so doing the best you can every time out and enjoying the time on the course is a win in my book.”

Lard had to miss some time from the team during their early practices, but a former coach helped assist during his time off. That helped the program from missing key early developmental time.

“I do feel a little behind this year because I’m just finishing up recovering from surgery,” he said. “We had the expertise of our last golf coach Hugh Lewis who filled in for me for the first two weeks of the season. This allowed the men to practice until I got back. With as tough a conference as the Jack Pine is, it was a blessing to have Hugh help get the men started.”

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Cancer Support Group/Clare County will meet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, April 13 at Harrison District Library. Patients and caregivers welcome.

Clare County Right to Life meets at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at Clare Church of Nazarene, 10160 S. Grant Ave., Clare. New members welcome. Questions, call Karen Vuurens at 956-793-7538.

NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meetings are held at Sheri's Diner, 316 E. Park St. at 7 p.m. Saturdays; at noon and 7 p.m. Mondays; and at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at Harrison District Library.

Al-Anon Family Group meets at 8 p.m. Thursdays at First Congregational Church, 211 W. Spruce St., Harrison.

Lake George Booster Club, 89 S. Bringold, north of Lake George, hosts Euchre Tuesdays year-round. Doors open at 6 p.m.; cards start at 7 p.m. Public welcome.

Clare AA meetings at United Methodist Church in Clare are held: Mondays at noon (open meeting); Tuesdays at 8 p.m. (Step meeting); Wednesdays at 8 p.m. (general meeting except third Wednesday is Open Speaker meeting); Thursdays at 1 p.m. (Women's meeting); Fridays at 8 p.m. (Big Book Study); and Saturdays at noon (open meeting). Direct questions to Pat M. at 231-642-1303 (leave message for ASAP response).

By BEN MURPHY
Cleaver Sports Writer

Some hard work usually leads to good things on the softball field. At least, that's the plan for Farwell, as they get their 2026 softball season underway.

"This is team that works so well together," first year head coach Emily Lauer said. "If they can keep the same momentum going through the season, we should have some pretty great games to watch."

Lauer is in her first season as varsity head coach, but she is already identifying what her team needs to do in order to have a successful year.

FARWELL
from page 8

As for the boys, they return Aiden Brettingham (sprints), Blake Sholes (mid-distance), Braylin Bailey (sprints), Cian Carr (sprints), Conner Cousineau (distance), Dekklyn Hect (sprints), Hayden Roberts (sprints), Jordan Blain (sprints), Keegan Terrian (mid-distance), Mason Esterline (sprints), Memphis Peever (distance), Nathan Dean (sprints), Paxton Terrian (distance), Rylee Sprague (mid-distance), Treyton Lassen (sprints) and Tristan Szott (sprints).

New for the boys will be Blake Larsen (mid-distance), Brian Brown (mid-distance), Clayton Lutes (distance), Fabian Holtman (mid-distance), Marcos Quero (mid-distance), Theodor Gelbert (mid-distance) and Zane Hanna (mid-distance).

"The two team leaders that stand-out the most are Rylee Sprague and Aubrianna Terrian, both have the attitude and virtues that excel in a

"Trust, communication and confidence," she said. "The girls need to trust each other, communicate well and have confidence in their abilities. Our heavy hitters will need to step up when we need some runs. Thank goodness we have a few heavy hitters."

Returning to the team will be seniors Karleigh Ames (centerfield, shortstop), Allena Wunderlich (shortstop, utility), Anna Vanbuskirk (pitcher, third base, first base), Evie Bell (second base, pitcher), Chloe Miller (catcher, outfield) and Jacey Stover (catcher, outfield).

New to the team will be senior

high demand environment," Tubbs said. "The main goal for this season is to see dramatic increase in where our standards are. To raise the bar of expectations and backfill the next generations. We have a few kids looking to break school records. They are within reach of it. The measure for our success is individual progress and character development across the board."

Farwell was scheduled to host a Jack Pine Conference meet on Wednesday, and they also head to Chippewa Hills on Saturday.

"We have an extremely competitive conference," Tubbs said. "In the Jack Pine Conference championship last year, many of the top three times for the boys would be breaking our current school records. We as a team need to progress and meet the new standards of athletic output in our area. The hope for the early season is finding placement. With a young team there's a lot of runners still finding their spot, they got a lot to prove, and they are ready to do it."

Ella Norbury (first base) sophomores Alaina Slocum (pitcher, third base), Emma Barnett (utility) and Mya Yarhouse (catcher, outfield).

"I'd like all of my seniors to be leaders when their time comes," Lauer said. "With this many seniors they should know how to lead each other. We've got Karleigh Ames playing centerfield and she's my main voice in the outfield. My catcher Chloe Miller, who calls an excellent game for our pitchers and has always been the voice of reason. Allena Wunderlich, our shortstop, who is also a strong voice on the team. Overall, we have a team full of lead-

ers right now and I'll just need them to trust each other and have each other's back like they have their whole lives."

The coach added that she is being helped by her son Truett Lauer, and he has a great impact on the program as well.

"The support and time Truett puts in with me is special," Lauer said. "He's been right here with me at every practice and every game. The success and well-being of the girls are just as important to him. It's like he's got big sisters every year. He helps with practice, warm up's and we talk strategy as well. No way I could've

done all of this without his love and support. Thank you, son."

Farwell swept Merrill before spring break and they'll return to action on Friday at Breckenridge, they head to Bullock Creek on Tuesday, and they will host St. Louis on Thursday, April 16.

"I think we have a pretty good chance in our conference this year," Lauer said. "If our girls play at the top of their game I think we have a good chance at a great season. (We want to) work out some kinks, gain confidence in their abilities and just learn from mistakes but don't be afraid to make them."

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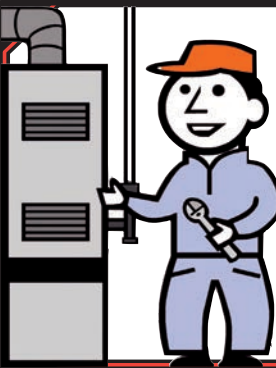
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Central Michigan District Health Department Celebrates National Public Health Week

Central Michigan District Health Department is celebrating National Public Health Week from April 6-12. The goal of National Public Health Week is to help people stay healthy and to highlight the services that support strong communities. We will be sharing posts about public health themes on social media all week.

CMDHD provides many important public health services, including vaccines, WIC nutrition support, and disease prevention. We also work to protect community health through emergency preparedness, environmental health, harm reduction services, and reproductive health care.

“National Public Health Week is a time to recognize the work that keeps our communities healthy,” said Steve Hall, CMDHD Health Officer. “Our public health staff work every day to protect and support the people we serve, and we are proud to be part of this effort.”

National Public Health Week was created by the American Public Health Association to highlight the value and impact of public health nationwide. The 2026 theme, “Ready. Set. Action!” encourages communities to reflect on public health progress and take steps toward a healthier future. The campaign is guided by a simple message that good health does not happen by chance. To learn more about National Public Health Week, visit <https://nphw.org/>.

The Central Michigan District Health Department serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit the website at www.cmdhd.org and follow on Facebook and Instagram.

MDHHS recommends early measles vaccine doses in areas of the state with possible community transmission

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is alerting residents about possible community transmission of measles and recommendations to protect communities.

Seven measles cases have been identified in Washtenaw County and an eighth case of measles was confirmed in neighboring Monroe County today. The Monroe County case has not been definitively linked to any of the Washtenaw County cases or travel, and the timing and proximity to the outbreak raises concerns that community transmission may be occurring.

“Measles is incredibly transmissible and we are now seeing possible spread outside the initial outbreak in Washtenaw County,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarain, chief medical executive. “Because people with measles can transmit the virus before they experience symptoms, we want to make sure we are protecting the most vulnerable members of our communities by recommending early vaccination for infants ages 6 through 11 months. The MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine remains our best defense, and two doses offers 97% protection against measles.”

All individuals in Michigan without evidence of measles immunity are urged to get the MMR vaccine as soon as possible, Bagdasarain added.

Vaccination for children

The MMR vaccine is routinely recommended at 12 to 15 months of age with a second dose given a minimum of 28 days after the first dose.

New recommendation as of April 2026: Given the possibility of ongoing community transmission, MDHHS is also recommending that infants ages 6 to 11 months receive an accelerated first dose of measles vaccine if they are in the following groups:

- Residents of Washtenaw, Monroe, Wayne, Oakland, Jackson, Livingston or Lenawee counties.
 - Individuals who travel to Washtenaw and Monroe counties.
- This recommendation is in effect until Saturday, May 16, which is two incubation periods after the infectious period of the last identified measles case. Any updates to this recommen-

dation will be posted on the MDHHS measles webpage. Infants ages 6 to 11 months of age who receive an accelerated first dose will require two additional doses of the MMR vaccine after 12 months of age to complete the series.

Vaccination for adults

It is possible that individuals vaccinated between 1963 and 1967 received a less-effective version of the vaccine. Individuals vaccinated before 1989 may have only received one dose of the MMR vaccine and may be eligible for a second dose. If you fall into either of these categories, or if you are unsure whether you have ever received the MMR vaccine, contact your health care provider or local pharmacy to see if you are eligible for a dose of the vaccine.

General measles information

Measles is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable disease that spreads through direct person-to-person contact and through the air. Measles symptoms usually appear seven to 14 days after contact with the virus but can take up to 21 days. Measles can be spread by an infected individual before they show symptoms.

Common symptoms include:

- High fever (may spike to over 104°F).
- Cough.
- Runny nose.
- Red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis).
- Tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums and roof of the mouth (Koplik Spots).
- A rash that starts as flat red spots on the face at the hairline, then spreads to the trunk, arms and legs three to five days after symptoms begin. Small, raised bumps may also appear on top of the flat red spots.

Individuals who think they may have been exposed, or who develop symptoms, are urged to call their health care provider before seeking testing or treatment so steps can be taken to prevent exposure to other individuals.

Vaccines are available at doctor’s offices, most pharmacies and local health departments. Children eligible for the Vaccines for Children program can receive no-cost vaccination at a provider enrolled in that program.

A Northern Tradition April 12: An Exclusive Up North Experience at Jay’s

With just days to go, community members are invited to secure their spot at one of the region’s most anticipated annual events – A Northern Tradition, happening 5-8 p.m. Sunday, April 12, at Jay’s Sporting Goods in Clare.

Now in its 23rd year, A Northern Tradition offers a one-of-a-kind Up North experience inside one of Michigan’s most iconic outdoor destinations. For one night only, Jay’s is closed to the public and open exclusively to ticket holders, creating a relaxed, after-hours atmosphere filled with food, camaraderie, and discovery.

Guests can stroll the aisles, enjoy tastings from local restaurants, watch live outdoor demonstrations, and connect with Mid

Michigan College – all while taking in the sights and sounds of a true Up North evening.

“This event has become a favorite tradition for so many in our community,” said Alexa Carey, executive director of the Mid Foundation. “It’s a unique chance to experience Jay’s in a completely different way while coming together to support students and the future of our region.”

Each \$50 ticket includes a \$35 gift certificate to Jay’s Sporting Goods, a commemorative outdoor-themed print by featured artist Julie Tyslicky, and entry into a drawing for a \$1,000 Jay’s gift certificate. A silent auction features a variety of unique items and experiences to round out the

evening.

Over the past two decades, A Northern Tradition has raised more than \$2 million to support students through scholarships, campus initiatives, and improvements that enhance student success.

“This event continues to make a real difference for our students,” Carey added. “Every ticket helps create opportunities – and it’s also just a great night out.”

Tickets are available at Mid’s Harrison and Mt. Pleasant Campuses, at Jay’s Sporting Goods in Clare, or online at midmich.edu/ant.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit midmich.edu/ant.

Summer Registration Open at Mid

Journeys begin at Mid Michigan College and lead beyond. With personalized guidance, flexible options, and support at every step, Mid helps students move forward.

“Whether students are working toward a career or planning to transfer, we’re here to help them achieve their goals,” said Beth Binder, director of Admissions. “Every step of the way, we’re here to encourage and support their success.”

Registration for summer courses is now open, and the semester begins Tuesday, May 26.

“Tuition-free options make it easier than ever to get started,” Binder added. “Opportunities like the Community College Guarantee and Michigan Reconnect, along with financial aid, remove nearly all financial barriers.”

The Community College Guarantee offers a tuition-free path for in-district students, significant support for out-of-district students, and up to \$1,000 for additional expenses like textbooks and transportation. Recent high

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school graduates have up to 18 months to enroll and take advantage of these benefits.

Michigan Reconnect covers in-district tuition and fees after financial aid is applied, significantly reducing the cost of attendance. Reconnect is available to students age 25 and older who have not yet earned a college degree.

Students can also apply for



SVSU names Dean’s List students for fall 2025

UNIVERSITY CENTER – More than 1,880 students from Saginaw Valley State University earned a spot on the winter 2025 semester Deans’ List. To be eligible, a student must take at least 12 credit hours and carry a semester GPA of 3.4 or better.

Among those earning this academic honor were Hanna Herman, Nicole Seybert and Kaitlinn Langley of Lake; Samantha Lockwood, Aleah Garver, Jordan Muzzin, Kayla Newman and Allison Nobis of Clare; Paige Carstensen and Emily Hall of Farwell; and Alanna Morse, Kendall Rouleau, Hunter Rouleau and Paige Carstensen of Harrison.

Saginaw Valley State University is a comprehensive university with more than 90 programs of study for 7,000 students. Located on a suburban campus in Michigan’s Great Lakes Bay Region, SVSU is committed to a supportive and empowering environment for students.



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5185 N. Clare Ave., Harrison
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Clare County Senior Community Center

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