

The Clare County Cleaver

\$1.00



Volume 145 Issue 42

~ Locally owned and independently operated since 1881 ~

Thursday, October 15, 2026 • 989-539-7496

clarecountycleaver.net • Harrison, Michigan

BUCK TALES

The Harrison Community All-Sports Boosters will hold their raffle drawing for the 1978 Chevrolet Corvette during half time at the Harrison football game Friday, Oct. 16. Need not to be present to win.

The Hornets will play the Shepard Blue Jays in their Jackpine crossover game. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

Clare Witch Project at Camp Rotary arrival 7:00-10:15 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17. \$9 per person, children under 5 are free.

Families are invited to celebrate Halloween at Mid Michigan College's Trunk or Treat event from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22 at the Harrison campus Poet Family Outdoor Education Center, 1375 S. Clare Ave.

Big R's & Smokin Joe's Comfort Care House Indoor Yard Sale 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 22-24 at 2246 E. Cranberry Lake Road, Harrison.

Gladwin Area Friends of the Theatre presents "Plaza Suite" by Neil Simon at 7 p.m. Oct. 22, 23 and 24 at 524 E. Cedar Ave., Gladwin.

Harrison Sportsman Club Trunk or Treat featuring Harrison Robotics Team 5-7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24. 3704 N. Harrison Ave.

2nd Annual Moose Lodge Trunk or Treat from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24. Games, music, prizes. Best Dressed Trunk Contest. Photo spot. Hot beverages.

Clare County Farm Bureau Tract-or-Treat will be held from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24 at Clare Gladwin CTE Center, 3200 S. Clare Ave., Clare.

Trunk or Treat and Petting Farm from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25 at the Clare County Fairgrounds, Harrison.

Shop Local and Buck Pole Event throughout Harrison is Saturday, Nov. 14 and Sunday, Nov. 15. Harrison's biggest retail weekend combined with a fun Buck Pole Contest on Second Street. Stay tuned for more details!

Craft Fair at VFW 1075 Harrison from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14 at 3190 N. Clare Ave.

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

Veterans Coffee Hour from 9-10 a.m. second Tuesday of the month at Hayes Township building.

Road Dedicated to 24-Year Road Commission Veteran Dick Haynak CCRC Employees, Families Celebrate Project

By DIANNE ALWARD-BIERY
Cleaver Senior Staff Writer

HARRISON – The recent grand opening and ribbon-cutting on the newly-completed Clare County Road Commission facility was grand – but it was not the last candle on the cake. No, that honor was the Oct. 10 family day for employees and their families to tour the site and enjoy a picnic on a fantastic mid-fall day. The road commission has some 46 employees and it appeared that most of them took advantage of the opportunity to show off their new worksite, introduce coworkers to their families, and bask in the glow of a job well done.



At left, Dewayne Rogers, road commission manager, addresses the gathering. Right, CCRC Chair Karen Hulliberger speaks of her great respect for honoree, the late Dick Haynak.



Dewey Haynak, surrounded by family members, proudly holds the sign honoring his father, the late Dick Haynak. (Cleaver photos by Dianne Alward-Biery)

Addressing the crowd, Dewayne Rogers, CCRC manager, described the new facility, focusing on the many hours his crews had invested/dedicated to completing the project and doing so well. He began by thanking all those who were in attendance, including friends and family, for what he called "a big day for us."

Actually, his first official thank-

you went to his wife who he said had put up with a lot, as the problems he dealt with during the day came home to her in the evening. He also thanked Dave Coker and Bubba-Q for the food provided for the event. Road Commissioners were thanked for their support throughout the process.

"It took their 'yes' vote to take this idea and make it happen into

what we're standing in front of today," Rogers said.

FED Design/Builders were thanked, and acknowledged as good to work with on the project.

He also thanked the crew, noting the many hours his crews had invested/dedicated to completing the project and doing so well.

"This whole area was just a pile of junk two years ago, and last

year, April 2 we broke ground," he said. "And the process was we did all the dirt work here ourselves. It saved money, and these guys showed the talent and willingness, and put in a lotta, lotta time here: moving dirt, building, digging footings, compaction, just every little thing that went into this."

Rogers said he believed everyone currently working had put in at least a day's worth of work into the project, if not more. He also acknowledged that the road commission's road to maintain/repair,

she had ever met.

"He always welcomed everyone with a smile," Hulliberger said, adding that his true character showed through, as evidenced at a board meeting when she was being disrespected and he had stood to end the heated comments.

"So, when it came down to trying to find a name for our new road coming into the road commission, I couldn't have thought of anybody else than Dick Haynak to name the road after," she said. "I think he would be so honored, and I hope

today he's looking down on us and proud of our new building."

She then thanked the Haynak family for attending and sharing their dad and grandpa for all those years with the Clare County Road Commission.

That road sign was held aloft so all could see it before it would



Hulliberger finishes her commentary as the new sign is held aloft before being taken to its designated site at the corner of Haynak Drive and Mannsiding Road.

bridges to build, signs to install.

"On top of all that, they got everything done," he said.

CCRC Board Chair Karen Hulliberger spoke next, addressing her comments to the longtime service of Dick Haynak, who had served the Clare County Road Commission for 24 years. Having a personal family history with the CCRC, as well as having served on the CCRC Board alongside Haynak when he served as chairman, Hulliberger had the honor of presenting the street sign that was created to honor Haynak.

She described Haynak as one of the kindest, most level-headed man

later be installed at the corner of the road commission's new access drive. That location is now the official intersection of Haynak Drive and Mannsiding Road.

After the "official work" was done, the crowd continued to enjoy one another's company while also sharing stories about their friend, coworker and family member Dick Haynak. His high regard was everywhere, and his family in particular took great pride in his lengthy service to the county being honored. Haynak passed away just more than one year ago at the age of 89, but his memory definitely is being carried on in Clare County.

Win over Bullock Creek snaps Clare football's two game skid

By BEN MURPHY
Cleaver Sports Writer

After dropping two close, hard-fought games the previous two weeks, things finally went the way the Clare football team wanted on Friday. The Pioneers were hosting Bullock Creek in Jack Pine Conference action, and they were able to outlast the Lancers in quite the high scoring game, 48-35.

"It certainly feels a lot better," head coach Steven Spranger said. "We know we're a good team, and our confidence never really wavered."

That confidence certainly came in handy for the Pioneers, especially when they found themselves trailing for much of the first half. They turned the tables in the third and fourth quarters, getting back out in front and eventually taking a two-possession lead in the final stanza.

"Our composure (was key)," Spranger said. "Like we've been saying all season, we're a young team, but I think the last couple of weeks has really forced a lot of growth onto our team and they were able to stay calm while we were down early, then capitalize when it was our opportunity."

Quarterback Dane Alexander was effective throwing the ball and running it, and Mason Heintz was able to rush for over 100 yards too; giving the Pioneers plenty of offense to draw upon.



Congratulations to the CHS Homecoming Royalty Queen Raelley Mulheron and King Sergio Jaimes.

"We were able to get the running game, especially Mason Heintz, going early," Spranger said. "He was able to bust off a couple of big inside runs that forced them to soften up on their edges, which allowed us to exploit that area later in the game."

After giving up an early touchdown, Clare scored its first points on a five-yard touchdown pass from

Alexander to Judah Woods; and a Brayden Humphrey extra point brought them within 8-7.

The Lancers stayed one step ahead of the Pioneers in the first half though, and they extended their lead out to 15-7. Clare struck back with a thrilling 53-yard touchdown run by Heintz to pull them within 15-14, and after Bullock Creek scored to go

up 22-14, Clare scored with just one second left before the half, on a nine-yard touchdown strike from Alexander to Blayn Bigelow; and it was 22-20 at the break.

The Pioneers scored twice in the third quarter to take a 34-29 lead entering the fourth. Alexander had a hand on both of those touchdowns, plunging in from a yard out on the first one, and he tossed a six-yard touchdown pass to Jayden Nemetz for the second one.

The fourth quarter saw Alexander connect with Nemetz for another six-yard touchdown, and Alexander helped ice the game with 3:41 left, rushing in from 38-yards out.

Alexander finished 16-of-23 passing for 191 yards and four touchdowns and he rushed 16 times for 163 yards and two scores. Heintz finished with 113 yards and one score on 15 carries and Nemetz ran four times for 42 yards. The receiving game was led by Marcus Haynak who had four catches for 81 yards, Nemetz hauled in seven passes for 65 yards and two scores and Donovan Hoogerhyde had two receptions for 21 yards.

As for the defense, Max Pechacek and Gunner West both had eight tackles, Heintz had seven and Thomas Gordon-Johnson and Cooper Weissend had five each. Bigelow added four tackles and he hauled in one interception and Bryce Mills had four tackles and he got to the quarterback once for a sack.

"A ton of positives to highlight," Spranger said. "First off, our offensive line (Marshal Strouse, William Tait, Peyton Duncan, Gunner West, Bentley Kleinhardt) had a great game. They were undersized by a lot, and we were able to lean on them quite a bit. Then our senior backfield (Dane Alexander and Mason Heintz) got us going early and often and completely took control of the game. Defensively, two of our youngest guys on that side of the ball (Thomas Gordon-Johnson (10th) and Max Pechacek (9th) both had outstanding games. A tremendous win on homecoming against a very confident football team. We were tremendously undersized compared to Creek tonight, but we were the more physical team all night."

Clare (3-4 overall, 2-3 Jack Pine) is set for the Jack Pine Conference crossover game on Friday, when they head to St. Louis (1-6, 1-4). The Sharks have struggled some this year, but they did get their first win of the season last week, when they topped Pinconning, 58-0.

"They haven't had a season they were anticipating, but they still have a lot of size with a couple of good athletes," Spranger said. "Some keys will be to continue to build off the second half of this past week, controlling the line of scrimmage, and winning the turnover battle."

See More Sports
on page 8

COMMUNITY LIFE



• ClareCountyCleaver.net
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Pictured, from left, are Kimberly Kuhn, Montcalm County Register of Deeds, 2027 MARD 1st VP; Lori Mott, Clare County Clerk/Register of Deeds, 2027 MARD President; and, Patty Niepoth, Antrin County Register of Deeds 2027 MARD Immediate Past President.

Mott Named 2027 Michigan Register of Deeds Association President

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, Clare County Clerk and Register of Deeds Lori Mott was inducted as the 2027 Michigan Register of Deeds Association President. Mott served as the organizations 1st Vice President in 2026, 2nd in 2025, 3rd in 2024 leading up to her election as President this year. At any point if you are not fulfilling your vice president duties, the association can elect someone else so it's not a one and done election.

In her speech to her colleagues Mott outlined her goals for her term. "As your 2027 President, I am committed to moving MARD forward in a positive, purposeful direction. I want to protect Registers of Deeds and strengthen our association. I want to make a real difference – not just for the next twelve months, but for many years to come.

Here is how I intend to do that. First, we will continue and build upon our strong commitment to education and preparedness. Our mission calls us to provide excellent training and to keep timely legislative updates flowing so that every county office can record accurately, consistently, and with confidence. In the year ahead, I will work with our committees to expand practical, relevant training – especially in areas that protect us and the public: cybersecurity, fraud prevention, electronic recording best practices, and emerging legislative changes. Knowledge remains one of our strongest forms of protection.

Second, I will focus on protecting the office of Register of Deeds and the strength of this association. We face ongoing challenges – technological, legislative, and resource-related. One area I am especially committed to is reviewing and updating statutes that may conflict with more current statutes adopted by other organizations, while always safeguarding the integrity of our records and the authority of our offices. We must stay unified, informed, and proactive. I will work closely with our legislative committee, our partners, and each of you to ensure our collective voice is clear and effective. When we stand together, we protect not only our individual offices but the trust Michigan residents place in the records we keep.

Third—and this is especially close to my heart – I want to help the leaders who will come after me. One year as president is not enough if the progress ends when the term does. I intend to continue the strong tradition of leadership development and mentoring that already exists in this association. I want to build on that foundation by offering additional pathways and practical tools so that future presidents – whether they are just beginning to serve on committees or stepping into higher roles – feel supported, prepared, and never alone. Good leadership should leave the organization stronger than it found it. That is the difference I want to make.

I also want us to continue building resources that outlast any single term: shared best practices and stronger connections across our districts so that consistency and excellence become easier for every office, large or small."

MARD or Michigan Register of Deeds Association is a professional organization to optimize educational and networking opportunities for the registers of the State of Michigan. Their mission is to safeguard public records, ensure transparency, and uphold the integrity of property rights across Michigan.

City Manager Granted Contractual Request

By DIANNE ALWARD-BIERY
Clever Senior Staff Writer

HARRISON – The Oct. 6 Harrison City Council meeting saw all members present, with the exception of Dena Woods.

In his mayor's report, Dan Sullivan noted that "Fall is upon us," then went on to thank the fire department for their assistance at an accident the previous Friday afternoon. He also described their work as being "an awesome job, very professional."

Adoption of the Sept. 21 minutes and the day's Council Bills was followed by a report from Deputy Josh Loudenslager, who said he had been watching for vehicles on Phelps Nature Trail, and had seen people running golf carts going down the trails. He said he had been stopping as many as he could.

In regard to previously discussed juvenile issues, he said he and the other city officer had taken an aggressive stance, resulting actions he was sure the City's attorney was well aware of.

Specifically, he noted a fight that happened at the park, and having issued tickets to all five kids as well as their parents.

"A lot of people are very happy with us right now because of it," he said.

Loudenslager also described the biggest issue as that of homeless people, citing three new vagrants who had just moved into town who are currently camping out at the parks: one at the Splash Pad and one for sure at City Park.

"Under your ordinances, the only thing I'm seeing is Prohibited Acts, which is staying out at the parks after 10 p.m. or camping in general," he said. The offender's argument was that it is a city park, so Loudenslager then asked if Council would like the deputy to ticket them for Trespass or address them with the Prohibited Acts charge through the City Ordinance.

He explained that trespass would also fall under the Prohibited Acts, wherein they would get a verbal warning and be told to move on. If they return and stay there again, a summons would be issued which is a 30-day misdemeanor [under state law]. There is also the option to immediately write a ticket for Prohibited Acts City Ordinance violation which is a 30-day \$100 fine directly through the City [a summons dealt with through the City's attorney].

The conundrum there is the more

Officer Reports on Vagrants Issue, Stepped-Up Violations Ticketing



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Kathy Maharas proudly displays the certificate recognizing her completion of the Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association requirements, designating her as a Michigan Certified Professional Treasurer. (Clever photo by Dianne Alward-Bieri)

they're not allowed to be on the property, they can be arrested immediately if they refuse to leave or if they leave and come back.

Mayor Sullivan then suggested some sort of safety class requirement be established for e-bikes, which the deputy said could certainly be done.

Other Department Reports began with Fire Chief Barry Wallace Jr. who noted 366 calls year-to-date, and that his department had been busy the previous week with Homecoming and Spirit Week, for which they had provided some equipment to use. That had resulted in some people filling out fire department applications with interviews upcoming. Homecoming also had included trucks in the parade, as well as blocking traffic.

Wallace also noted review of insurance for trucks, etc., as well as policies for department members. Of note was a grant which had been secured by Remie Lipovsky, fire operations coordinator, for a pallet of water from Ice Mountain. He commended Lipovsky for his efforts to seek out and secure grants for the department.

Responding to a question from earlier in the week, he defined the Mutual Aid Agreement with other departments, including Roscommon, Gladwin, Clare and

surrounding departments. "If they help us, we don't pay," he said. "If we help them, same thing."

Wallace urged Council members to continue asking any questions they might have, and to let him know if they wanted to hang out at the department.

Mike Freeman, code enforcement officer, reported having had a quiet two weeks, describing that as "a good thing."

Clerk Kathy Maharas proudly displayed her plaque from the Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association, which brought forth a bit of applause. She also informed that the election public accuracy test would be at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 19, and that early voting in Room A of the Clare County Building starts Saturday, Oct. 24.

Treasurer Tracy Wheeler-Clay reported spending lots of time helping the city manager go through lots of health insurance data.

Justin Cavanaugh, city manager, reported he was working on a wage study as part of the budget, and expected to have something to present at the next meeting or the first November meeting at the latest. He also provided attendance reports for the Harrison Planning Commission and the Downtown Development Authority, with member attendance percentages for those whose terms will expire in January 2027. He anticipated there would be one vacancy to fill on the DDA and likely two on the Planning Commission, and that he would advertise for interest in applying for those positions [which would become effective in February].

Cavanaugh then expressed a desire for Council to consider entering into a contract with him, rather than his just being appointed and subject to termination after an election of new Council members. The idea there, is that such a contract [as is done in many municipalities] would provide some job security, flexibility and assurance for both himself and

See COUNCIL on page 10

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Joke
DAD
of the Week

"I don't trust stairs.
They're always up to
something."
submitted by Scott Evans

Have a good joke? Or a bad joke? Submit to the Clare County Cleaver or the Hardy Bonham office.

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Event Calendar
HARRISON MI

NOV 14 & 15 SHOP LOCAL & BUCK POLE

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ayager@cityofharrison-mi.gov

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Outdoors With Jeff

The other day, I got up early and decided to go hunting before the sun got up. I'm not one to go hunting with a bow in the morning. Not because I'm lazy and want to sleep, I just haven't seen many deer when I hunt in the morning over the past years. It seems that the deer bed down not long before sunrise.

On this day getting up to hunt was not my plan when I went to bed. What I found out when I got to my tree blind was one of the most beautiful sunrises I have ever seen. As I watched the sun come up, I noticed a haze or early fog coming in at the same time. The haze seemed to float over the woods and settle into the lower valleys; it was like a blanket covering the ground. It was almost like a spirit of some sort. This cloak seemed to just hang there. It was one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen. Watching this phenomenon is something I will never forget.

As the sun rose and the fog seemingly started to disappear as slowly as it did when it came in. As the fog thinned out, the colors of the trees started to show with their multitude of colors, red, yellow, and purple. As I watched, I began to think, I have seen many sunrises and sunsets in my 60 years of hunting and with each observation they get better. What is it that gives you



JEFF GOYT

a sense of security, watching a sunrise?

Some people will tell you that all sunrises are all alike. That is not true. After I left my blind, I started to go, I remembered an old country song from long ago. In the song it talked about the changing colors in the woods as fall starts to leave, in the song they said that all these changing colors are God's coloring book. Only he could make these beautiful colors come to remind us of his presence.

Well, now I am back to hunting in the evening and have been seeing deer on and off. I have been seeing some really nice bucks, however they were far enough away, for me to shoot. Some would ask if I'm using anything that would bring the deer closer to my tree blind. The answer is no. Some would ask if I'm seeing less deer than when it was legal to use bait, the answer is no, I'm seeing about the same amount.

If you look at the calendar, as I just did, you will realize that half of the bow season is over and it's only a couple weeks and the firearms season will start. I ask, fall sure has come and gone already? The first part of the season was warmer than usual and there seemed to be an abundance of rain that kept the hunters out of the woods.

Now as I type this article, the US weather Service is forecasting snow in the coming days is possible.

For me, and many of the hunters, hunting is an obsession, it's not only because the meat is good, it something else that draws you to the woods.

When I worked at the Sheriff Department there was an old saying that the deputies always said that would show you how hunters are obsessed. The deputies would say, "Make me work Christmas Eve, make me work Christmas day, but don't make me work opening day." See what I mean.

Now that the season is halfway through and rifle season is coming sooner than we think. Hunters are still talking about bait bans and Chronic Wasting Disease, (CWD).

One person told me that he has a lot of apples in his orchard, and he watches the deer nose to nose; devour apples as fast as they can. What's the difference? Were just going to have wait and see what the experts say. They're a lot of opinions out there.

I have been reading some information that I can't confirm; I didn't know that CWD was also in Finland, Sweden and Norway. I also can't confirm that Texas was the first state to get CWD. There are some hunters that will tell you that CWD came to Texas after the introduction of exotic animals from Africa to hunting ranches. Again, I cannot confirm this story. We just have to adjust and follow the law and hope they can find the source and call of this disease.

I wish every hunter a fun time hunting, ethically and safely this hunting season.



Clare County History



This postcard of the Clare County Jail was printed at the Cleaver office, and the back is marked "Cleaver Print-Harrison, Michigan." This postcard was produced in various colors of blue, green, and burgundy and we have about a dozen of them we have collected over the years. The Clare County Jail shown here was built in 1885 and razed in the 1960s. It is in the same location as the jail and courthouse today.

What's all the buzz about yellowjackets this fall?

By JACKSON LUKAS
Capital News Service

LANSING – Yellowjackets are a commonly found pest flying around your residence during the summer and fall.

They sting, bite and are more aggressive than your average bumble bee.

A noticeable rise in yellowjacket populations in Michigan has left people wondering: Why am I getting stung so much?

Dion DeGennaro, the president of Sergio's Pest Control in West Bloomfield, said in a CBS News interview that the increase of yellowjackets is due to a multitude of factors, but a main one is a process called trophallaxis.

Trophallaxis is used between bugs to directly transfer liquid food and bodily fluids to one another. When bee colonies start to die off in late summer and early fall, yellowjackets lose their main source of

food which is bee larvae.

Yellowjackets use the trophallaxis process to break down their prey.

The diminished numbers of bee larvae causes them to starve and become more aggressive and to rely on humans for sources of food, said DeGennaro.

Areas in the southeastern part of



A yellowjacket nest. Credit: Zach Huang/ beetography.com

the state have seen larger numbers of the insect, according to DeGennaro.

Sarah Hughson, an arthropod diagnostician and a specialist on plant and pest diagnostics at Michigan State University, says yellowjackets are most likely to

sting people in late summer and early fall.

"Yellowjackets start to build their nests and populations during the early summer times. They reach their peak during the late summer and early fall and become more aggressive due to stress from declining food sources," Hughson said.

They are desperate for something to eat, which may be why people are more likely to be stung this time of year, Hughson said.

Farrin Forsberg, a lifetime resident of Okemos, says the number of yellowjackets around her house has increased tremendously.

"They seem a lot meaner than previous years," Forsberg said.

"I moved into this house in 2016 and we always had them around, but they seemed to be especially

bad this year."

"I recently went into anaphylactic shock after I was stung by a couple of yellowjackets. I had to rush to the emergency room and was told I now have developed a severe allergy to them due to how many times I have been stung over the past couple of years," Forsberg said.

DeGennaro said in the CBS interview that yellowjackets commonly borrow in the ground, in gaps in bricks and on siding of houses and can build full nests in bushes.

While avoiding these pests may be difficult, DeGennaro suggests first calling a professional to handle the problem but also suggests looking for and avoiding small holes in your yard while mowing and planting gardens.

BINGO NIGHT

Players' Guide

Harrison Women of the Moose

Sunday - 6:00 p.m.

5185 N. Clare Ave., Harrison

License # A22334

Proceeds for General Fund

Harrison Moose Lodge

Monday - 6:00 p.m.

5185 N. Clare Ave., Harrison

License # A21561

Proceeds for General Fund

Harrison Lions Club

Tuesday - 6:00 p.m.

Mott's Up North Event Venue

452 N. Clare Ave, Harrison

License # A01110

Proceeds for General Fund

Harrison Women of the Moose

Wednesday - 6:00 p.m.

5185 N. Clare Ave., Harrison

License # A20074

Proceeds for General Fund

Harrison Lions Club

Thursday - 6:00 p.m.

Mott's Up North Event Venue

452 N. Clare Ave, Harrison

License # A01110

Proceeds for General Fund

VFW Post 1075

Friday - 6:00 p.m.

VFW Post 1075 - Harrison

License # A00154

Proceeds for Geneal Fund

Offering electronic machines or paper, or both.

VFW Post 1075

Saturday - 6:00 p.m.

VFW Post 1075 - Harrison

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Proceeds for General Fund

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BINGO NIGHT

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42-1

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EDITORIAL, STATE & LOCAL



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Farwell Man Pleads to Embezzlement from Vulnerable Adult

LANSING – On Oct. 7, Phillip Lee Sprague, 62, of Farwell, plead-ed no contest to three counts of Embezzlement from a Vulnerable Adult \$20,000-\$50,000 in the 55th Circuit Court in Clare County, announced Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. Pursuant to a plea agreement reached with prosecutors, Sprague paid \$150,000 restitution, agreed to the entry of a restitution order of an additional \$250,000, and agreed to the entry of a court order prohibiting his handling of other people’s money or serving as a caregiver for any adults.

Sprague was charged in March of this year, and bound over to stand trial in September, for embezzling from an 82-year-old victim who had sustained a traumatic brain injury. Sprague illegally obtained more than \$400,000 of assets from the victim. Of that, more than \$300,000 was reportedly obtained through changes the victim made to his Will and Trust to benefit Sprague instead of the victim’s children and grandchildren.

“With this conviction, we’ve secured significant restitution to the family of the victim,” said Attorney General Nessel. “Michigan’s elderly, and especially those reliant on others to manage their house-hold needs or finances, deserve our attention and our vigilant protec-tion. My office will continue to hold accountable those who target and exploit vulnerable adults.”

Sprague is scheduled to be sentenced in the 55th Circuit Court on Dec. 15.

Administration’s Challenge to Michigan’s Hen Enclosure Law Dismissed

LANSING – On Oct. 7, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan dis-missed the Trump administration challenge to Michigan’s Hen Enclosure Law, announced Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. In January 2026, the Trump administration sued the State of Michigan and sought to displace Michigan’s authority to ensure eggs sold within the state come from birds kept under humane conditions, arguing that the state Hen Enclosure Law was preempted by the federal Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA). The Michigan Department of Attorney General defended the State of Michigan against this lawsuit and preserved Michigan’s right to enforce the Hen Enclosure Law.

The administration’s complaint alleged, without any factual sup-port, that Michigan’s Hen Enclosure Law and similar laws across the country contributed to the rising cost of eggs. U.S. District Court Judge Jane M. Beckering dismissed the federal challenge, holding that the Trump administration failed to establish standing to challenge Michigan’s Law. Specifically, Judge Beckering found that the federal government had failed to show it was harmed by Michigan’s enforcement of the Hen Enclosure Law and failed to “establish a concrete and particularized injury to [the United States] enforce-ment of EPIA.”

“I am pleased the District Court dismissed the Trump administra-tion’s flawed assault on Michigan’s authority to protect the health and welfare of Michigan residents, as well as the animals we rely on to feed our families,” said Attorney General Nessel. “This lawsuit was a thinly veiled attempt by the federal government to shift blame for higher costs at the grocery store from the President’s own failed policies to state laws that protect animal welfare.”

In 2019 the Michigan Legislature amended Michigan’s Animal Industry Act to set mini-mum standards for housing egg-laying hens, ensuring that eggs sold in Michigan come from ani-mals housed in conditions that meet these minimum standards. The Hen Enclosure Law passed Michigan’s Legislature with bipartisan support, demonstrating the State’s commitment to the

humane treatment of egg-laying birds. Michigan’s Hen Enclosure Law is broadly supported in the State; industry groups and animal rights groups alike intervened to defend the law against the federal lawsuit, including Michigan Allied Poultry Industries and Humane World for Animals and Animal Wellness Action.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader Urges Citizens to be Informed about Copperton High Voltage Project

Our Land. Our Voice.

Have you heard about the pro-posed Copperton high-voltage transmission project? Plans are underway for hundreds of miles of new 345-kV power lines across Michigan, including areas around us. These lines could mean towers, permanent ease-ments, access roads and restric-tions on how some landowners can use their own property.

There are also legitimate ques-tions about long-term exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) that deserve honest answers.

The final routes have not been chosen yet. That means now is the time to pay attention – not after the decisions have been made.

If you own land in or near the proposed routes, learn where they may go, know your property rights, ask questions and make your voice heard. Our land is more than a piece of property. It’s our homes, our farms, our invest-ments and what we hope to pass on to our children.

Let’s not wait until the towers

are coming. Let’s speak up now.

Stephanie Montney
Farwell

Drone Demo a Big Success

It was a great evening to gather outside the Greenwood Township Hall on Sept. 28, for a drone demonstration by Sgt. Dawson of the Clare County Sheriff’s Department. The Department drones can fly 250 feet up and can look approximately one-two miles away. The drones are used primari-ly for search and rescue. The Department can put streets (a GPS map) on the screen.

Right now, the Sheriff’s Department has 10 people doing the training which requires 40-60 hours. Currently we have two offi-cers that are certified. Officers must be licensed commercially through the FAA.

Officer Dawson informed us that Greenwood Township had a side by side stolen which was recovered.

Greenwood Township, through its Neighborhood Watch program, is hosting a CPR class which will be held at the Sheriff’s Office in Harrison on Jan. 9 from 1-4 p.m. Anyone interested please contact me at 603-934-3375.

Bronwyn Hawks Asplund
Trustee Greenwood Township

Submit All Editorials/Letters To The Editor:

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AG Brings Lawsuit Against Trump Administration for Terminating Funding for Unemployment Insurance System Improvements

to states through the program:

-IT Modernization Grants, to develop resilient unemployment information technology systems that can continuously adapt to changing conditions and integrate evolving fraud prevention tech-nologies.

-Integrity Grants, to strengthen unemployment insurance program integrity through ID verification.

-Navigator Grants, to help eligi-ble workers learn about and apply for unemployment insurance ben-efits (i.e. navigate the unemploy-ment insurance program) and sup-port states in delivering timely benefits.

-Tiger Team Grants, to imple-ment recommendations from multi-disciplinary experts in the areas of fraud prevention, equi-table access to benefits, and pay-ment timeliness.

-Equity Grants, to help eliminate barriers to access, improve timeli-ness of payments, and ensure equity in fraud prevention activities.

-Fraud Prevention Grants, to guard against improper payment reduction, assist overpayment recovery and other fraud preven-tion and detection efforts.

The U.S. Department of Labor reviewed and approved project plans under each grant program and set multi-year agreed upon performance periods in which the projects were to be completed. Plaintiff states directed hundreds of millions of dollars in grant fund-ing to projects that, once complet-ed, would increase efficiency, help prevent and detect fraud and the improper use of federal unemploy-ment insurance funds, improve resilience when the system experi-ences surges in claims, and improve the customer experience.

On May 22, 2025, the Trump administration’s Department of Labor sent letters to the coalition state workforce agencies that abruptly and unlawfully terminat-

ed each grant agreement. The ter-mination letters stated the agree-ments “no longer effectuate [Department of Labor’s] priorities for its grant funding.” The grant ter-minations rescinded unexpended funds under the grant agreements, interrupting the unemployment insurance modernization work that the Department of Labor had approved and agreed to fund.

Consequently, approved projects were halted in the middle of the performance periods. States have had to reallocate funding from other sources, scale back project scopes, or cancel projects altogeth-er. The terminations have wasted funds and squandered opportuni-ties to increase efficiencies for unemployment insurance system workers, employers, and adminis-trative staff. Michigan was award-ed \$6.78 million in Equity grants, \$2.83 million of which was clawed back by the Department of Labor, as well as \$4.47 million in Tiger Team grants, \$1.41 million of which was clawed back.

In its lawsuit, the coalition argues that the Department of Labor’s grant terminations breached the express terms of each of the plaintiffs’ grant agreements. The terms of the grant agree-

5 SOCIAL SECURITY YOUTUBE VIDEOS EVERYONE SHOULD SEE TODAY

By Hillary Hatch, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

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www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFmSHpg-ib4.

2. How Social Security Retirement Benefits Work – Find out how our retirement benefits work, who may qualify benefits, and what you need to know before you apply
www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CU3QR2elJ0.

3. The Disability Journey – Understand the disability appli-cation process and get answers to common questions

www.youtube.com/watch?v=coa-cx18g68o&list=PLGSYaZN04xzFXReUvSpC1n_k_8oRmcKsq&index=7.

4. Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Eligibility Requirements & Application Process – Learn who may qualify for SSI and how to apply
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jdg6QtxQ2LI.

5. How to Spot a Scammer – Learn the warning signs of Social Security related scams and how to protect yourself and your fam-ily
www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyaUWTFLw3c&list=PLGSYaZN04xzH9sAO9HXI4U-6kFXmzUxzN&index=9.

These are just a few of the many videos available on our YouTube channel. We regularly add new content, so subscribe and check back often for the lat-est information and updates.

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791 Bluegill Lake Blue Gill Lakefront with coastal inspired 3BD, 2BA home and deck overlooking the water and flower gardens. \$249,000

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2285 Fawn 2-bedroom manufactured home. Eat-in kitchen, washer/dryer, electric heat. Storage shed, well water. \$129,900

6644 Carpenter Charming Duck Lake retreat with sunroom views 2 bd 1 ba upstairs throughout, detached garage natural shoreline \$126,900

4676 Hayes Building lot on Cranberry Lake has shelter for a nights under the stars & a winding path to waters edge. \$125,000

3020 Clare Location, Location, Location. Located just north of the Harrisville limits with high traffic flow. \$125,000

730 Elder Make yourself at home in this cozy Cottage-style ideally set on 2.50 acres. Close to trails and state land. \$124,900

Parcel 2 Simpson 2.68-acre wooded parcel on Icehouse Lake offers perfect setting for those dreaming of lake life & seclusion \$118,900

YL Houghton Lake Vacant Commercial property on a high traffic road in Houghton Lake. All utilities are available at the street. \$114,900

Parcel A-H Grant 6 adjoining building lots in Harrison paved frontage utilities at road near Budd Lake lot lines remarked \$70,000

8919 Gladwin 1.65 acres comes with access to 1100 acre Birch Hills Sportsman's Club. Driveway and clearing ready to camp \$50,000

1642 Columbus Build-ready riverfront lot on Tobacco River with shed, utilities & trail access on paved dead-end road! \$45,000

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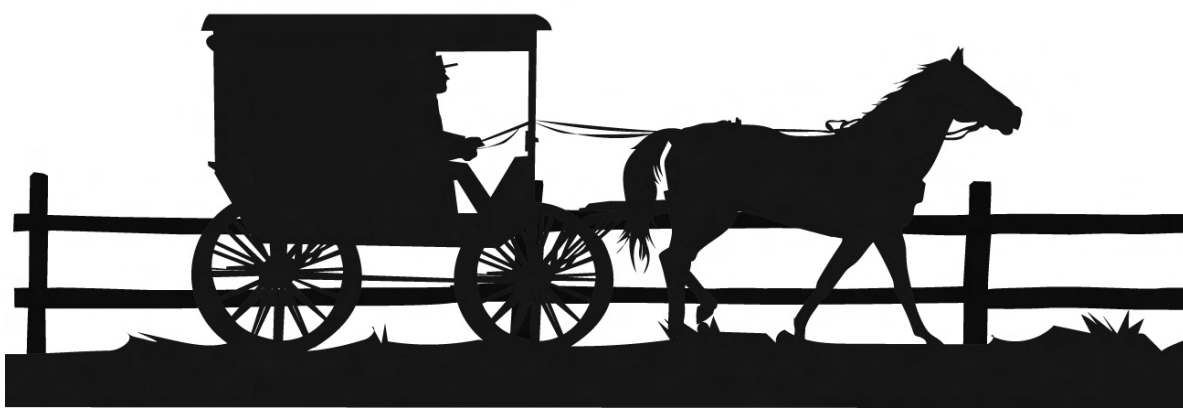
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THE AMISH COOK - *By Gloria Yoder*



We were on our way back from the cabin this afternoon when Jesse exclaimed, “Look, a lamb!”

It was the first of our flock to be lambing. Upon investigating, we all agreed there was bound to be another one coming. I advised the children to give her some space, and we all went on about our day, the two oldest on the buddy stand in the chestnut grove and Hosanna off to help Cousin Joel’s wife with her baby boy.

When I went out to check on my three youngest boys, who were busy playing outdoors, I looped around the barn-

yard and discovered two more lambs wobbling around, staying close to their mommy. Never before did we have a set of triplets; we were excited to see how things would go.

Heading back toward the house, I tilted my head and scanned the beautiful fall sky. “God, I’d like to have a rainbow tonight,” I said softly. “I know it sounds strange, God, but if You have a rainbow for me, I’ll take it.” I thought of His faithfulness over the past years and how He has also used rainbows. Undoubtedly, He would be able to give me some sort of rainbow or prom-

ise to once again assure me of His provision in my life.

And so the evening wore on. I wasn’t looking for a rainbow, as there was no doubt that if there was one, God was well able to bring it to my attention.

My two oldest children came home from hunting; though they hadn’t bagged a deer, they reported a very pleasant time and lots of action just beyond shooting range. We all stood in a circle in the front yard as they gave their report of the evening, with darkness settling in closer. I looked around the circle of children; yes, I was

too blessed to tell.

As we made our way to the house, Austin said, “Mom, I wish you would make mashed potatoes and meatloaf for us when we come home from hunting, like you used to make for Daddy.”

In my mind I could see Daniel leaving for the woods, sometimes with a child alongside him, and me turning back to the house. I’d look around the kitchen, which told of a full day at home with youngsters on all sides. The mental to-do list stood untouched. I debated. Yes, all that can wait. Children, let’s make a special supper for Daddy when he comes

home from hunting. The rewards were rich. After dark, Daddy was home and we bowed our heads to pray at the kitchen table. I was weary, I was spent, but he knew I cared. Today I bless the God of heaven; surely, He knew what was coming and what would be best for our family, even though we do not see it all now.

Not only that, our typical chant on his return would ring out: “Daddy’s home! Daddy’s home!” In the same way now... Daddy’s home, in heaven! He’s home, he’s home, he’s home! It’s okay to wipe a tear, but beyond all doubt we know that Daddy is home, and there he receives all the love that earth could not have held for him.

And so, we wrapped up our evening. We took a short walk out to see the newborn triplets, Flicka, Ricka, Dicka. Interestingly, these wee lambs, which were supposedly all white, proved not to be entirely white after all. Each of them had a bit of brown on the tips of their ears, making it look as though they had all been dipped in paint.

Before supper the children had been delighted when their former teacher and his little daughter, with her winsome smile, walked in with a box of five baby chicks for them. The children were elated, and the five youngest each got to pick one out for their own. Now at bedtime it was time to tuck the chicks into their bed, a cardboard box in the basement, safely out of Kanoa’s reach. I made my final round to check on all the children, then at the last minute decided to move the box of chicks into the washroom so the cheeping wouldn’t disturb the four oldest children sleeping in the basement. I noticed the box to be slightly damp and glanced around; there was of course no sawdust in the house. There was the wastebasket; surely there’d be something in there I could use until morning. I spied a large green sheet of paper. “This will work,” I mused. Flipping it over, I stopped in my tracks. On the other side was a picture of a large rainbow over a vast canyon with mountains on the background. At the bottom I scanned the verse: “This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.” I was stunned. Yes, I had prayed for a rainbow... Yes, His ways are marvelous in my eyes, even a rainbow at bedtime, when I had not even been looking for one. Oh, what faithfulness from the hand of Love!

Meatloaf

- 1 ½ pound beef or venison
- ¾ cup quick oats
- ¾ cup milk
- 1 egg
- ½ cup chopped onions
- 2 teaspoons salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper

Glaze

- ¾ cup ketchup
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce (opt)
- 1 ½ tablespoon prepared mustard
- ¾ cup brown sugar

Instructions

Mix meat mixture all together. Press in a 9 by 9 inch baking dish. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes, spread glaze on top. Bake another 30 minutes or until no longer pink in center.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
HAYES TOWNSHIP AND FROST TOWNSHIP, CLARE COUNTY

ARNOLD LAKE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

TO: ALL RECORD OWNERS OF OR PARTIES IN INTEREST IN LAND IN THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DESCRIBED BELOW:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township Boards of Hayes Township and Frost Township, Clare County, Michigan, will hold joint public hearings at 5:30 p.m. on October 27, 2026, at Hayes Township Hall, 2055 E. Townline Lake Rd., Harrison, Michigan 48625, to review the proposed year 2026 special assessment rolls and hear objections thereto from certain record owners of land in the Townships for lake improvements to Arnold Lake at an estimated cost of \$9,375.00 for the year 2027 (maximum cost not to exceed \$14,550.00), \$8,385.30 of the total estimated annual cost will be specially assessed to properties in Hayes Township and \$2,504.70 of the total estimated annual cost will be specially assessed to properties in Frost Township. The lake improvements and the special assessment districts established by the Township Boards as the district against which the cost of the proposed lake improvements is to be assessed are generally described as follows:

Lake Improvements: The improvements will continue to treatment of Arnold Lake in which it will be sprayed for aquatic nuisance plants based on yearly requirements set by a qualified lake management company.

Arnold Lake Improvement Special Assessment Districts: The special assessment district includes all buildable tax parcels surrounding Arnold Lake within Hayes Township and within Frost Township with direct access via normal riparian rights.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the proposed special assessment rolls have been prepared and are on file with the Hayes Township Clerk, Debra Hoyt, 2055 E. Townline Lake Rd., Harrison, Michigan, 48625, and the Frost Township Clerk, Joan Rattray, 9031 N. Clare Ave., Harrison, MI, 48625, for public examination during ordinary business hours and at the public hearing. The proposed special assessment rolls would assess the cost of the lake improvements to the properties benefiting therefrom, as follows: For each buildable tax parcel that has direct access to Arnold Lake via normal riparian rights, \$108.90 for the year 2026.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the owner or any person having an interest in property within the proposed districts may file a written appeal with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within thirty (30) days after confirmation of the special assessment roll. However, appearance and protest at the public hearing on the special assessment roll are required in order to appeal the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner or other party of interest or his or her agent may (1) appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or (2) file his or her appearance or protest by letter before the close of the hearing. Please refer below for mailing addresses of each township.

The Township Boards shall maintain a record of parties who appear to protest at the hearing. If the hearing is terminated or adjourned for the day before a party is provided the opportunity to be heard, a party whose appearance was recorded shall be considered to have protested the special assessment in person.

The Townships will provide auxiliary aids or services to individuals with disabilities. Persons needing such services should contact the offices of the township clerks by writing or calling the clerk not less than four days before the public hearing.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARDS
Joan Rattray, Clerk
Frost Township
9031 N. Clare Ave.
PO Box 566
Harrison, MI 48625
Phone: (989) 630-0366
Debra Hoyt, Clerk
Hayes Township
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PO Box 310
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42-1

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE MUNICIPAL SECURITIES
TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF HARRISON

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Harrison (the “City”) intends to issue municipal securities in one or more series, in an amount of not to exceed \$3,000,000 (the “Municipal Securities”).

The Municipal Securities shall be issued for the purpose of defraying the cost to design, purchase, acquire, and construct certain capital improvements, including, without limitation, improvements to the Water System, including, without limitation, the identification and replacement of lead, galvanized and other water service lines throughout the City to comply with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy’s Lead and Copper Rules, the restoration of streets, sidewalks, rights-of-way, properties and easements affected by the improvements and related facilities, as well as all work necessary or incidental to these improvements; and such other capital improvements as the City Council shall determine to make or acquire, and to pay the costs of issuance of Municipal Securities and capitalized interest, if any.

The Municipal Securities of this issue shall mature within the maximum terms permitted by law with interest on the unpaid balance at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law to be determined upon the sale of the Municipal Securities. The Municipal Securities shall be issued pursuant to Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended (“Act 34”).

SOURCE OF PAYMENT - The principal of and interest on the Municipal Securities will be limited tax full faith and credit general obligations of the City, payable from any available funds of the City. Pursuant to this pledge of its limited tax full faith and credit, in the event available funds of the City are not sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Municipal Securities, the City will be obligated to levy such ad valorem taxes upon all taxable property in the City as shall be necessary to make the payments of principal and interest on the Municipal Securities, which taxes, however, will be limited by applicable constitutional, statutory and charter limitations on the taxing power of the City.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM - This notice is given, by order of the City Council of the City, to and for the benefit of the electors of the City in order to inform them of their right to petition for a referendum upon the question of the issuance of the Municipal Securities. The Municipal Securities will be issued, without submitting such a question to a vote of the electors, unless within 45 days after the date of publication of this notice a petition requesting a referendum upon such question, signed by not less than 10% or 15,000 of the registered electors residing within the City, whichever is the lesser, shall have been filed with the undersigned City Clerk or other recording officer of the City. In the event that such a petition is filed, the Municipal Securities will not be issued unless and until the issuance thereof shall have been approved by the vote of a majority of the electors of the City qualified to vote and voting thereon at a general or special election.

This Notice is published pursuant to the requirements of Section 517 of Act 34.

Kathy Maharas, Clerk
City of Harrison
Resolution 2026-24

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LOCAL SPORTS

Harrison outlasts rival Farwell in exciting gridiron matchup

By BEN MURPHY
Cleaver Sports Writer

Through the first two quarters of play it looked like it might be a relatively easy win for the Harrison football team on Friday. It turned into anything but, as host Farwell figured things out, turning what had been a three-score game at the half into a nailbiter by the time the fourth quarter rolled around.

Fortunately for the Hornets though, they figured things out again in the final frame, regaining control in what was a 54-32 Jack Pine Conference victory; a win that also gave Harrison possession of the ‘Battle Axe’.

“The first half, I couldn’t have been happier,” Harrison head coach Jamie Lipovsky said of what was the program’s 300th win. “I thought we did a good job of controlling the line of scrimmage and doing what we wanted to do offensively and defensively we kept them in check. Things changed pretty quickly in the second half.”

The Hornets rolled to a 30-6 lead at the half, but the Eagles regrouped to make a game of it. On their first possession of the third quarter, Hayden Roberts scored from 35-yards out to make it 30-14. Harrison fumbled the ball away on their ensuing drive, and that allowed Farwell to get an eight-yard touchdown run by Alan Esterline, and it was 30-20.

The Hornets answered with a touchdown to put their lead back to 38-20, but Farwell scored twice before the third would end, pulling within 38-32.

Ayden Barkley broke free on a 70-yard counter, putting the Eagles in the redzone; and Esterline finished the drive off with a one-yard touchdown plunge. A quick stop for the Farwell defense led to another score on offense, this time from Roberts, who romped in from 15 yards out.

“The slow start can be attributed to a Harrison coming ready to play, and we made some mistakes that gave them all the momentum,” Farwell head coach Travis Waddell said. “The third quarter we flipped the script and were able to get some big scores and momentum, pulling to within six.”

Harrison used its special teams to help regain momentum. Aiden Brewer hauled in the ensuing kickoff, then put on the moves and showed off his speed from there, returning it all the way for a 70-yard touchdown run.

The Hornets then attempted an onside kick, which was recovered by Nyxon Rhodes. The Hornets then iced the game later in the drive, getting a 32-yard touchdown run from Brewer.

“We felt like getting the touchdown on a kickoff return was a momentum changer, and we thought if we are going to change the momentum lets change it massively,” Lipovsky said of attempting the onside kick. “I think it surprised them as well. Farwell was doing a good job moving the football and we wanted to keep it out of their hands.”

The game started off with a quick 16-0 lead for the Hornets, who scored on their first two possessions. The Eagles answered with an Esterline three-



The Harrison football team poses with the Battle Axe after winning over rival Farwell on Friday. (Photo courtesy Harrison Community Schools)

yard touchdown pass to Dekklyn Hect, and it was 16-6. The Hornets scored twice in the second quarter to make it 30-6 at the break.

“Very happy the kids were able to pull it out, credit to Farwell and their coaching staff and their kids, they mounted a great comeback and did a great job of getting themselves back in the game,” Lipovsky said. “We challenged the kids after the third quarter to pick it up and finish the game like we know how to finish games, and I thought they responded well from that point.”

Harrison was led by Brewer, who on top of the kickoff return for touchdown rushed 13 times for 140 yards and three touchdowns. Collin Dennis had 76 yards and one score on 10 carries, Matt Latunski ran six times for 65 yards and a score, Rhodes added 43 yards on five touches, Clayton Austin ran twice for 25 yards, and Ray Cosgrove had 13 yards and one touchdown on seven attempts.

M. Latunski was also three-of-four passing for 26 yards, completing passes to Rhodes for 11 yards, Parker Latunski for nine yards and Dennis for six yards.

The Hornet defense had M. Latunski and Alex Jansen both get 10 tackles, Daniel Seefeld had seven, P. Latunski tracked down six, Dominic Stump had five tackles and Cosgrove and Cooper Whittaker had four tackles each.

“I was happy with how things turned out at the end,” Lipovsky said. “It was a little scary in the middle of the second half, but the kids did a good job finishing. It was a good way to finish it off, it got close and then our kids took control at that point.”

Harrison (6-1 overall, 3-1 Jack Pine) has their crossover game on Friday, when they host Shepherd (5-2, 3-2). The BlueJays had a forfeit win over Standish-Sterling last week, and last played on Oct. 2 in what was a 34-28 victory over Clare.

“The lower division has struggled playing the upper division the last couple of years, we are 0-12 right now in the crossover games,” Lipovsky said. “Shepherd is Division 5 so they are a couple divisions bigger than us, they have a couple good running backs and a couple good receivers and some big offensive and defensive lineman. It will be a tall task, they’ve beaten Clare and Ogemaw Heights, and we know that they are going to be good, but I like to think our kids will be up to the challenge.”

The Eagles had Aiden Barkley finish with 158 yards on 13 carries and Roberts ran 15 times for 145 yards and two touchdowns. Esterline ran for 10 yards and two touchdowns, and he also completed three passes to Hect for 42 yards and one touchdown.

Their defense had Braylin Bailey get nine tackles while Hect forced one

fumble and Blake Sholes recovered it.

Farwell (4-3, 3-2) is set to host Ogemaw Heights (5-2, 3-2) for their crossover game Friday. The Falcons are coming off a close loss to Gladwin last week, 26-20.

“Ogemaw is one of the most talented teams in the area,” Waddell said. “They were back-to-back Jack Pine champions, and last year they made it to the Division 5 semi-finals. This year they lost two games, one was by two points, and the other was on a touchdown on the final play of the game.”

Ogemaw has a 566 to 243 enrollment advantage over Farwell, but Waddell knows his team isn’t going to back down.

“Our players are tough and we will give them everything we have,” he said. “We have 15 players on our varsity team, they have 30-plus. We are Division 8 with 243 in the high school. They are 11 kids away from Division 4 with 566 in the high school. This is a David versus Goliath matchup, and we will give everything we have. I am proud of our young men and believe in their abilities.”

Clare soccer plays to 4-4 draw at Pinconning

By BEN MURPHY
Cleaver Sports Writer

The Clare soccer team had little trouble scoring in their Jack Pine Conference game at Pinconning on Wednesday, Oct. 7. Problem was, the Spartans were able to score too, and the two sides played to a 4-4 tie.

“We created a ton of chances in the game, but all of our shots seemed to go right to their keeper,” head coach Jim Bond said. “He did a really good job of always being in the right place and played a great game. Pinconning is a team that improved a lot from the first time we played them. We had a lot of shots on goal, but they did a good job of scoring when they got the chance.”

Things started off well for the Pioneers as they took a 2-0 lead, with both goals coming from Sergio Jaimes. Pinny rallied to tie the game at 2-2 by the half, however.

James netted his third goal of the night early in the second half to stake Clare to a 3-2 advantage, but the Spartans would strike back with the next two, putting them out in front, 4-3.

Clare salvaged a tie out of it though, when Kolen Pung chased down his own rebound in front of the net, sending the ball in with

about six minutes to play.

Neither side was able to score as the rest of the match played out.

Logan Baldwin was in net for Clare.

“It was not the result we had hoped for, but sometimes you just have to give the other team credit for playing a good game,” Bond said.

On Monday, Oct. 5, Clare lost a road Jack Pine Conference game at Standish-Sterling, 3-1. The Pioneers had a rough start in this one, facing an early deficit.

“We actually scored an own goal to start the scoring and give them a one goal lead,” Bond said. “A couple of mistakes led to Standish taking a 3-0 lead at halftime. We picked up the pace in the second half and created more chances.”

The Pioneers got the ball in on a header from James, who sent the ball in from a Sutton Klaus free kick.

“That was as close as we got,” Bond said. “We got off to a very sluggish start in this game and could never quite get out of the hole we dug for ourselves.”

Tyler Thompson was in goal for the first half, with Baldwin coming into the net for the final 40 minutes.

Clare (7-5-4 overall, 5-4-1 Jack Pine) had their final regular season game on Monday, when they played at Lakeview. The Pioneers opened up the Division 3 district tournament on Wednesday against tourney host Standish-Sterling, and the winner of that match plays Tawas Area on Tuesday. Freeland, Ogemaw Heights and Gladwin are on the other side of the bracket, with the championship set for Saturday, Oct. 24.

Area cross country teams run at second Jack Pine Conference meet

By BEN MURPHY
Cleaver Sports Writer

Clare, Harrison and Farwell all took on the rest of the Jack Pine Conference on Wednesday, Oct. 7. They were in the second league jamboree, hosted by Bullock Creek at Stratford Woods. The Clare girls were the top area finishers, coming in second place out of seven scoring teams. Shepherd won the girls’ race with 42 points, Clare was second with 46, and Meridian was third with 61. Harrison and Farwell did not have enough for a team score.

On the boys’ side, Shepherd took first with 24 points, Gladwin was second with 62, Bullock Creek placed third with 91, while Clare and Harrison were fifth and sixth with 127 and 150 points respectively. Farwell did not have enough runners for a team score.

The Clare girls were led by Sophia Buzzelli and Emma Stotzel, who were fourth and fifth overall with runs of 20:21 and 20:52.

Lauren Leis followed in eighth with a 21:18, Ava Robinson was 12th at 21:54, Leah Leis was next for them in 19th with a 22:44 and Elizabeth Letherer was 27th with a 23:42. From there they also had Rebecca Rubei take 40th thanks to her time of 24:33, Reagan Somers was 60th with a 27:13, Jordyn Maki was 63rd at 28:48 and Olivia Dubay was 73rd at 42:35.

The Farwell girls had Mariah DeGreer finish 59th with a 26:41, Aubrianna Terrian was 65th on a 31:10 and Sierra Spence finished 67th thanks to her time of 31:59.

The Harrison girls had two runners take the course, those being Bella young and Caitlin Kirby. Young was able to cross in ninth with a 21:21 and Kirby was 33rd after she was able to run a 24:16.

As for things in the boys’ race,

See **X-COUNTRY** on page 9

Clare volleyball rallies for five set win over Gladwin

By BEN MURPHY
Cleaver Sports Writer

The Clare volleyball team struggled some early on in their home Jack Pine Conference match with Gladwin on Wednesday, Oct. 7. The Lady Pioneers in fact dropped the first two sets, but they were able to regroup in time, eventually grinding out a hard-fought five set win, 22-25, 20-25, 24-14, 25-18 and 15-5.

“We had an incredible night playing against Gladwin who showed up to compete,” head coach Erin Murphy said. “This was our best match of our season so far. Being our youth volleyball night in addition to it being our homecoming week, the energy in our gym was none other.”

The first two sets were a tight battle, though Clare couldn’t get over the hump to claim either one. They hit their stride by taking the third set by more than 10 points, then kept up that solid play in the fourth and fifth frames to finish off the comeback.

“Our fans and our student section helped keep our momentum going, giving us the energy to turn it around in set three and battle hard to take the win against Gladwin,” Murphy said. “I’m very proud of these girls and the momentum we’re building.”

The Pioneers were led by

Pamela Allen with 11 kills, Paige Allen and Lena Renner combined to get 15 blocks and Amelia Rzyk had a solid net at setter, getting 30 assists, four blocks and two aces.

On Monday, Oct. 5, Clare lost a home non-conference match against Houghton Lake. This one went five sets as well, with the Lady Bobcats getting the edge after five tight frames, 25-23, 21-25, 29-27, 24-26 and 15-13.

Renner led the team with seven kills and two blocks.

“We had several great passes from our back row, giving Rzyk the opportunity to set up our offense,” Murphy said. “Our serving game hurt us in the end but we’re looking to get back at it (in future games).”

Clare was at home against St. Louis on Monday, they played at Beaverton on Wednesday, they hed to Mt. Pleasant for a tournament at Morey Courts on Saturday, they host Pinconning on Monday and then head for Ogemaw Heights on Wednesday, Oct. 21.



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X-COUNTRY from page 8

Clare had Connor Schmidt lead them with a run of 17:45, Sutton Klaus was 19th at 18:31, Christian Villa-Bilton was 22nd at 18:43 and Joseph Haupt was 37th with a 19:26. They also had Mason Somers place 45th after he timed out at 20:17, Carter Chapman was 49th at 20:29, Hayden Wright-Johns was 82nd with a run of 22:30, Jace Montney was next for them in 92nd with a 24:50 and Koleton Murdoch was 101st with a 30:19.

Taking a look at Harrison next, their boys were led by Logan Young in third with a great time of 16:56 and Jayden Bobzien was 27th with a 19:00. Kaiden Eichorn finished with a sub-20 time of 19:13 and he came in 30th overall, Malachi Coulson was 61st with a 21:08, Gavin Jansen was 66th with a 21:17, Chase Dheane was 71st at 21:43 and Adam Eichorn was 89th at 23:36.

Farwell was only one runner short of having a team score, and they were paced by Conner Cousineau, who was 21st overall with an 18:42. Callen Mogg was 67th with a 21:18. Clayton Lutes was 74th with 21:53 and Paxton Terrian placed 85th at 23:16.

The Jack Pine Conference championship meet is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 21 at Mid-Michigan College.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Clare County Republican Party will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22 at Liberty Mountain Chalet, 1001 Mott Mountain Road, Farwell. Visit www.clarecountygop.com

GriefShare support group at 6 p.m. every Monday at the Harrison District Library. For more information, call 989-539-6582.

Cancer Support Group/Clare County meets from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Harrison District Library. Patients and caregivers welcome.

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.

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).

For more community events visit www.clare-countycleaver.net.

State Leaders Celebrate School Meals That Are Free, Nutritious and Locally Grown

LANSING – Students at Bendle High School in Genesee County didn't have to go to a specialty restaurant or spend any money today to enjoy Korean BBQ mini flatbread with cilantro lime slaw. All they had to do was head to the school cafeteria.

Officials from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) visited the school in Burton for National School Meals Week, which is also marked in Michigan through a proclamation from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. The state leaders celebrated the free nutritious meals – many of them featuring locally grown food—that are available to all the state's public school students under the Michigan School Meals Program, which began in the 2023-24 school year.

"When students are nourished, they are ready to learn," said Dr. Deanne Kelleher, director of the MDE Office of Nutrition Services. "And here in Michigan, we are committed to making sure that every student has that opportunity every day with a free school breakfast and free school lunch. I want to thank Gov. Whitmer and the legislators for prioritizing improving access to nutritious school meals over the last four years by including funding for Michigan School Meals in the budget."

Last October, an average of 865,459 Michigan students per day participated in the school lunch program – a 22% increase from 709,593 in the 2022-23 school year, the last school year before the Michigan School Meals Program began. Over the same period, the average number of students per day who participated in the school breakfast program jumped 26% from 375,956 to 473,021.

School meals also present a market opportunity for Michigan's growers and processors.

"At MDARD, we're focused on seizing every opportunity to tap into our state's rich agricultural heritage and better connect our farmers to Michigan consumers, which is part of Michigan's commitment to a holistic approach when it comes to supporting our kids," said MDARD Director Dr. Tim Boring. "Whether it's free meals at schools, partnering with districts like Bendle Public Schools through our Good Food for Michigan Project, or providing grant support to food hubs like Flint Fresh, Michigan is leading the way in strengthening community health and creating new opportunities for our farmers."

The Good Food for Michigan Project, an MDARD Farm to Family Program initiative, focuses on institutional procurement practices to keep locally grown food in Michigan communities. Flint Fresh, an MDARD grant recipient, is a food hub that connects local farmers to Bendle Public Schools.

"We know that when students are well fed, they are better prepared to learn, participate and make the most of their school day," said Bendle Superintendent Trisha Cherveney. "The lunch choices our students have today are far beyond what I remember as a kid. I think my favorite school lunch back then was that rectangular piece of pizza – and I was pretty happy with it! Today, if I were a student, I honestly think I would have a hard time deciding between the baked potato bar, the salad bar and all of the different recipes our food service staff prepares."

The Korean BBQ-style entree debuted at Bendle today.

"We don't just talk to our kids about where their food comes from," said Dawn Pully, food service director for Bendle Public Schools. "We show them. We have our school garden and two greenhouses where students can actually see food growing and be part of that process. There is something pretty special about watching a student get excited when something they have seen growing ends up on the salad bar or on their lunch tray."

"That's what this is really about for me," Pully said. "We're feeding kids, but we're also teaching them. We're exposing them to new foods, building healthy habits, supporting Michigan farmers and our local food system, and hopefully creating experiences they will remember."

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Local Pickleballers Big on Halloween

Halloween arrived early at the pickleball courts. Twenty players enjoyed games, cider and donuts and had tons of fun Monday morning, Oct. 12. A special thanks to John and Lori Stephens for organizing and hosting the Halloween event. Harrison Pickleball for Fun plays every morning 9-11 a.m. at the Hayes Township Civic Center Complex. Everyone is welcome to play.

Head Start Starts with the Whole Family

[Farwell, MI—] For a 3-year-old, getting ready for kindergarten might look like painting a picture, taking turns with a friend, choosing a book, or learning to put on a coat. For a parent or caregiver, it might mean having someone to call with a question, setting a new family goal, or finding a resource they didn't know was available.

During Head Start Awareness Month this October, Mid Michigan Community Action Agency (Mid Michigan CAA) is celebrating all the ways those small moments come together to help children and families grow.

Head Start has always been about more than preparing children for school. Mid Michigan CAA's Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start programs work alongside families during some of a child's most important early years, recognizing that children learn everywhere: at school, at home, and with the people who know them best.

"Parents and caregivers are their child's first and most important teachers," said Stephanie VanderElzen, Director of Head Start at Mid Michigan CAA. "Our teachers get to be part of that team. We can help children explore, make friends, build confidence, and get ready for what's next, while also supporting the families who are helping them grow every day."

For preschoolers ages 3-5 in Clare and Gladwin Counties, Head Start provides opportunities to learn through play while developing social and emotional skills, independence, and the foundations for future learning.

Head Start Awareness Month shines a light on learning, relationships, and support that begin long before kindergarten

For younger children, learning often happens in a very different setting: right where they already spend their days.

Early Head Start serves those who are pregnant and families with children from birth through age 3 in Clare, Gladwin, Mecosta, Midland, and Osceola Counties. The program is designed to fit into family life, with Early Head Start staff working one-on-one with families in their own homes. Everyday routines, play, and interactions become opportunities to support a child's development and help caregivers build on the learning already happening throughout the day.

That approach can also remove practical barriers. Families don't have to arrange transportation or get babies and toddlers out the door for regular appointments, and children can learn and interact in a place where they already feel comfortable. Caregivers are part of the experience, building ideas and strategies they can continue using throughout the week.

And the work goes beyond early learning. Depending on a family's individual needs and goals, Head Start and Early Head Start staff can help with parenting and child development, family goals, connections to other resources, transitions between

programs and schools, and opportunities for parents and caregivers to take an active role in their child's education.

Every family comes to us with their own strengths, goals, and ideas for the future," said Amyee Carson, Director of Whole Family Services at Mid Michigan CAA. "Head Start gives us the opportunity to build relationships with families and support what matters to them. When families grow stronger, children have an even stronger foundation to grow from."

Those relationships are part of what makes Head Start different. A child's time in the program may eventually end, but the confidence, skills, connections, and experiences children and caregivers build together can continue into kindergarten and beyond.

For families who think Head Start might be a good fit, there isn't just one time of year to get started.

Both Early Head Start and Head Start Preschool enroll families throughout the year. Early Head Start serves those who are pregnant and children from birth through age 3, while Head Start Preschool serves eligible children ages 3-5 as space is available. Children who aren't eligible for preschool at the beginning of the school year may become eligible

when they turn 3 or 4, so families are encouraged to reach out at any time with questions about eligibility and enrollment.

Families interested in Head Start Preschool can visit <https://www.mmcaa.org/preschool-headstart.html> or call 989-386-8075.

Those interested in Early Head Start can visit <https://www.mmcaa.org/earlyheadstart.html> or call or text 1-877-386-4406.

Mid Michigan Community Action guides local residents on the path to self-sufficiency through empowerment, education and community enrichment.



Muskie Caught in Budd Lake by Avid Fisherman

On Saturday, Oct. 10 Jordan Clark caught his second muskie out of Budd Lake. He caught his first Muskie last June and just as he was unhooking and recording his phone died. That Muskie is just a memory at 40". This time the Muskie was 42" and Clark said, "I saw her following my lure 10 yards out, made a figure eight motion by the end of the boat and she inhaled it. Safely handled, revived couple minutes holding her in the water, and she swam off." Clark is a very passionate Muskie fisherman and fishes in Budd Lake several times a week after work. Congratulations!

COUNCIL from page 2

Council. Council then approved a motion to have the mayor work with the City's attorney to draft a contract for the city manager.

Under New Business, Council moved to:

-Approve CQ Simple as the City's managed IT services provider and authorize the City Manager to coordinate termination of the City's current IT and backup agreements. Council would like Cavanaugh to try to negotiate a probationary one-year contract, but if that is not possible, will accept a three-year contract.

-Adopt Resolution 2026-24-Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Notice of Intent to Issue Municipal Securities of \$3 million.

A lengthy discussion of the City's options for employee health insurance which included an option to change insurance provider. Council then approved going to health insurance with Hill Group under Option 5 on the paperwork.

Council meets next at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19 at Harrison City Hall, 2105 Sullivan Drive.

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